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# Buckeye Sports Bulletin

*April, 1983*

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## *Earle Bruce Talks Spring Football*

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## Grid Team Begins Practice

## Filling Holes Is Spring Priority

By Frank Moskowitz

Few football teams have the luxury of having a senior class that includes six or seven potential pros.

Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce had that luxury last season. But now, as the grid Buckeyes open spring drills, Bruce faces the task of filling the gaping holes left by the graduation of people like Gary Williams, Tim Spencer, Jimmy Gayle and Joe Lukens on offense and Jerome Foster, Marcus Marek and Glen Cobb on defense.

One of the biggest holes to be filled is at tailback, where Spencer and Gayle combined for nearly 2,200 yards in 1982.

"Before spring practice, I always talk about the guy 'in the lead' because a guy's got to earn the position," said Bruce of the battle for the number one tailback spot. "The guy who's got the lead right now would be Kelvin Lindsey. He's been around for four years, waiting his turn. He has the ability and we think it's going to be tough to knock him out of there."

Lindsey (6-0, 190) gained 95 yards on 14 carries in 1982.

"But I think there will be a challenge from a young person like Keith Byars, Roman Bates, Mike Lanese, Jeff Cargile or John Wooldridge. Those are people who can play that position well. I wish we had as much talent at every position, as we do at tailback."

The loss of Marek and Cobb also puts the Buckeyes back to square one at the inside linebacker position. Bruce plans to move a couple veteran Buckeyes over from the outside to help fill the gap.

"We're going to move Rowland Tatum over to the inside and were going to move Rich Czyzynski back there, because that's where he played before and obviously, that's our need right now. We're also going to look to Larry Kolic, Thomas Johnson and Clark Backus to help us there."

"Rowland Tatum had a tremendous year last year. He was one of the most improved and probably one of the most valuable, if not the most valuable player on defense. He made all the big plays that we needed a young man to make. Whether he can go inside and be the big play guy that he was will have to be seen in spring practice."

"Rich Czyzynski has not been seen much here because of injuries. He has a good spring, but in the fall something happens with a foot, an elbow, a shoulder or whatever and he's never been around to play. Twice he's been one of the most valuable players in the spring game, but he has never been around in the fall. Obviously he's got to stay healthy."

The other big question mark on defense this spring will be along the defensive line, where Foster and Chris Riehm, a steady

performer for four years, have graduated.

"Spencer Nelms is back, and he's the only experienced defensive lineman. He's really put on a lot of weight. He's added a lot of weight since the Holiday Bowl. He's up to about 245. He weighed less than 220 sometimes last season."

"We also have Dave Crecelius and Dave Morrill back, who have both played. They're both going to be juniors and this is the year they should blossom into good football players for us."

"Mark Hovevar, who is also a junior, that we moved from center to the defensive line is a very confident football player now, as opposed to a couple of years ago when he had a knee injury. He's abled to move and run and he's weighing upwards of 270 now, so we're looking for him to be an outstanding prospect."

Bruce has lost not only outstanding talent to graduation, but he also lost six captains, six acknowledged leaders. He thinks, however, that the Buckeyes will not have a leadership vacuum.

"In college football, graduation is always a problem because you lose some good football players," Bruce explained. "We are, obviously, losing some fine football players. But basically, after graduation, someone is supposed to spring up and take over. If they don't you are not successful."

"But you always look to say that you are going to have that leadership. This is the guy who is going to give us a little more leadership than he did last year because he's a little more mature."

"I would think that John Frank, Bill Roberts, Vaughn Broadnax and Cedric Anderson will give us leadership. Those people have been around for four years. They know the system inside and out."

"I would say that the biggest leadership question would come on the defensive side of the football field, where the most experienced players are Garcia Lane, Shaun Gayle and Rowland Tatum. These guys have got to do something for us while we were developing replacements at some of the positions."

"Mike Tomczak is going to be a much better leader this year. He's got the qualities to be a great leader. He'll be a little more confident to start with this season. When we come out in the spring and fall, he's going to be there with a lot of know-how."

