

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

\$2.00

PERIODICAL NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFICATION
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH!!

Vol. 27, No. 29

For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More™

July 2008



How He Got Here



PRYOR PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY ALL-AMERICAN BOWL; STADIUM PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK HALL

LONG ROAD – Luring the nation's top high school prospect to play for your school is no easy task, and Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel and his staff utilized e-mails, telephone calls, in-person visits and countless man-hours to successfully land prized quarterback prospect Terrelle Pryor.

Pryor Became Buckeye After Long Recruitment

By ADAM JARDY
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Terrelle Pryor is officially a Buckeye. Signed, sealed and delivered, the former No. 1 prospect in the country reported to the Ohio State campus June 16 for summer classes and workouts along with 14 other incoming freshmen.

But in the case of Pryor, there are more than a few differences between him and his classmates, not the least of which were the lengths the Buckeyes went to get his signature on a national letter of intent.

Pryor's story is an odyssey that winds its way from the sleepy town of Jeannette, Pa., nestled in the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania, to the college town of Ann Arbor, to the Ohio state capital of Columbus, with stops at State College, Pa., and planned trips to the West Coast and the Bayou scattered throughout.

It is an odyssey that saw all kinds of characters shape the path – from an NFL quarterback

to a fiery prep coach, from an aging collegiate coaching legend to a handful of anonymous players playing behind-the-scenes roles. Each had a bearing on the final outcome.

It is an odyssey that kept an entire nation of college football fans waiting long beyond its initial perceived conclusion, prying and second-guessing at every turn until a final verdict was reached.

On a warm Wednesday afternoon, seated on the stage of his high school auditorium, Pryor formally announced his intention to become a Buckeye. The date was March 19 – exactly six weeks removed from a non-announcement that came on National Signing Day.

This is the story of how Pryor – once a verbal commitment to the University of Pittsburgh to play basketball – found himself as the nation's top and therefore most highly scrutinized prep football prospect and what the Buckeyes did to bring him to Columbus.

Continued On Page 8

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

In This Issue Of BSB

- Up-to-date coverage of Ohio State's efforts for the 2008-09 football recruiting season, including eight more verbal commitments (Pages 10-13)
- Recaps of the annual Big 33 Classic and Ohio North-South All-Star Game (Pages 14-15)
- A story on Ohio State's future plans to upgrade its athletic facilities (Pages 16-17)
- News of assistant basketball coach John Groce's departure to take the head coaching job at Ohio University and where former OSU center Kosta Koufos is headed following the annual NBA draft (Pages 18-20)
- A feature on longtime men's golf coach Jim Brown, who has announced his retirement (Pages 26-27)
- A profile of PGA Hall of Famer Jack Nicklaus, including what he thinks of Tiger Woods chasing down his record of 18 major championships (Pages 28-29)
- Coverage of a pair of Ohio State baseball players taken in the major league draft (Page 30)
- Plus reports on other Ohio State sports as well as all of BSB's regular briefs, columns and features



Jim Brown

COVER STORY: HOW HE GOT HERE

Pryor's Recruiting Story Extends Back To '06

Continued From Page 1

Setting The Scene

At first, football was simply an afterthought for the young Pryor.

A budding basketball prospect who did not want to travel far from home, he was set on making a name for himself on the hardwood. In the first update written about him on the Scout.com network, dated Oct. 19, 2005, a young Pryor said he held a verbal offer from Penn State to play football and a written offer to play basketball.

"I'm aiming for basketball," he said. "I like football also, so we'll just have to see what happens."

What happened next was a Jan. 28, 2006, verbal commitment issued to the Panthers. The headline on PantherDigest.com read simply: "Terrelle Pryor - PITT IS IT."

Then ranked the No. 8 basketball player in the country and the No. 1 small forward prospect, Pryor averaged 21.7 points and 10.6 rebounds per game as a sophomore at Jeannette High School.

Instead of an ending, however, that was simply a beginning.

It took a little less than three months for the then-16-year-old Pryor to reconsider his decision. Figuring his commitment to Pitt had been made too hastily, he decided to reopen his recruitment. The focus remained on finding the best fit possible on the hardwood, not on the gridiron, and programs such as Clemson and Indiana began expressing interest.

The Buckeyes clearly saw things otherwise, however. On Sept. 1, 2006 - the first

day they were allowed to do so - Ohio State was among the first schools to extend Pryor a written scholarship offer to play football.

As a junior during the 2006 season, he threw for 1,732 yards and 15 touchdowns and rushed for 1,676 yards and 29 more scores while leading the Jayhawks to within one point of a state championship.

At the turn of the calendar year, Pryor told ScoutHoops.com that OSU, Notre Dame, Michigan, Pitt and Penn State were all leading for his services thanks to their willingness to let him play both football and basketball in college.

On the last day of January 2007, Pryor received a visit at school from Jim Tressel. It wasn't the first time the prospect had entertained a coach from Columbus - assistant basketball coach Alan Major had already been to Jeannette while quarterbacks coach Joe Daniels had been in contact via the telephone.

BSB first entered the picture with a story in the Feb. 10, 2007, issue. In a story titled "Buckeyes Eyeing Top Junior Quarterback," Jeannette head coach Ray Reitz compared Pryor to Vince Young and described him as "the best athlete in western Pennsylvania since Tony Dorsett."

The article - which featured a head shot of Pryor taken on a basketball court following an AAU basketball game - quoted the youngster as saying he slightly favored the sport of football but that he was still looking to play both football and basketball in college. By this time, he boasted more than 30 total offers to play football.

The Buckeyes had initially decided to begin recruiting Pryor when Tressel

watched him on film and immediately recognized him as a special type of player. The task at that time - much like it was for Pryor himself - was to try to determine which sport best suited the athlete.

"What I was most interested in was finding out what made him tick and what was most important to him," Tressel told reporters the day Pryor officially signed with the Buckeyes. "Was it basketball? Was it football? All those kinds of things. It's become very apparent to me that his passion is to become a great, great quarterback."

It did not become that apparent to Pryor until much later.

While things remained comparatively quiet for the next few months as Pryor went through his junior season in basketball, the hype slowly began to build. Scout ranked him the No. 1 overall prospect in the East and the nation's top offensive prospect.

Throughout it all, the Buckeyes were consistently listed as the school to beat for his services even though Pryor refrained from ever listing a top team.

A quiet period during the recruiting season ended with a bang in late June 2007. As a group of the nation's top prospects converged on Ohio State for a one-day camp, Pryor made the trek from Jeannette to take in the activities.

By this time, five separate groups had been started on Facebook.com, an Internet social networking site, imploring Pryor to select a specific school. The group with the most members was the one imploring him to decide in favor of Ohio State and boasted Michael Brewster and DeVier Posey - both verbal commitments - among its members.

Both Brewster and Posey were among the top prospects on hand for the camp, which was also attended by such notable alums as Troy Smith, Anthony Gonzalez, Orlando Pace, Kirk Herbstreit and Rob Sims.

While there, Pryor got to spend time with Smith and posed for a picture with the reigning Heisman Trophy winner. He also met individually with Tressel and head basketball coach Thad Matta, who assured him he could play both sports in college.

A plan was reportedly laid out. Should the football team make a bowl game, he could join the basketball team in January and play the remainder of the conference schedule. Pryor could then rejoin the football team in time for spring practice without missing a beat.

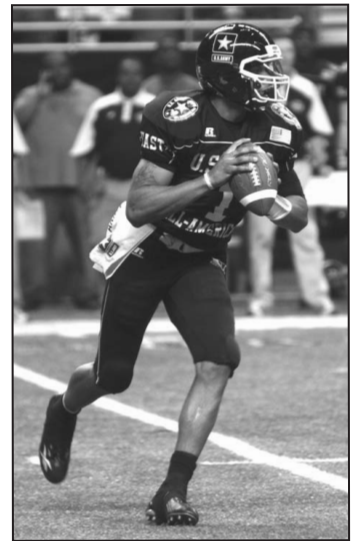
Following the camp, Dublin (Ohio) Coffman offensive lineman Mike Adams told BSB, "I feel like Ohio State's probably where (Terrelle) will end up. Time will tell."

What follows is a detailed look at the time period leading up to Pryor's commitment, starting with the beginning of his senior season, aided by recruiting documentation obtained from the university by BSB.

A Winning Senior Year

In what could be only viewed as a sign of what was to come, Pryor led his Jayhawks to a 60-0 victory against Brownsville, Pa., in the team's season-opening game played Aug. 31. Three weeks before, Pryor had been named the country's No. 2 overall prospect by Scout. By the time the calendar would turn to 2008, he would assume top billing.

The following day marked the first permitted by the NCAA for coaches to call high school prospects, and the Ohio State



U.S. ARMY ALL-AMERICAN BOWL CAREER CAPPER - Terrelle Pryor (1) finished off his superlative high school career with an MVP performance in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in January. Pryor, who also led his high school team to the Pennsylvania state championship, signed with Ohio State this past recruiting season.

staff wasted no time. At exactly 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 1, Tressel placed his first allowable phone call of the time period to Pryor and, according to the official recruiting logs, spoke with him for four minutes.

The two would not speak again via telephone until Oct. 11, but in between were two phone calls from Daniels - one on Sept. 13, the other on the 30th - each lasting five minutes.

By the time Daniels had made his second phone call, Jeannette was off to a 5-0 start in which it had outscored opponents by a 269-19 margin.

In week two, Pryor played just three plays into the second half with the Jayhawks cruising comfortably. Afterward, he told reporters he had a list of 11 schools - Ohio State, Penn State, West Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Georgia Tech, Michigan, Michigan State, Notre Dame, USC and Tennessee.

"As of right now, I'm just looking to cut it to six and relax before football season is over," he said. "We still have a goal to accomplish, and I'm still looking forward to that goal. I'm not really worried about college right now. I'm talking to coaches and trying to get the feel for them, but as of right now I'm just wide open and I'm just trying to have fun."

His senior season would end with a major goal accomplished - a state championship. On the way, Pryor would amass 3,691 yards of total offense and account for 60 total touchdowns.