Interestingly, the coach feels that one of the big questions to be answered in the spring and fall is who will be the reserve wide receivers behind Cedric Anderson and Thad Jemison, who Bruce feels is ready to move up into Gary Williams starting slot.

Bruce believes that one of the team's strengths will be the

experience of his the defensive secondary, which will benefit from the return of Rod Gorley, out last season with a knee injury.

"Most of those young men have started for three years or will be starting for a third year. That's pretty good experience. And of course there will be the strength of our offensive line," he added. "The size and development of that should be good. And we've got good experience at the quarterback position, plus the blocking of Vaughn Broadnax."

Of Tomczak, Bruce said, "For a short period of time last season, his confidence was shaken. He came back from that and ended up the season doing a great job in the last seven ball games, driving the football team, making the big play and being a fine leader for us."

"The same thing can be said about Vaughn. After he came back from his shin splints, that were very bad and forced him to miss all of the Wisconsin game, I think his blocking was really great. Not only that, but he mixed some great running with that."

One area in which the Buckeyes showed great improvement last season was on specialty teams. Bruce plans to work more in this area during spring ball.

"In spring practice we are going to concentrate on punting and the punt return, and a little bit on extra points and field goals, but not as much on kick offs and kick-off returns."

"We really want to work on the punt return. We had good success there last year and we have a young man there, Garcia Lane, who I believe has not ever fair caught the ball. He averaged about 10 yards a return and if we can boost that up to 12 or 15, we will really have done something. He is capable of doing that."

Bruce said that one thing that held down Lane's average in 1982 was runs called back because of clipping or other penalties and this is one of the things he hopes to eliminate.

Bruce also wants to try and improve the teams blocking and tackling and, most importantly, wants to eliminate giving up the big play.

Last year was not Bruce's most successful at Ohio State (he was 11-0 in his first regular season at OSU), but he admits it may have been his most satisfying.

"It's obvious that I am very proud of young men who can come back from the situation of being 2-3 and ending up 8-3. Then the bowl game was a topper. Obviously that's pleasing to think you've hit the depths of losing three straight games in Ohio Stadium and can still come back and beat Michigan and go to the Holiday Bowl."

"It would have been very easy for our young men to have quit or pointed the finger and blamed

other people. But the quality of players we had at Ohio State did not do that. They seemed to say that 'we're going to stick together, we're going to fight through this adversity, we're going to win Coach. Let's all stick together. We've been hit hard, knocked down, but we haven't been knocked out. We're going to fight our way back.'

"It's sort of like going into finals week, knowing you need an A or B to pull out the course and getting it. When the pressure gets tough, some people will fold and some people will come on."

"I've always thought of myself as one of those who, when the pressure gets the greatest, reacts the best. I hope that this has gone over to the players, because I think they are of the quality that they want to succeed and will never give up."

Obviously, Bruce hopes that some of the momentum gained by closing the season with a seven-game winning streak will carry over into the spring and into next season. There is one aspect of the team's play down the stretch that he especially hopes will carry over.

"The big thing is that we ended the season very physically. We were hitting, blocking, tackling and doing the things that make for good football."

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# Experts Wrong As Bucks Finish Second

By Michael Pramik

Stranger things have happened. But who would have predicted that the Ohio State basketball team would have finished second in the Big Ten twice in a row after the fiasco of 1980-81 when the team was 14-13?

And who could have foreseen that Buckeyes' Eldon Miller would have garnered the conference's Coach of the Year honors for those two years?

It does seem surprising that OSU should finish second this year, especially considering the huge gap left in the starting lineup with the departure of All-Everything Clark Kellogg to the pros. It is also surprising that this team finished 20-10, narrowly missing out on toppling defending champion North Carolina in the East Regional semifinals of the NCAA tournament on March 25.

Nevertheless, at least one person was not surprised by the Buckeyes' eye-opening final record — Miller.

"I didn't have any special feelings about the season," Miller says. "We expect to win all the time."