The team's success would cause the school's basketball team to start its season late, leading to a spate of makeup games scheduled for late January that would further complicate Pryor's life leading up to signing day.

Along the way, Pryor began relying on Pittsburgh Steelers backup quarterback Charlie Batch for advice as he tried to sort out all the factors involved in his decision. The two had developed a relationship years earlier when Pryor attended a Batch-spon-

TICKETS!

We have your seats to the area's hottest events!

OSU • Indians • Reds • Browns • Bengals • Cavs • Blue Jackets • Destroyers
Schottenstein Center • Germain Amphitheater • Nationwide Arena • LC Pavilion
Final Four • Super Bowl • World Series • And Much More...

Ohio State Football

Available to
Purchase Online

Home
& Away!

Available to
Purchase Online

All Games
in Stock!

For Your Ticket Connection Call:

DREAM SEATS

YOUR TOTAL TICKET SOURCE

1611 W. FIFTH AVE. COLUMBUS, OH 43212

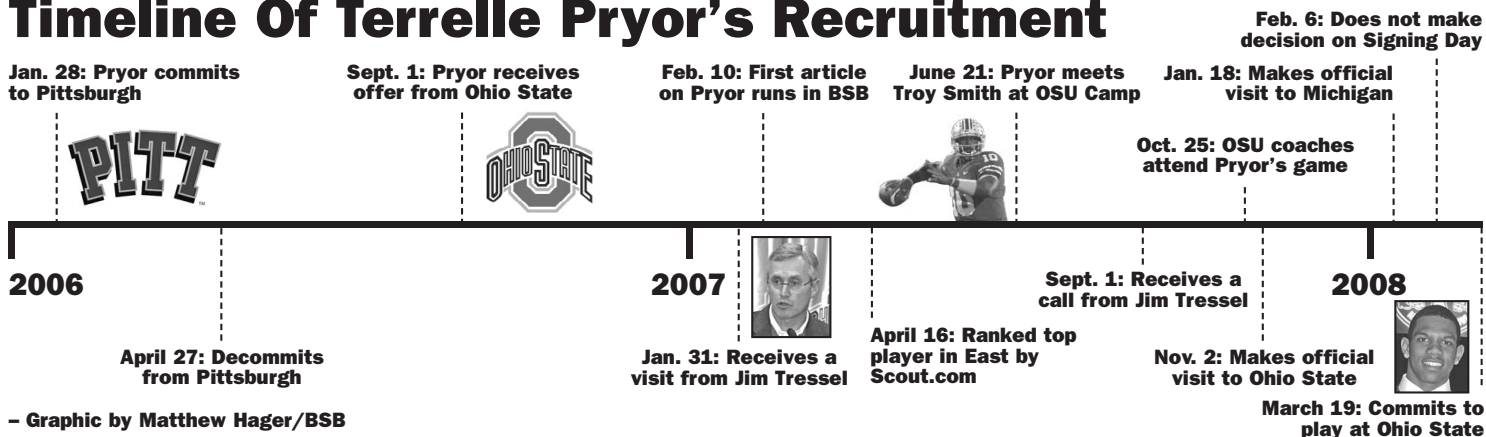
(614) 340-8989

www.dreamseats.com

all events ★ all cities ★ all the time ★ all events ★ all cities ★ all the time ★ all events ★ all cities ★ all the time ★ all events

COVER STORY: HOW HE GOT HERE

Timeline Of Terrelle Pryor's Recruitment



sored basketball camp and they reconnected at Pryor's request.

"This isn't my decision and this isn't Coach Reitz's decision," Batch said following a signing day on which Pryor delayed making his college choice public. "I want what's best for Terrelle. He makes the decision because (he is the one who has) to live with that decision for the next three or four years."

Despite the hectic schedule, the Jayhawks fought their way through the basketball playoffs and captured a state championship to go along with their football title. Less than a week later, Pryor held a press conference and announced his intention to become a Buckeye.

But how did it come to that? Through a lot of due diligence from Tressel and his coaching staff – but maybe not as much as you think.

Reeling In The Big Catch

NCAA-mandated recruiting logs for the Ohio State staff from National Signing Day 2007 to one year later comprise stacks of papers detailing expenses for every member of the coaching staff. It paints a seemingly low-key approach to recruiting the nation's top prospect – right in line with Tressel's perceived recruiting philosophy.

According to the official logs, four different OSU assistant coaches made a total of 10 trips to Jeannette between Feb. 7, 2007, and Feb. 6, 2008. Six of those trips were made by quarterbacks coach Daniels, who spent a total of 20 hours in Jeannette.

Two big days stand out as times when the staff appeared to go all-out in its efforts to land Pryor.

The first came toward the end of the prospect's regular football season – a rare Thursday night affair when the Jayhawks were facing rival Greensburg Central Catholic. Although a packed house was there for the showdown, there were more than a handful of extra-interested observers sitting in the press box at Hempfield Area field.

Tressel, Daniels and receivers/assistant head coach Darrell Hazell were joined by Matta and Major, all of whom made the 38-minute flight via private jet from Columbus to an airport in nearby Latrobe.

In his recruiting log detailing a later trip to Jeannette, offensive coordinator Jim Bollman estimated the cost of taking the private jet at \$100 a person for the trip.

"It's unusual," Tressel told BSB of getting to see a high school game during the season. "It's so unusual to have a Thursday game, so we had a chance to get Coach Matta out and we got to talk about our young teams and the growing pains. We'll get back and we'll get back to bed early and

we'll be fine. It's an unusual situation."

The second convergence of OSU coaches came about 3½ months later. On Feb. 2, just four days before National Signing Day, five members of the staff – Tressel, Bollman, Daniels, Hazell and running backs coach Dick Tressel – took in one of Pryor's basketball games. A published report in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette also reported spotting new Michigan head coach Rich Rodriguez arrive with a handful of his assistants.

The following day, according to the recruiting logs, Jim Tressel received an e-mail from a fan identified as Frank Alti, a dentist in Harrison City, Pa., a town located about 10 minutes northwest of Jeannette. Alti wrote to tell Tressel that it was nice meeting him and his staff members the night before.

In his e-mail reply, Tressel wrote "we have our fingers and toes crossed" regarding Pryor.

While the Feb. 2 visit obviously was a big one for the Buckeyes and Wolverines, it apparently did not overshadow one made three days earlier by Penn State head coach Joe Paterno. The visit went so well that Pryor's father implored his son to delay his final decision.

The prospect complied with his father's wishes, postponing his official announcement some 42 days.

Keeping Track Electronically

Throughout the process, the Ohio State coaching staff relied on e-mail to keep up with what was going on in Pryor's life. In all, 11 members of the coaching staff received e-mail alerts about Pryor detailing the latest updates on his recruitment based on articles posted on the Internet.

On Christmas morning 2007, Daniels received an e-mail with links to two newly-published articles on Pryor. In all, recruiting logs showed the OSU quarterbacks coach received a total of 103 e-mails relating to Pryor.

It took all of 61 minutes after the calendar turned to 2008 for linebackers coach Luke Fickell to get his first e-mail of the new year regarding Pryor. At 1:01 a.m. on Jan. 1, a message arrived in the assistant's inbox detailing how Pryor was progressing heading into the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Fickell wound up receiving 53 total e-mails regarding Pryor.

Not all of the e-mails were solely about Pryor. Anytime the prospect's name was dropped in an Internet article anywhere, the coaching staff was notified electronically – often multiple times.

For example, on Jan. 31, 2008, Dublin (Ohio) Coffman quarterback prospect Zach Stoudt mentioned Pryor in an inter-

view. The article was subsequently sent to six OSU coaches. The same went for an update on then-OSU verbal commit Lazaar Thomas, who mentioned Pryor in a story published Jan. 18, 2008. Five Buckeye coaches received a link to that story.

Tressel received an e-mail Dec. 3, 2007, suggesting Pryor travel with the team to the BCS National Championship Game – a clear NCAA recruiting violation. If that was not possible, the writer opined, perhaps Pryor could attend the game in New Orleans as Matta's guest.

Needless to say, those suggestions were politely declined.

According to the recruiting logs, the greatest clustering of e-mails came as signing day drew nearer. Daniels received 32 messages regarding Pryor during the month of January alone.

Tressel often relied on assistant recruiting coordinator Greg Gillum to provide him with pertinent information. From Oct. 15, 2007, to Jan. 28, 2008, Gillum sent Tressel 22 e-mails with updates on how Pryor's season was progressing and what he was telling reporters.

The head coach also received two copies of an editorial published in the Detroit Free Press arguing why Pryor should pick OSU over Michigan.

In total, the coaching staff received 502 e-mails about Pryor – some intentional, some not. On Aug. 15, 2007, a newspaper story on Hurricane Katrina accidentally contained Pryor's name as part of a typographical error. Nevertheless, it found its way to the OSU coaching staff. A column written about the team's loss to LSU in the BCS National Championship Game mentioned Pryor and found its way to the inboxes of four coaches.

According to the recruiting logs, the coach most familiar with the trip to Jeannette was Daniels. Among his six visits there, the Ohio State assistant took a side trip in early February to evaluate the likes of Dorian Bell and Corey Brown, two verbal commitments in the Buckeyes' recruiting class of 2009.

The following day, Daniels was joined by several other OSU assistants at one of Pryor's basketball games. Among the group was recruiting coordinator John Peterson, who had been in Arizona the previous day to check in on 2009 prospect Corey Adams. Peterson returned to Columbus via commercial airline then boarded a private jet to make the trip to Jeannette.

Interestingly, it was the only trip the team's recruiting coordinator made to see Pryor.

Coordinated Efforts Pay Off

With all the time, effort and money

spent on Pryor, it would have been impossible for him to not feel the strain. According to Reitz, the two started to feel it at roughly the same time – early February, right around signing day.

Describing Pryor as disheveled at his nationally televised press conference on signing day, the coach said the cumulative efforts of all the schools recruiting the youngster had begun to weigh him down.

By then, there were only four schools remaining in the picture – Ohio State, Michigan, Penn State and Oregon.

The visits made to Jeannette by the coaches from each of the schools left an impact even if Pryor did not eventually select that particular school.

"When Coach Rodriguez came, when Coach Tressel came – those were big moments," Reitz said. "You don't get to see guys like that all the time. You read about them but you don't get to meet them."

The efforts put into recruiting Pryor obviously paid off for the Buckeyes, but for all the things the program has going for it, the star prospect cited one primary reason he opted to don scarlet and gray.

"I could have gone to a lot of great places, but I want to play for Coach Tressel," he told BuckeyeSports.com. "There were a lot of other reasons, like the friends I have here, the distance from home and a few other things. But the main reason is Coach Tressel. I want to (go to Ohio State) and win a championship for him."

Although he admitted to thinking Michigan might have been a better fit for Pryor's talents, Reitz said he has no worries about having his star athlete suit up for Tressel.

"Tressel is a great coach and he'll develop Terrelle," Reitz said. "The sky's the limit for him. He's going to a great university, he's got a great opportunity and he'll do well."

After making his decision official in March, Pryor received instructions from the OSU coaching staff designed to help make the transition to the college game as smooth as possible. That, coupled with a strong work ethic, helped get Pryor in the best shape of his life as he headed to Columbus, Reitz said.

He has not simply kept all that he has learned to himself, however. The head coach said Pryor has been passing on the lessons he has learned from the OSU coaching staff to the quarterbacks who will follow in his footsteps at Jeannette.

"I was very proud of Terrelle and the way he handled himself," Reitz said. "He's really matured into a hell of a kid right now."

OHIO STATE FACILITIES

Plan Helps Illuminate Future Facility Issues

By **JEFF SVOBODA**
 Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

There is no coincidence that on the east wall of the office of Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith hangs a large, aerial photo of the campus area with the athletic facilities centered in the frame.

Smith said that when he arrived at Ohio State in 2005, he quickly became familiar with the master plan of facilities put together by the athletic department in the 1980s.

"I came in here and that's one of the first things that I looked at," Smith said. "That's why I put this (photo) on the wall, so I could keep in my mind where our current facilities are and which ones I would have to address over time."

While Ohio State has made tremendous progress in recent facility upgrades – two-thirds of the Buckeyes' varsity teams play or practice in a fairly new or renovated venue – the wheels have been put in motion to fill in the remaining gaps.

The department has worked recently with the HNTB Corporation, a Kansas City-based architecture consulting firm, to design an updated master plan of facilities that will help guide future planning of the sporting venues in which Ohio State participates.

The plan will be shown to Ohio State's design review board, an independent committee that will assess it and make suggestions, in July. After that, the athletic department will be interested to see the results of a similar, university-wide plan commissioned by the office of university president Dr. E. Gordon Gee that will integrate the athletics

design into the overall university outlook.

That plan, developed by Sasaki Associates Inc., another international architectural planning firm, is expected to be finished in the fall.

"The process has been great because it forces that discussion about where we are and what we need to do," Smith told BSB. "It's been even better since the president brought in Sasaki to look at the entire campus. We're not sitting here operating in a vacuum."

"We're looking at it relative to how athletics fits into the entire acreage of the institution and all of the different things that may happen on campus. That's really refreshing. We'll be able to align, and that's the greatest thing."

Such alignment is important because the department's facilities host more than intercollegiate sporting events. Smith said that in the past year, Ohio State staged around 250 varsity contests and its athletic facilities also hosted 250-300 nonathletic events such as banquets and large gatherings.

Both Smith and associate athletic director Ben Jay, who has been heavily involved in the project, said that they've been happy with how the process has shaken out up to this point. The tangible result so far is a mock-up of what Jay calls an "athletic village" of facilities located between Lane Avenue, Fred Taylor Drive, Ackerman Road and Olentangy River Road that will serve Ohio State's needs in the long term.

Not only will the plan map out possible

locations for future facilities but it also aims to tie together the current and future buildings in an attractive, functional space.

"I don't see it any differently than like the Fisher College of Business where you have those surrounding buildings which is kind of the home for that major," Jay said. "It's not really a village, per se, but I was looking for a little more organization in terms of how the place looks as you walk through the area, how the buildings are interconnected with each other, what can we do with pedestrian walkways and parking and streets and things like that."

Still, the master plan isn't written in stone. A variety of factors will play into how the area will actually develop, not the least of which is money. The department of athletics has a debt of more than \$200 million and already is on the hook for at least \$35 million in facility projects to be completed over the next three to five years.

To illustrate that, Smith pointed to an indoor tennis facility that was included in the last master plan. The original idea was to locate a new venue on campus, but sufficient funds for what was to be a \$10-12 million facility could not be raised. Eventually, the university was able to acquire an indoor sports facility north of campus on Henderson Road and complete the requisite work for one-third of the cost.

"We'll set priorities once the president decides what he wants to do and what facilities and what issues will go forward over the

next number of years," Smith said. "There will be some that won't be part of the priority package. We'll decide which are."

First Steps On Horizon

The first facility to come directly out of the master plan is a new field hockey and outdoor tennis complex, which will replace the dilapidated North Turf Field for the field hockey team and consolidate and reduce the size of the Stickney Tennis Center.

That piece, which is expected to cost \$6-9 million, will be located north of the Woody Hayes Athletic Center and west of Olentangy River Road. Ohio State would like to have the field hockey turf open by fall of 2009 with the tennis center ready the following spring.

"We knew we had to replace this field," Jay said of the North Turf Field, which sits south of the Woody Hayes Athletic Center among the football practice fields. "As we were working on the different variations of the master plan, one of the things that seemed to be constant was to move field hockey up here north of tennis in that area."

"We decided that if we're going in that direction and it doesn't look like it's going to change, then if we have to build it, let's build it now up in that area. So the master plan has given some direction to us already."

In addition, a number of other facility upgrades either have been approved or are on the docket for the near future. A \$20 million addition to the Schottenstein Center to provide new office and practice space to the basketball programs has been approved by the board of trustees and is expected to begin next year, while construction recently



Gene Smith

"GEEK" WAS NEVER SO CHIC!



HelpWizards

MAKING TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTIVE

AND business profitable!

- ① **DISPATCH CENTER**
 Speak With Live Dispatchers
 Professional Consultation
- ① **CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS**
 Efficient Service
 Expert Training and Service
- ① **CUSTOMIZATION**
 Stored Database of Client Information
 Single Point-of-Contact
 Your own Client Relationship Manager
- ① **SUPPORT**
 Remote Support
 Automated Monitoring
- ① **VALUE**
 Competitive Rates
 Value-Added Service Agreements



(614) 291-HELP!

www.helpwizards.com

OHIO STATE FACILITIES

commenced on a \$5.9 million renovation of softball's Buckeye Field.

Off campus, the department of athletics is in a holding pattern with a proposed boat-house for the rowing team in Duranceau Park on the Scioto River's west bank while the city of Columbus meets with the residents of the area. Ohio State is also attempting to renovate the clubhouse at the OSU Golf Club while looking for new ways to provide indoor hitting facilities for the varsity golf programs.

The next major need that could be addressed is the lack of a central building to house much of the department's administrative staff. Athletics' 314 employees are housed in 14 different buildings, making business and communication less efficient.

Possible alternatives to the current setup include a new athletics administration building that might or might not include space for coaches' offices, which can be found in many of the new facilities. Another answer could include a reworking of St. John Arena to create new office space and renovate that which already exists.

"We're interested in a facility that brings people together," Smith said. "The main thing is how do we serve everyone, and that can take on a number of forms. We're looking at different options, and the nice thing about Sasaki is that we've moved toward an athletic administration building being the answer to multiple answers."

The statuses of French Field House and the Biggs athletic training facility, which is attached to the west side of the WHAC, must also be addressed. Both are older buildings with deferred maintenance issues that are in need of major work.

The future of French Field House, the home of Ohio State indoor track, is of particular interest to Smith. The roof and the track surface are out-of-date and performing poorly.

"The French Field House discussion is huge," Smith said. "We need to solve our indoor track issue. That part is not determined yet, but that will be a major outcome of these discussions."

An answer that could kill a number of birds with one stone would be a new indoor multipurpose facility that could include a new track, a new indoor artificial turf field and an attached athletic training center.

A burgeoning problem inside the department is the constant use of the indoor turf field in the WHAC, which is booked nearly solid during the winter by programs like baseball, lacrosse and softball that need it for its large amount of practice space.

"It puts wear and tear on the Woody, so at some point in time, there's an economic nexus with utility costs and the wear and tear on the Woody where you say it would be advantageous to have (space) somewhere else for baseball, softball, lacrosse and soccer," Smith said.

The department is looking at whether an indoor turf field facility should also house an indoor track, which would address the issue of the declining health of French Field House but add cost to the project. Jay said the time frame for completing it would be in the next 10 years.

The most likely spot for the building would be just north of Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in an area currently populated with houses that are part of Buckeye Village, which the Office of Student Affairs operates as housing for married students or those with children.

However, that housing is old and starting to become plagued with maintenance issues to the point where the student affairs office has considered alternative options. The possibility that athletics could acquire a 10.3-acre piece of the land north of Jesse Owens

was what began the master planning process in the first place, and negotiations about the property are ongoing.

"They still have a need for this housing but over time their hope is to be able to relinquish some of that land," Jay said.

Gazing Into The Crystal Ball

The future of Buckeye Village will play a part in just how much land athletics has to work with. Per the instructions of Sasaki, the 20-year proposal drawn up by HNTB has athletic facilities in place of all of the Buckeye Village land, which is about 30 acres. If that comes to fruition, the department of athletics would be able to develop all land between Lane Avenue, Fred Taylor Drive, Ackerman Road and Olentangy River Road on West Campus.

"It'll be interesting to see what the Sasaki plan brings in terms of where we are," Jay said. "They gave us direction in our meeting with them to really think big because all we had done with our master plan was really to look at the original 10.3 acres because that was the more near term."