That didn't happen, of course, but the year did have many bright moments. The biggest surprise came when the Buckeyes upset then-No. 1 Indiana on Jan. 8. It was, of course, those same Hoosiers who crushed OSU on March 12 to keep the Buckeyes from sharing the Big Ten title. Still, Miller nudged out the Hoosiers' Bobby Knight for coach of the year honors.

It is an award that is sure to help OSU recruiting prospects, but Miller prefers to talk about the team that helped him get the award rather than the award itself.

"When a coach is picked as coach of the year, the credit goes to his outstanding players," Miller said. "That's something that's very good for the program, and it's because of the team."

The outstanding player on OSU's team this year, as voted by his teammates, was junior forward Tony Campbell. He led the Buckeyes with 18.9 points per game and 8.3 rebounds. That's 3.4 more rebounds than a year ago. Campbell finished with first team



Among those honored following the Ohio State basketball team's 20-10 season were Joe Concheck (left) as most improved player and Tony Campbell (right) as most valuable.

Big Ten and honorable mention All America status.

Sophomore forward Joe Concheck was named the most improved player. Concheck averaged 6.8 points and 3.1 rebounds and came on strong defensively down the stretch.

"Joe has made a lot of strides defensively this year," Miller said. "And Tony's rebounding has improved. He was third in the league in rebounding, mostly against centers. That's something Tony has worked on."

Sophomore guard Troy Taylor averaged 12.7 points per game, and was named second team All Big Ten. Fellow guard Ron Stokes, who tallied 9.1 points a game with a team leading 101 assists, was named the Buckeyes' most inspirational player.

Four seniors depart the Buckeye roster this year, including starters Granville Waiters and Larry Huggins. Waiters averaged 10.4 points and 7.5 rebounds per game,



while Huggins scored 8.0 points a game. Also departing are Mitch Haas and Derick Polk. Miller did not hesitate to praise the four.

"We had four seniors who have been part of a very, very competitive program," he said. "Three of these teams have made it to the NCAA. And we'll miss them as much as persons as we will as players."

"Larry and Granville have been very solid players. Both had their best seasons this year. Derick and Mitch, although they didn't get in as much, were great team players."

Right now, Miller will focus his attention on recruiting, at least until national signing day, which

is April 13. OSU has five grant-in-aids available, but Miller says he will use only three. The reason is twofold: only one senior graduates next season, so Miller will need the extra grants to carry over. Also, recruiters believe there is an overabundance of talented juniors in the Ohio high schools at this time.

OSU has already promised one player a spot on the team. He is Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary guard Curtis Wilson, who stands 6-1. The other two spots will probably go to big men. One recruit Miller has apparently ruled out is 6-9 Kannard Johnson from Cincinnati.

"Right now my plan is to have 12 players, and I expect to play eight or nine," Miller said. "I really like the big men we have — Keith Wesson and Alan Kortokrax. Those two are going to be very solid players."

The strength of the 1983-84 Buckeyes will lie in the guards, with Taylor and Stokes making possibly the best one-two punch in the nation, and Dave Jones and Clinton Smith adding adequate support. With this speedy lineup, Miller says he will utilize defenses that will benefit from that speed.

For instance, the zone may be used more, possibly because of OSU's relatively short baseline — 6-6 Campbell, 6-8 Concheck, and a center who will probably be under 6-10.

"We're thinking very strongly about pressing more and playing more zone defenses," Miller said. "We'll pick up the tempo defensively, maybe play more zone at half-court. Last year we committed too many personal fouls and we didn't rebound very well."

Miller points out that eight of the Buckeyes' 10 top players this year will be back next year. But with an unestablished center, could Miller garner his first Big Ten title ever in 1983-84?

Stranger things have happened.

## Concheck Wins Key Buck Award

Joe Concheck has been named the Key Oldsmobile/Rent-A-Wreck Key Buck of the Month for March.

Concheck, a sophomore out of Canal Fulton, Ohio, helped the Ohio State basketball team score a 79-74 NCAA tournament win over Syracuse with 12 points, nine rebounds and six assists. The latter two totals were career highs for the 6-8 forward.