"They said, 'Well, you ought to think big like you're going to have all of Buckeye Village.' So we went back to HNTB and said, 'Well hold on. Now we're supposed to take this 20-plus year look, and making the assumption that athletics would have the Buckeye Village land, now what would you do? What would you build on it?'"

In the master plan, that area includes a small arena for court sports, a small sports pavilion and a hockey arena. While the sports pavilion could serve as a way to replace the Steelwood complex on Kenny Road as a way to return wrestling, gymnastics and fencing practices to campus, the arena and hockey rink could be eventual replacements for the St. John Arena parcel that includes the historic venue as well as French Field House and the OSU Ice Rink.

The future for that site, including St. John Arena, remains cloudy. The arena itself is useful at the moment because it provides a suitable venue for sports such as wrestling, volleyball and gymnastics in addition to the office space it houses. The university uses the building to host numerous heavily attended events like graduation and convocation.

However, there are numerous problems that have to be dealt with, making the long-term utility of the arena a question mark. Many of the offices do not have air conditioning, making them unbearable during the summer months. In addition, there is nearly \$50 million in deferred maintenance on the building, which is in dire need of around \$3 million of critical work right now and around \$7 million more of work that should be done.

"You have to think to yourself, 'Do you want to spend \$9-10 million on that building, or do you try to get by and then apply it to newer buildings that will eventually replace it?'" Jay said.

The eventual fate of the arena area will not be settled in the very near future, however.

"We have all of those projects ahead of it," Jay said. "Certainly the university over time will figure out what's the best use of the St. John Arena parcel."

"It's got a lot of history and tradition," said Smith of St. John Arena, which happens to house his office on its second floor. "I don't know what will happen. It's not an athletic department decision. The nice thing about this planning process is it's causing the discussion."

Obviously, the necessity of a new hockey rink or arena depends on the decisions made about St. John Arena and the OSU Ice Rink. Those examples serve to highlight a key part of the master plan – while not everything

is guaranteed to be built, all possible facilities do need to be included for future design purposes.

"They're wishful-thinking, wish-list type of things, and it's something that you have to put in the plan in order to have that vision about what it would look like 20 years from now if you were to build it all," Jay said.

A Home For Athletics

An important part of the future of the "athletics village" includes tying the buildings together with a uniform theme, open green spaces, and pedestrian walkways and bikeways to bring a consistent, attractive feel to the area.

"What's really most important to us is how the buildings really kind of interconnect," Jay said. "What is the theme? What is the vision?"

One of the major features of the HNTB 20-year drawing is an open area of green space – sort of a mini-Oval, referencing the vast open land near the university's library – that would be landscaped with trees or bushes and include walkways to help ease transportation between buildings.

There is also the potential for the land to have water features included. The current proposed drawing includes a pond that sits southeast of the football practice facilities between Olentangy River Road and the Jack Nicklaus Museum. Another body of water is drawn in near north of the field hockey and tennis complex that would sit along a natural drainage area toward the river.

"We'd have this great grass center at the middle of our buildings and try to incorporate water features if we can," Jay said, "so that it isn't just all concrete and asphalt, so that we do incorporate visionary things in terms of when you're walking around our paths."

In addition, Smith and Jay would like

to see the area bring together most of the services, such as strength areas and medical facilities, which are used by athletes on a regular basis.

"That would be a good thing to do, if we could come up with a way that everything is closer together and tied together – your sports medicine, your athletic training and all of your locker rooms and services for your athletes – so they don't have to fight the battles they fight," Smith said. "That is an option and hopefully we can end up there."

Safety will also play a part in some of the planned changes. The plan includes provisions to deal with the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks along Olentangy River Road, a heavily trafficked, four-lane road that runs along the river that separates the athletic venues on West Campus from Ohio Stadium and St. John Arena on the other side. Last year, a woman was killed attempting to cross the street, which has a speed limit of 45 mph, the night of the Nov. 3 Ohio State-Wisconsin football game.

The area around the new field hockey and tennis complex is being graded in order to add a pedestrian walkway along the road. Another solution being discussed is rerouting Borror Drive, which runs north of the Schottenstein Center between Olentangy River Road and Fred Taylor Drive, closer to Bill Davis Stadium so that it would meet with the entrance to the Longaberger Alumni House and Fawcett Center on the east side of the street. A new intersection, with crosswalks, would result.

"We want to try to see what we can do working with the city of Columbus in terms of remedying and providing a safer crossing area," Jay said. "We know a number of pedestrians cross during football games, and we're just trying to plan that into our design element."

BUCKEYES ON THE ROAD 2008

Reynolds Travel will offer the following OSU away trip packages, including game tickets, for 2008:

Sept. 11-14 – Air trip to USC from \$1599 per person at the JW Marriott in Santa Monica. **SOLD OUT** (Package still available if you have game tickets)

Oct. 3-5 – Motorcoach to Wisconsin and two nights at the Ho Chunk Hotel and Casino from \$399 per person. **SOLD OUT**

Oct. 17-19 – Motorcoach to Michigan State and two nights at the Soaring Eagle Hotel and Casino. **\$479 per person.**

Nov. 7-9 – Motorcoach to Northwestern and two nights at Embassy Suites in Schaumburg, Ill. **\$409 per person.**

Nov. 15-16 – Motorcoach to Illinois and one night hotel at the Adams Mark Indianapolis Airport. **\$259 per person.**

All package rates are based on two to a room and rates for more or less in a room are available. To see the full package inclusions, visit our Web site at www.reynoldstravel.net. Don't wait too long to book as other trips may sell out too. This is surely going to be another exciting season for the Buckeyes. Go Bucks!



8934 Commerce Loop Dr.
Columbus, OH 43240

Trips offered by
**Reynolds Travel
in Columbus**

Phone: 614-847-8008
Toll Free: 866-880-0577
Website: www.reynoldstravel.net

OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Former Buckeyes Reunite, Return To St. John

By CRAIG MERZ

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Numbers such as a .748 winning percentage, four Big Ten titles, three NCAA appearances and a dramatic increase in attendance and recognition weren't the reasons more than 40 former Ohio State women's basketball players from the era of coach Tara VanDerveer converged in Columbus in mid-June.

"You're reuniting with your family," said Francine Lewis, who earned first-team All-Big Ten honors in 1984 and '85. "That's exactly what this is. This is a family reunion."

As such there were hugs, tears, laughter, introductions, photographs and videos taken, e-mail addresses exchanged and, oh, yes, a pickup basketball game in St. John Arena.

"Shirts and skins," yelled Lewis from the sideline, proving she was still the team cutup.

No, that didn't happen. Nonetheless, the 40-something women showed they still have game, just as they did when VanDerveer coached them for five seasons through the 1984-85 campaign.

During that stretch, OSU posted a 110-37 record, including 50-4 in the conference. In VanDerveer's final season, the Buckeyes had a 28-3 record, were perfect in 18 Big Ten games and reached the East Regional final of the NCAA tournament before losing to eventual national champion Old Dominion by four points.

"I would take any one of our teams that we had and I would take them up against anybody today," said guard Toni Roesch, a four-time letter winner and co-captain of the 1985-86 squad. "If you look at Francine, Carla (Chapman) inside, Ronda (Spencer), Kristin (Watt), Jodi (Roth) – look at anybody inside. Then you look outside. You've got Yvette Angel. We had some good teams and they could flat out play."

VanDerveer went from Ohio State to her current position at Stanford where she won NCAA titles in 1990 and '92 and was runner-up to Tennessee in 2008. This was her first trip to campus since bringing her 1996 U.S. Olympic team to face Ohio State.

"These are incredibly talented players," she said as her former players went up and down court between layups, giggles and gasps of air. "I've coached national championship teams at Stanford and Olympic teams, but some of the best players I ever coached are in this gym right now."

It was a different landscape when VanDerveer took over. Ohio State and other colleges were coming to grips with the effects of the landmark Title IX decision that paved the way for equal treatment of women's athletics in the late 1970s.

In 1980, Phyllis Bailey, the school's first women's basketball coach from 1965-70, was an administrator in the athletics department



WILLIE JENNINGS

CATCHING UP – Former Ohio State women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer (center) made a rare return visit to Columbus in mid-June for a reunion of players and coaches from the early 1980s. Pictured are members of VanDerveer's initial recruiting class; from left are Theresa Busch Wiper, Yvette Angel, VanDerveer, Carla Chapman Sibley and Kristin Watt.

when she hired VanDerveer, a former player at Indiana.

"I was really fortunate," VanDerveer said. "I was the head coach at Ohio State when I was 26 years old, so I wasn't that much older than some of the players. I was given an opportunity by Phyllis Bailey. I had been an assistant for two years – I went to Idaho for two years and I came back as head coach."

"It was a great time. We played here in front of 10,000 people when we played Iowa. Then we played at Iowa and had 22,000 people."

During the 1981-82 season, OSU drew 5,964 fans for 12 home games (an average of 497 per game) with a high of 1,137. Three seasons later, the average was up to 1,883 per game and a crowd of 10,184 came out to see the Buckeyes play USC.

"When I was coming in, I remember Tara saying she had great plans for the program and support for the program," said reunion organizer Theresa Busch Wiper. "You look back on it now. We were sort of the first teams – my freshman year was the first year we had the NCAA tournament. You don't realize at the time how significant that was. We were on the tail of Title IX. We were the first beneficiaries of that."

"Gradually the support has gotten better and better. It's a great program and Tara was a big part of that for five years."

Wiper, another four-year letter winner and co-captain of the 1984-85 team, got the idea for the reunion after planning one at her high school. Other than honoring the 1985 team during halftime of the Olympic squad vs. OSU game a dozen years ago, there had been

no reunions for the players of the VanDerveer era.

"A couple of years ago, I organized a reunion for my high-school team in Indiana," said Wiper, who is married with two children in Portland, Maine. "We had so much fun. We played on the old court. I thought, 'Wouldn't this be fun to do for my college team?' So last summer I started contacting everybody and in January we picked a date."

"It's no particular season (to honor). We did it because it's been so long. A lot of people hadn't seen each other in 20 years."

Said two-time All-American Tracey Hall, "I wasn't going to miss it for the world."

Hall lives in the Cleveland Heights area with her husband and two sons and works in the insurance industry. She played only one season for VanDerveer but said the coach had a lasting impression on her and helped her become an All-American in 1987 and '88.

"Theresa did a fabulous job organizing it – 20 years is a long time," Hall said. "This is my first time back. It brings back memories. The gym looks a little bit smaller than when I was playing. I don't know why. I still remember looking in the stands trying to find my family."

The key to the reunion was getting VanDerveer and her associate head coach at Stanford, Amy Tucker, another former team captain who led the Buckeyes in scoring in 1980 and '81, to attend.

"This is unique because we started with Tara, and Tara was a very pivotal point in the success of Ohio State women's basketball," Lewis said.

The reunion weekend began June 13 with

a Friday night dinner at the Varsity Club. A walking tour of the campus – including the renovated Larkins Hall where the team sometimes practiced – started the next day and was followed by a group picture and pickup game at St. John. Then came lunch at Tommy's Pizza on Lane Avenue, a tour of the Schottenstein Center, hospitality time at the Blackwell Hotel and more food and drink at Plank's Café in German Village. A cookout at the home of Kristin Watt capped the activities on the final day.

"It's very emotional being back and seeing everybody," VanDerveer said. "It felt so surreal. I hadn't been here for a long time. I have great memories of Ohio State. I could just hear the band playing 'Hang On Sloopy.'"

"It was so much fun seeing all the players I coached. Everyone looks the same. It makes you feel old. It's amazing to see young women I coached – they were 18, 19 years old and now they have 19-year-old kids. It's really special. It hit me a lot harder than I expected it to. It reminds me of special times."

The feeling was mutual.

"What made her a good coach?" Lewis said. "Sincerity, knowledge. Personality. Very honest. You could trust her. She was our mother away from home. She's a teacher. You wanted to play for her. You wanted to put your heart out on the floor for her."

In turn, the players pulled for each other.

"They were good students, and for the early '80s when they were here, they were excellent athletes," Bailey said. "Best of all, they're really good people. They really enjoyed each other. They played well together on the floor."

"In my opinion, they were probably the group that advanced women's basketball the most at the Ohio State University, more than any other group. We had been working at it but we were also just getting started. Tara and this particular group advanced the program. They took it further than it had ever gone. They began to give it a national view. They got into the NCAA tournament, which hadn't happened before."

"They were real special kids," Bailey added. "They knew how to win and they cared for each other. That's really the reason they won. They were fun for me to watch because you could see them growing as players – as young women – and they all cared for each other."

They still do. VanDerveer said she carries the memories today of what she learned at Ohio State.


"The most important lesson, as is evidenced by today, is that a team is a family," she said. "Our team was very close. You can feel it in the gym right now. We had the chemistry, the playing for each other, the unselfishness."

"I coached some of the best and most talented players, but they were all about winning team championships. It was really fun."



O.S.U. FOOTBALL TICKETS
SEASON - INDIVIDUAL
HOME - AWAY

2941 Kenny Rd. • Suite 205 • Columbus, OH 43221
614-457-1122 • 800-933-7773
www.osutix.com



TOPSOIL
VERY RICH PULVERIZED
OR UNPULVERIZED
"SOIL PLUS"

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

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

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

OHIO STATE GOLF

Brown's Long Journey At OSU Nears Its End

By **JEFF SVOBODA**
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Jim Brown came to Ohio State to turn it into a golf school, but even he might not have been able to imagine just how much his teams would accomplish during his first 35 years at the helm.

Brown's teams have won 17 Big Ten titles, placed in the top 10 of the NCAA championship 11 times and won one national title, that coming in 1979.

Now, the most successful coach in Ohio State golf history and one of the most accomplished in any sport at OSU will be hanging it up after one final season in 2008-09. Brown, the longest tenured Buckeye head coach and the winningest active NCAA coach with 5,609 wins, announced his retirement June 2 effective after the '09 campaign.

Almost immediately, tributes to his legacy came pouring in.

"He had a huge impact, just by being a great person," one of his most decorated players, John Cook, told BSB. "You don't win championships like we did and he did – being a Midwestern, Northern school – without some talent and some expertise and some real commitment to what you're doing. Being a great person like he was made it that much more satisfying."

"At the end of the day, the best way to sum it up is he's a Hall of Fame coach," Ohio State director of athletics Gene Smith said. "To put in the amount of time that he's put into that sport and make it better for a lot of kids that were in it and a lot of kids that will come speaks volumes to his commitment. He's a walking icon."

Brown's final year will be his 36th in charge of the golf team and will signal the end of an era. The 64-year-old said that the time just felt right to make a change.

"Forty-two years is a long time," he said of his time as a college golf coach. "There are a lot of young kids out there coaching now. I'd like to give somebody the opportunity I had back in 1973. I'll follow the program, I'll be interested and hopefully I'll still be a part of it."

His son, former Ohio State golfer Jeff, added that he was sure his father did not make his decision lightly.



OSU MEDIA RELATIONS

READY TO HANG 'EM UP – Ohio State men's golf coach **Jim Brown** (left), shown here helping Patrick Simard read a putt during this spring's NCAA regional meet held at Ohio State's Scarlet Course, announced June 2 that the 2008-09 season will be his last guiding the Buckeye squad. Brown is the longest tenured active coach at the university.

"He always told us the way he makes decisions is he kind of makes a decision and then he goes to sleep, and if he sleeps well it's the right decision," Jeff said. "He said that this time, after the season, he took some time and thought about a bunch of different things and

made a decision in his own mind and then went to bed and slept well that night. That was kind of a telltale sign to him that it was probably that time."

Reaching New Heights

Brown didn't exactly establish Ohio State as a golf school – after all, it had won a national championship in 1945 and boasted four individual NCAA champions to its credit before Brown was hired – but the school entered into a period of sustained excellence from the moment Brown was hired from Kent State before the 1973-74 season.

Immediately, Brown set out to have his players test themselves against the best.

"I got my start about how to build a program from Bob Fitch at Indiana because when I got here he was really good," Brown said. "He said, 'You've got to go down (South) and play those guys to show your kids that they're not that much better than you.' That's when I started changing the schedule and then we kind of took over in the '70s and '80s and '90s."

In his first season, the Buckeyes won five tournaments, placed second in the Big Ten and took 20th at the NCAA tournament, just a taste of what was to come.

Brown's Buckeyes would place first or second in the Big Ten every year until 1994 and win six or more tournaments every year until 1988.

Included were some truly remarkable years.

During Brown's first five years, the Buckeyes began to re-establish themselves as a national power, winning three conference titles and placing in the top 10 of the NCAA meet three times, but 1979 was a year in which everything came together.

Boosted by returning All-Americans Coey and Mark Balen and future All-American Joey Sindelar, the Buckeyes won six regular-season tournaments and captured the Big Ten title. Cook, Sindelar and Rick Borg were first-team All-Big Ten that year on a squad that also featured Balen and Rocky Miller, a future All-Big Ten pick.

The momentum carried through to the final day of the NCAA championship.

"We were about seven or eight shots behind," Brown said. "We pulled up in the parking lot and I forget who it was – it might have been Cook or Balen or somebody – but it was in North Carolina and it was a little bit cooler, the wind was blowing, it was a tough course. And one of those guys said, 'Hey, guys, this is like another day at the Scarlet Course. If we go out and shoot a bunch of 75s, we're liable to win this thing.'"

"I think that day there were like seven or eight scores of 75 or better, and we had like three of them and ended up winning. We made some clutch things coming in. Cook made a 30-foot rainbow putt, and Rocky Miller ran out there and picked him up and carried him off the green. Balen got up and down from the bunker. Another guy got up and down. It was just like it was meant to be."

The good times kept rolling for years to come. From 1976-1990, Ohio State won all but two Big Ten titles. The Buckeyes had a tremendous year in 1983, winning nine tournaments and putting together a composite record of 237-3 that was blemished only by a fourth-place finish at the NCAA championships.

After a brief hiccup, the Buckeyes put together another run, winning 14 tournaments, clinching three Big Ten titles and placing in the top five at the NCAA meet three times from 1995-98.

Individual honors won during Brown's ten-

We've been recognized across the state for our expertise behind the scenes.



Recently recognized as one of the "Best Employers in Ohio 2007," OCLC Online Computer Library Center serves as the Internet point-of-entry for thousands of libraries and millions of information seekers around the world. Headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, OCLC employees enjoy incredible opportunity for advancement, a 100 acre campus-like atmosphere and flexible hours.

Talk to any of our employees, and they'll be more than happy to tell you about the incredible work/life balance they enjoy, the supportive management, fair treatment and community involvement they experience on a daily basis.

We're always looking for individuals with expertise in IT, cataloging, digitization and marketing. So, for more information and a list of current opportunities, visit www.oclc.jobs

Join us in developing innovative online services that utilize the latest in information technology to meet the growing demands of an increasingly information hungry world.

OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. 6565 Kilgour Place, Dublin, Ohio 43017
Equal Opportunity Employer



www.oclc.org



OHIO STATE GOLF



**Men's Golf
Head Coach
Jim Brown**

- Has been Ohio State's head coach for 35 seasons.
- Led the Buckeyes to a national championship in 1979 and has guided OSU to 31 NCAA appearances and 11 Top 10 NCAA finishes.
- Winningest active coach in the NCAA with a career record of 5,609-1,791-43 and 157 tournament victories.
- Was named National Coach of the Year in 1979 and 1986.
- Has guided Ohio State to a league-record 17 Big Ten championships and has produced 93 All-Big Ten honorees, including second-team selections Kyle Coconis and Bo Hoag in 2007-08.
- Tutored an NCAA individual champion in Clark Burroughs in 1985. Also coached 18 Big Ten medalists, 11 first team All-America athletes and 40 other All-America selections.
- Graduated from OSU in 1966 and played the No. 1 position on the golf team from 1963-65, serving as team captain in his senior year. Also lettered three seasons as a member of the Ohio State men's basketball team.

ure are almost too numerous to list. Perhaps the most impressive came in 1985 when Clark Burroughs won the NCAA championship, becoming the first Buckeye to do so since Jack Nicklaus in 1961.

In addition, Chris Perry, OSU's career leader with 13 individual college tournament wins, was named the 1984 college player of the year. Chris Smith was named the Big Ten's freshman of the year in 1988 and two years later was the league player of the year.

Cook won the prestigious U.S. Amateur title in 1978 and played in the Masters the same year. Later, Perry (1984), Burroughs (1984) and Chris Wollmann (1996) all traveled to the Masters while at Ohio State. Burroughs, Cook, Perry, Sindelar and Smith are members of the OSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Ninety-three players have received All-Big Ten honors in Brown's career. Eighteen players have become Big Ten medalists, and 11 were named first-team All-Americans.

Those individual accomplishments are nearly matched by Brown's. He was named national coach of the year in 1979 and '86 and was tabbed as the District IV coach of the year in 10 of 11 years from 1977-87. He earned Big Ten coach of the year laurels in 1995, '96 and 2004 and was inducted into the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991.

Inside The Locker Room

But if one asks Brown, the most important accomplishments of his tenure have come in the classroom, where he guesses that only four or five of his players have left Ohio State without a degree.

"I got this one from Woody - he said, 'If they come here, we deserve to make sure they get their education.'" Brown said. "If they decide to come here to play athletics, any sport, your obligation is to make sure they graduate."

Brown's players have received 11 Academic All-America awards and 55 Academic All-Big Ten honors, and 84 have been named Ohio State Scholar-Athletes.

Brown is also quick to point out that his players who haven't graduated haven't exactly fared poorly, even as he's badgered them to return to school to finish their degrees. One of those is Cook, who left Ohio State early after three All-America nods while well on his way to a degree in finance.

"It wasn't like I was cruising through school, and he made sure of that," Cook said. "You didn't play unless you were in class and you were doing the right things in school. He believed that and we pretty much lived that."

"If you ask (the current players), I ask about school every day," Brown said. "I know when their midterms are, I know when their finals are. Every week I ask them, 'What do you have this week?'"

Oddly enough, Brown has been slightly more hands-off when it came to work on the golf course. With every player having his own quirks and methods to his swing, Brown said his focus has been more on course management and short-game practice rather than overhauling players' swings.

"I let them practice the way they wanted to," he said. "My philosophy was, 'I'm here to help you, and if you're not coming in to see me, I assume you're playing well.'" So many of these kids, they grow up with these teachers now. We don't change many of them."

Jeff, who lettered from 1995-98, echoed his father's words.

"He was flexible," said the younger Brown, who now works in Ohio State's athletic department. "He wasn't necessarily set in his ways. Different kids came to Ohio State with different swings and different ways to play the game. It's such an individual game that it's really hard to make everyone play the same way. He just embraced that and was able to adapt to see what was best for the kid."

Another thing that made Brown stand out was his relationship with his players. Jeff noted that, back when such visits were permissible by NCAA rules, the Buckeye players often would be around the Brown household for meals and that many of them became like older brothers to him.

Cook, who grew up in California before coming to Ohio State, credited Brown's help in making him feel at home in the Buckeye State.

"I was a long way from home and he made me feel a part of his family," Cook said.

That interest continued after his players graduated.

"He was always very interested in what we were doing and more so what my wife and our kids were doing," Cook said. "That was great to hear from him and still being part of his family. I think that was so key in the success of the program - keeping the communication lines open to ex-players and their families and seeing what else can be done."

What Next?

There's no doubt that the sport of collegiate golf has changed in Brown's time at Ohio State, and unfortunately for Ohio State some of that has been borne out in results.

Brown's teams have fallen on hard times since the late 1990s, capturing a lone Big Ten crown - when Kevin Hall ran roughshod over the field in 2004 - since 1998.

Some of the problems have been hard to avoid. As college golf has morphed into a year-round activity rather than simply a spring sport, the advantage that Southern schools have - that they can practice on the course in live situations nearly every day of the year - has helped them pull away from all but the best Northern schools.

"They can get out and hit balls and play when we can't," Brown said. "We hit as many

balls as anybody in the country, but ours are only going 100 yards, and then they can work on their short game and stuff like that."

Recruiting also has changed both in time and scope. Some coaches are on the road nearly every week of the year, while others have excelled in bringing a long string of foreign players to their teams.

Ohio State has shown signs of reacting positively to the changes in recent years. After bottoming out with a ninth-place Big Ten finish in 2006, the Buckeyes have placed fourth and sixth, respectively, the last two years in the Big Ten and returned to the NCAA tournament in 2008 for the first time in four years.

One of the key figures of that renaissance, junior Patrick Simard, is from Spain, and another, sophomore Bo Hoag of nearby Upper Arlington, just led a solid group of freshmen with a standout first season that should help attract other highly rated Ohioans coming down the pipe.

"I wanted the program to really get on the upswing," Brown said. "I didn't want to leave the cupboard bare. It's going to be real exciting for somebody to take over the job and take it back up to that level."

That interest in the program is fitting for a man who calls Ohio State "the best place in the world." Brown was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio, on the eastern border of the state, and came to Ohio State as a freshman in 1961 on a half scholarship from the basketball team and another half grant from the golf team. He became a team captain on the golf team and the squad's No. 1 player from 1963-65 while lettering on the hardwood those same three years.

After graduating in 1966, he spent 1967-68 as the head golf and assistant basketball coach at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., before returning to Ohio to spend six seasons as the golf coach at Kent State. In '73, his homecoming was complete when he was hired by Ohio State.

"When they hired me, I didn't even know what I was making," he said. "I was just so happy to be here."

When the topic turns to what Brown will do in his retirement, Ohio State almost always comes up. He has said that he'll help his successor in any capacity, even as a volunteer coach should the help be wanted. Brown also has been a fixture around the football and basketball programs in the past and said he wouldn't mind getting the chance to see sports he never had the time to take in while coaching.

"I'd love to watch the tennis team play.

They're terrific," he said. "I've never seen a lacrosse game. I've never seen a soccer game."

"That goes back to college," his son said. "He was a two-sport athlete here in the '60s and, really, he was only away from this place for less than 10 years from 1961 to 2008. It's certainly part of his life and it's become a part of all of our lives."

In addition, Brown would like to continue to help the golf programs beef up their facilities, including a proposed indoor facility next to the new Varsity Tennis Center on Henderson Road that would include bunkers and greens for short game work as well as a driving range equipped with cameras.

"I don't know whether they'd need me to help raise funds, but I'd be happy to work on that project, too," he said.

When Ohio State is taken out of the equation, there will be plenty to fill Brown's day. Ironically, spending time as a golf coach has kept him from working on his own game, so that will be high on the priority list. Traveling and spending time with his family, including wife Tina and the five kids between them, also will fit into the plans.

"We're going to do some traveling, maybe go to Florida in the wintertime for a couple of months, but I'm a big basketball fan because I played here, so it will be hard to drag me away," Brown said. "There are a lot of things to do. I'm not a handyman so that's not going to be in the equation."

"If he doesn't (find anything to do), Tina will," Jeff said. "She'll certainly keep his schedule busy. Relatively speaking, he's in good health and he's an active person, so I don't see him just fading away and not doing anything."

The thought of Jim Brown fading away is a foreign concept to anyone who has been around the athletic department for the past 35 years. During that time, the Schottenstein Center was built, Brutus Buckeye underwent a few alterations and women's sports exploded and became sanctioned by the NCAA. One of the few constants has been Brown.

To hear him tell it, he's enjoyed just about every minute of it.

"When I took the job, if I could have written the script, it would have been about like this," Brown said. "I've always wanted to come to work. I've never considered it a job."

"I've just looked forward to getting up in the morning and coming to work to work with the kids and make sure they get through school."

CELEBRATING 60 MOUTH-WATERING YEARS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 60



FOR LUNCH OR DINNER

907 WEST BROAD STREET

PHONE 614-228-2262

3 MINUTES FROM BROAD & HIGH

ADJACENT FREE PARKING

JACK NICKLAUS

Nicklaus Stays Close To Game He Loves

By **MARK REA**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Managing Editor

Jack Nicklaus still believes he has many worlds to conquer. It's just that none of them involves competitive golf anymore.

At age 68, when most people are beginning to wind down and enjoy life, Nicklaus remains full-throttle. His golf course design business continues to thrive with more than 50 courses scheduled for completion this year and next, and more than 100 more on the drawing board. Those include layouts in China, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Romania, South Korea and Vietnam.

Somehow, he also finds time to enjoy a rich family life with wife Barbara, five children and a passel of grandchildren.

Unfortunately for his legion of fans throughout the world, there is no time left for competitive golf. That means Nicklaus leaves a legacy inside the ropes that includes 18 major championships, 73 PGA Tour wins and 113 tournament victories worldwide.

Still, the glimmer of hope that Nicklaus might take one last trip around the fairways remains alive because he has always reserved the right to compete in his own tournament, The Memorial, held annually at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. But before this year's event, Nicklaus admitted that his competitive clubs were likely mothballed for good.

"I said if I was ever going to play again it would be here," the PGA Hall of Famer told reporters May 27. "But if you would see me play, I don't think you would think that I would consider that much of an option."

"I went out and played here (on the Sunday before the tournament began) and it was the first time I played since middle of March. I played the back tees and I broke 80, but it was only because I cheated a little bit."

A wide grin crossed Nicklaus' face although it seemed clear he would like to still be teeing it up on the Tour. Later, he admitted that he misses the competition and camaraderie of the nearly 40 years he spent crisscrossing the globe in search of trophies and major championships.

"Do I love competition?" he asked rhe-

torically. "Sure I do. I mean, that was my life. Golf was my vehicle to it. Do I love to play golf? Absolutely I love to play golf. But I love to play golf when I can play golf. The way I play now, I don't really consider that golf."

"I suppose if I went out and worked at it, I could go play senior golf and do some things now. But I'm not going to. If we had a tournament here, and if I went to the members' tees and played, I could play this golf course. I could probably break par most of the time."

Nicklaus was likely being modest. In mid-March, while playing at the Bear's Club course in Jupiter, Fla., that he designed in the late 1990s, he achieved a feat to which veteran golfers always aspire. He shot his age.

"I had an outing there with some people and I shot 68," Nicklaus said with a shrug. "But they couldn't understand what was going on because I didn't say anything. I got to the 18th green, had about a 10-footer for birdie, and they couldn't understand why I'm playing this outing with these three guys and why I was so grinding over it."

"It was only the second time in my life I ever shot my age. I did it when I was 64, but I hadn't played any since then because I stopped playing at 65. I just don't play."

These days, Nicklaus gets his competitive juices flowing by designing golf courses. His company, Nicklaus Design, has courses in more than 30 U.S. states and more than 25 countries worldwide. With more than 300 Nicklaus-designed layouts open for play, the company is responsible for nearly 1 percent of the golf courses played throughout the world.

"My competition comes actually from the golf courses," Nicklaus said. "I do that to be able to see if I can create something and continue to create things and create different ways of playing the game. I like to create a variety that I think applies itself to not only the good player but to the average golfer. I always try to think about how they can have more enjoyment in the game yet still have a golf course that can be a golf course that gets good recognition as far as a test."

Nicklaus began golf course design in the middle of his historic playing career. His first design was in 1969 and featured collaboration with noted course architect Pete Dye. That



MARK REA

STILL POPULAR – Although he no longer plays competitive golf, Jack Nicklaus continues to draw crowds wherever he goes. Nicklaus did tee off during the pro-am event prior to this year's Memorial Tournament and always remains in demand for autograph seekers.

resulted in the famed Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head Island, S.C., longtime home to the PGA Tour's Heritage Classic.

Seven years later, Nicklaus' first solo design, the Glen Abbey Golf Course in Oakville, Ontario, opened for play and has served as the host site for the Canadian Open for many years. Since then, he has designed some of the most recognizable courses in the world including Shoal Creek in Kansas City, Castle Pines in Castle Rock, Colo., and the PGA Centenary Course at the Gleneagles Hotel near Kinross, Scotland, a course that has already been awarded the Ryder Cup matches in 2014.

Despite his many accomplishments in design, however, Nicklaus continues to hold a special place in his heart for Muirfield Village, the course built in suburban Columbus on land where he hunted rabbits as a youngster. But his affinity for the course doesn't mean he is satisfied with allowing it to remain stagnant.

"I look at the golf course and think about things that I might want to do in the future," he said. "I don't have any specific things at this point in time, but I think I've got a couple of holes I might want to strengthen a little bit. By and large, though, I think the golf course is pretty darn good."

Pretty darn good and pretty darn challenging this year. Springtime weather conditions that made for deep, thick rough coupled

PRINTING & GRAPHICS
Advance
 PRINTING • COPYING • GRAPHICS • MAILING

- STATIONERY
- BROCHURES
- HIGH SPEED COPIES
- DIGITAL PRINTING
- CD REPRODUCTION
- SCANNING TO DISK

1349 Delashmut Avenue • Columbus, OH 43212
 Phone: 614-299-9770 • Fax: 614-299-9786
www.advancecolumbus.com

JACK NICKLAUS

with Muirfield Village's traditional demands on shot-making ability to keep scores low. Kenny Perry became a third-time winner with an 8-under par score of 280 as overall scoring was the highest at the event since 1990. Twenty golfers bettered Perry's score in the 2007 Memorial, won by K.J. Choi at 17-under par.

Perry was one of only nine competitors who broke par for this year's tournament - Choi barely made the cut and finished 53rd at plus-8 - and many of the pros who shot bigger numbers let some of their displeasure show. During a particularly brutal second round when the wind picked up to make playing conditions even tougher, veteran Tom Lehman remarked, "I would assume Mr. Nicklaus is getting what he wants. It feels like a U.S. Open."

Nicklaus said Mother Nature was to blame, not him.

"In 1965, I won the Masters and set the tournament record - shot 17 under par," he said. "The next year, I think we had a playoff at even par. Did they change the golf course? No, they didn't do anything. The conditions did that."

"The year that I won, naturally I didn't complain. Neither did a lot of other people because they shot low scores. The next year everybody was screaming because they had windy, dry conditions and the ball bounced all over the place. That's just the nature of the beast."

Being Chased By Tiger

When Nicklaus thrilled the golfing world by winning the 1986 Masters at age 46, he chalked up his 18th major championship - five more than any other golfer in history. At the time, it seemed a record that would stand forever.

But after winning the 2008 U.S. Open in a 19-hole playoff with Rocco Mediate, Tiger Woods notched his 14th major victory. And although knee surgery will sideline Woods for the remainder of the '08 season, causing him to miss the British Open and PGA Championship, Nicklaus has little doubt that

his record of major tournament wins will soon fall.

When asked about which facet of Woods' game impresses him most, Nicklaus replied, "I think his record impresses me pretty much. I have great respect for Tiger, and his ability to handle himself at the top of the game has been enormous. I think he's done a great job."

"And his peers like him. His peers like him. Everybody likes him because he handles himself well. He doesn't run around boasting and telling people how great he is. He just goes and does his own thing and plays golf, and he's done a very, very good job of that."

One record Woods will likely not approach is Nicklaus' total of 19 runner-up finishes in major tournaments. So far in his career, Woods has only five - the 2007 and '08 Masters, the 2005 and '07 U.S. Open and the 2002 PGA Championship - but Nicklaus is sure that is a record that doesn't interest Tiger.

"I don't think he wants that record or cares about that record," Nicklaus said. "Up until about the last three or four years, I think he only had one second in there someplace. Every time he got himself in position to win, he won. That's pretty special."

"As for myself, I would much rather have only about three or four seconds. I would much prefer that. I would much prefer to take that 19 and have it on the other side of the ledger. In that regard, Tiger has done a much better job of that."

In addition to more major championships than anyone who has played the game, Nicklaus and Woods have something else that sets them apart from their peers - a steely determination that tends to buckle the knees of most rivals. According to Nicklaus, that drive was what got Woods through this year's U.S. Open despite playing with a painful knee injury.

"In light of the revelation about Tiger's health, it makes his performance in the U.S. Open that much more phenomenal," Nicklaus said. "I have always said that the U.S. Open is the most difficult and complete examination of a golfer, and for him to persevere with a damaged knee and stress fracture is a testa-

ment not only to his ability but his tremendously high level of competitiveness.

"He was obviously in pain, but he played right through it. To have a will as strong as that, I take my hat off to him."

Nicklaus also expects Woods to return in 2009 and resume his chase of more major championships.

"I understand how difficult it is for him to walk away from the game, especially with two major championships and a Ryder Cup on the horizon," Nicklaus said. "But I also know that Tiger is a very intelligent young man, and he has made a decision that is best for the long term and the rest of his career. For now, he needs to focus on his health and his quality of life, and it sounds as if that is what he is doing."

"Tiger is one of the best-conditioned golfers I have ever been around, so I fully expect for him to do what is necessary to get back to competitive shape in the shortest amount of time possible and return strong next season. Personally, I look forward to that return. Tiger is a great person and great champion, and he is important to the game of golf."

Same Game, Different Era

While Woods remains the dominant player of this era - as Nicklaus was before him, and Arnold Palmer was before him, and Ben Hogan was before him - there has rarely been a time in professional golf when so many young players were championship contenders week in and week out.

Of the world's top 25 ranked golfers, nearly a quarter are 28 years of age or younger. Players are weaned on the game early and have the benefits of modern equipment as well as the most up-to-date approaches toward medicine, conditioning and nutrition.

Nevertheless, some things are lacking in today's game.

"There were some things that Arnold did for me when I was growing up," Nicklaus said. "I remember the first couple of tournaments and he said to me, 'You know, I always drop a sponsor a note and thank him for the tournament.' And I said, 'You do?' He said, 'Yeah, I try to do it every week if I can.' So every tournament I ever played in, I always dropped the sponsor a note."

"Nowadays, we get one or two (at the Memorial). I'm not saying that of everybody. But we do get one or two. But not very many."

To further illustrate his point, Nicklaus related a story about a commemorative item that was given to the contestants of the British Open. Approximately 150 of the items were made in the United States and personally carried to Great Britain and handed out to each contestant on an individual basis.

"The guy who carried it from the United States over there received two thank you notes - from his brother and from me," Nicklaus said. "I mean, you know, guys just don't communicate anymore. You just don't hear from guys."

That is just one thing that bothers Nicklaus about the game he loves so much.

"It's a different day," he said. "I worry about the game. I worry about all kinds of things. You know, it's not my job to worry about what other guys do."

And would he enjoy the game as much if he were playing today?

"If I would have grown up in this age, I would have loved this age just as much as the age I grew up in," Nicklaus said. "I think the guys today love playing the game. I think they love playing. It's just a different day."

"These kids playing today are just as polite, just as nice, want to do the right thing. It's just ... it's a different day. It's a different day, so you accept what the day is."

Join the BUCKEYE BOOSTERS
Membership Opportunities:

- Celebrity Golf Outing at the OSU Scarlet Course
- Tour of the newly renovated Woody Hayes Athletic Center
- Kick-Off Dinner honoring Senior Players
- Travel to every football away game and bowl game
- And much, much, more!!

Membership is only \$50.00 per year! For information check us out at www.buckeyeboosters.com or call 614-326-3300. **JOIN TODAY!**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Telephone: _____

Mail Check to: **Buckeye Boosters, 921 Chatham Ln., #105 Columbus, Ohio 43221**

Reds Fans!

Follow The Reds Year-Round In Reds Report

Reds Report is must reading for every Reds fan. Each information-filled issue includes player features; historical articles; extensive minor league coverage with features on top prospects, complete statistics and farm club updates; box scores and game summaries for every Reds game; complete team memorabilia section and much more.

1 Year (12 issues) - \$36.95

Send to: Reds Report • P.O. Box 12453 • Columbus, Ohio 43212

Please send me a one-year (12 issues) subscription to **Reds Report** for \$36.95.

My check or money order is enclosed. Check # _____

Charge to my: Discover MasterCard Visa AMEX

Exp. Date _____
Card No. _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For Faster Service On Credit Card Orders Call
1-800-760-2862

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

Nicklaus Remains Golf's Greatest – For Now

As I have mentioned from time to time in this space, we are in the process of reorganizing the Buckeye Sports Bulletin archives, a rather large undertaking involving nearly 800 issues and thousands of newspapers.

I've come across all sorts of interesting stuff during this process, much of which I'd love to share and will try to do as space permits.

I came across a piece that ties in with something that has been on my mind lately since so much was made of Tiger Woods' remarkable win in golf's most recent U.S. Open.

Like many Ohio State fans, golf fans or sports fans in general, I consider former Buckeye Jack Nicklaus the greatest golfer of all time. Recently, however, I find myself wondering at what point you have to acknowledge the 32-year-old Woods as the greatest ever?

I think the logical answer to that is when Woods betters Nicklaus' mark of 18 victories in golf's major tournaments. Most would figure that achievement is inevitable for Woods, but with the recent revelations of injuries to his knee and leg, you never know. Even without the injuries, there are never any guarantees as to what any athlete will do in the future. For now, Nicklaus holds the mark and is the greatest golfer of all time for many of us until Woods or some other golfer proves otherwise.

The item I came across while helping archive BSB helps prove Nicklaus' current status as the greatest golfer of them all. It was a piece in the July 1999 issue. Noted Detroit News sports reporter Joe Falls had just announced his list of the greatest athletes of the 20th century – as many were doing at the time – and he had Nicklaus at the top of his list.

Falls also asked 13 media types who were assembled for the Senior Players Championship for their lists of the top 10 athletes of the century, and Nicklaus, while not at the top, was on nine of them, finishing as high as third on two of the lists. On the two lists on which he was most highly ranked, the Golden Bear was third to Michael Jordan and Muhammad Ali on one and behind Jordan and Ty Cobb on the other.

Who did the journalists other than Falls choose as the athlete of the century? Five chose Jordan, three picked Jim Thorpe, two voted for Babe Ruth and Ali had a vote, as did – keep in mind this was primarily Detroit-area media – Gordie Howe and Cobb.

An interesting sidelight to this list compilation was that Falls sent Nicklaus his list with the Bear at the top and Nicklaus sent back his picks as the top athletes of the century. They were as follows: Jordan, Ali, Ruth, Jim Brown, Jesse Owens, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Wayne Gretzky, Willie Mays, Rod Laver and Arnold Palmer.

Nicklaus' picks were interesting because of their variety. They included a woman, a hockey player, a tennis player and his key rival for much of his career. Missing from the list was Nicklaus himself, but the Golden Bear at least acknowledged that he might be among the century's best.

"I have not included myself, but I would like to think I was good enough to be a part of this great group," Nicklaus wrote in a note to Falls.

Many of you may remember that Buckeye Sports Bulletin compiled its own list of the greatest Ohio State athletes of the 20th century. While Nicklaus figured highly on all those overall lists, he finished second among Ohio State athletes to Owens in voting among BSB readers and staff, local media members and OSU coaches and administrators.

Rounding out the Ohio State top five of the century were Jerry Lucas, Archie Griffin and John Havlicek. They were followed in the Buckeye top 10 by Chic Harley, Jim

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

Parker, Chris Spielman, Vic Janowicz and Eddie George.

While few of us will be around to see the lists at the end of the 21st century, it would be interesting to see how Woods will fare in the year 2099 when those lists are assembled. All lists of this nature tend to favor athletes from the most recent years, frequently overlooking or underrating athletes from the early part of the century. In fact, when we were putting together our OSU list back in 1999, I was concerned that Harley would not get his due. I was pleasantly surprised and pleased that he wound up with some respect at No. 6.

As for Woods, you can tell by the quotes from Nicklaus in our feature on pages 28-29 of this issue that the Golden Bear would probably give Tiger his due if he were around to vote at the end of the century.

"In light of the revelation about Tiger's health, it makes his performance in the U.S. Open that much more phenomenal," Nicklaus said of Woods' recent triumph. "I have always said that the U.S. Open is the most difficult and complete examination of a golfer, and for him to persevere with a damaged knee and stress fracture is a testament not only to his ability but his tremendously high level of competitiveness."

"He was obviously in pain, but he played right through it. To have a will as strong as that, I take my hat off to him."

For the time being, however, it is Woods who should take his hat off to Nicklaus.

Who's No. 2?

There is no question about who is the greatest golfer in Ohio State history. But here at the office, we recently got into a lively discussion about the second greatest golfer in OSU history. A good question.

Before I recap the debate, I should give some background. First of all, with the dramatic win by Woods that had so many captivated by the U.S. Open, golf's major tournaments seem to be on people's minds.

You also have to understand that the unofficial "Official Hangout" of the Buckeye Sports Bulletin staff is Plank's Café, the venerable tavern at Parsons and Sycamore on the fringes of both downtown and German Village. There, proprietor Tommy Plank will frequently extol the idea that golf "is all about the majors." He would also maintain that the understanding Nicklaus and Woods have of that fact is what helps set them apart from other golfing greats.

As a matter of record, I should point out that to my knowledge, Tommy Plank has never swung a golf club. The closest I have ever seen him to anything remotely associated with golf is when he occasionally wears his pants and socks like the late Payne Stewart and golfers of

an earlier era. But Tommy is insistent about the importance of the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open and PGA, and we have certainly been influenced by his preaching.

So against that background, we were trying to determine the greatest Buckeye golfer after Nicklaus.

BSB staffer Jeff Svoboda was making an extremely eloquent case for John Cook, with his 11 PGA tour victories and more than \$12.4 million in career winnings according to the Ohio State golf media guide. Everyone, including me, seemed to think that Cook, who lettered for OSU from 1977-79 and played on the 1979 Buckeye NCAA championship team, was a good candidate for No. 2.

Keep in mind, however, that I'm a tad older than Jeff (I started working at Buckeye Sports Bulletin before he was born). I tossed out the name of Tom Weiskopf, a 1962 letter winner. Jeff checked out Weiskopf's stats.

"Sixteen PGA tour victories and he won the British Open," Jeff noted. "I guess he's the second best."

Tommy Plank would be proud of that reasoning.

Other top Ohio State golfers and their winnings, according to the OSU media guide, include Joey Sindelar (1979-81), seven career victories and \$11.0 million in winnings; Chris Perry (1981-84), one PGA victory, \$9.2 million; Ted Tryba (1986-89), two tour victories, \$5.5 million; and Chris Smith (1988-91), one victory, \$4.6 million.

Off To A Major Start

In the aftermath of Woods' 91-hole duel with Rocco Mediate and in light of this discussion about the importance of golf's majors, it's interesting to recall that Nicklaus' first tour victory came at the U.S. Open at Oakmont in 1962. And he won it in an 18-hole playoff with Palmer, which helped ignite one of the greatest rivalries in golf if not all of sports.

Nicklaus' first win was not only impressive because it came at the U.S. Open, but because it came on Palmer's home turf. Oakmont is just 40 miles from Palmer's hometown of Latrobe, Pa. Arnie's Army, as his huge galleries were known, was out in full force at the Open, and vocally anti-Nicklaus. One of the few backers of the Golden Bear in that gallery was none other than Woody Hayes. The combustible football coach had numerous run-ins with Palmer's fans as the tournament played out.

"Woody would get very upset with people in the gallery," Nicklaus said in a 2007 interview. "People would say something. Woody wasn't exactly going to back off."

Despite the heckling, Nicklaus made up three strokes over the final 10 holes of regulation and carded a 71 in the playoff to best

Palmer by three strokes.

Palmer, who would win seven majors in his career (tied for seventh most in history) including the U.S. Open at Cherry Hills in 1960 when he defeated an amateur Nicklaus by two strokes, would never win the U.S. Open again. Nicklaus would go on to win three more among his 18 majors.

Good Grad List

Longtime readers of this column know I like to peruse the list of athletic graduates each quarter, especially those from the football team. Too many times in the past, the list of football players has featured mostly walk-ons and seldom-used players.

There were several graduating grid starters on the list this time, including T.J. Downing, Dionte Johnson, Mike Kudla and current punter A.J. Trapasso.

I am always especially impressed with players who move on to the pros and are able to earn their degrees after an extended absence from Columbus, so special mention goes to Mike Doss, who helped lead the Buckeyes to their national championship in 2002 after electing to return for his senior year.

A complete list of OSU's June graduating athletes can be found on page 5 of this issue.

Don't Forget Internet

The Ohio State football team received a whopping eight verbal commitments since Buckeye Sports Bulletin last went to press in early June. Readers who are also subscribers to BuckeyeSports.com, our premium Internet site, received news of these commitments as they happened as well as such news as Antonio Henton transferring to Georgia Southern and so much more.

BuckeyeSports.com is not a substitute for Buckeye Sports Bulletin – with daily content, it's a complement. And now is a great time to see all the exciting features of BuckeyeSports.com as new subscribers can receive three months for the price of one. That's three months of up-to-the minute Buckeye news and access to our popular premium message board "Ask the Insiders" for about 10 cents a day.

Just go to BuckeyeSports.com and click on the "Three Months for the Price of One" offer right below the lead story on the home page.



BUCKEYE CONNECTION

400 N. High St. Suite 132
In The Convention Center
Food Court & Shops
(614) 228-0196

1430 Olentangy River Rd.
(614) 429-0332



BUCKEYE SHINE

Auto Detail & Wash
5510 N. High St.
(614) 840-0302

COMPLETE DETAIL AS LOW AS

\$109.95 (Compact)

\$119.95 (Midsize)

\$129.95 (Fullsize)

Open Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. • Sunday Appointment Only