Concheck, who was slow getting untracked this season, was named the most improved player on the squad by his teammates and finished the campaign with averages of 6.8 points and 3.1 rebounds per game.

After battling for starting time with freshman Keith Wesson, Concheck went on to start in 22 of Ohio State's 30 games.

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## NCAA Volleyball Tickets On Sale

Tickets for the 14th annual NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball Championship (May 6 and 7), to be held in St. John Arena, are on sale at The Ohio State University's Athletic Ticket Office. The Ticket Office is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

The Championship will feature four of the top volleyball teams in the country, one each representing the East, Midwest, and West regions. A fourth team is selected at large. Semi-finals will be played on Friday at 5 and 8 p.m. with consolation and championship matches on Saturday at 5 and 8 p.m.



# Haas Finds Stay Worthwhile, Despite Limited Contribution

By David Jones

Okay Buckeye fans. So maybe you don't care that Mitch Haas has played his last game for the Ohio State basketball team.

After all, what did he ever really do? Hit a couple of long jumpers. Hardly ever played when the game was on the line. Good shooter, no defense, too slow. Not a great loss, right?

From the standpoint of winning and losing games, maybe that's true. But if you could meet Mitch and sit down and talk to him — even just for an hour or so — you might care that he won't be around anymore. And you might come out of your conversation with a different perspective on what major college athletics should be about.

Maybe there really are a few things more important than whether the Buckeyes ever win *The Big Game* or the Big Ten championship. Maybe you'd begin to think that playing a major sport at a major university should be less about sprawling media coverage and post-game fault-finding critiques and more about good, hard competition and camaraderie and fun.

Though he's a bit too unassuming to be so preachy, one gets the feeling Mitch Haas thinks so.

"My four years of basketball here at Ohio State, I couldn't begin to put into words," Haas said after the Buckeyes' 64-51 loss to North Carolina in the NCAA East Regional ended the Buckeyes' season and his OSU career.

"All the experiences I've had — the relationships with my teammates, the coaching staff, the pressures we've been under, the pressures I've put on myself to do well have all been very worthwhile. I feel I've had a very worthwhile basketball career."

Haas reluctantly admits he feels there are a few people in the area whose lives are too greatly affected by the outcome of OSU athletic contests. But, on the other hand, he knows that the constant attention — positive or negative — breeds a desire to do his best.

"It's all part of what makes playing here so great. When I talk about pressure, I talk about it in a positive sense. Pressure, to me, is nothing more than excitement, nothing more than a desire to put a lot of effort into what you're trying to do. And it's been great — the possibilities, the opportunities that would come your way by excelling here are incredible, better than anywhere else."

From Moraga, California, Haas came to OSU in 1979 with high hopes and few real skills other than his keen shooting touch. He leaves after a rather odd career in which promise of more playing time several times vaporized as quickly as it appeared. But his

sincerity is evident when he stresses the positives rather than the frustrations. These are not the grumblings of a bitter man.

"I think each year that I've played at Ohio State was, maybe, frustrating in a way. You've got to remember that I played on teams with three and, potentially, four All-Americans. I played behind these people.

"I can say that I've made tremendous strides as a player. I wasn't very good when I came here as a freshman. I had an immature perspective of the game. I've become more consistent, a better ballhandler, a more aggressive player. I understand the game more; I understand a little more of the psychology behind the game.

"When I began, I had some unusual talents and a pretty decent amount of skill but I really learned to play basketball here in my four years. I feel, in my last two years, I could have made a very strong contribution on the floor. But, now Tony Campbell's playing in front of me. And Tony Campbell is a . . . is a . . . well I don't have to say what Tony Campbell is — a great player. So, not everyone can play."

The greater consistency of Campbell within Coach Eldon Miller's system has had a large impact on the Buckeyes' success. Haas feels that the past two Buckeye teams have embraced Miller's ideals more than the 79-80 and 80-81 teams, whose apparent wealth of talent may have made them less eager to toe the line.

"Coach Miller puts most all the responsibility on the individual players. Whether or not we won or lost these last four years depended on how aggressively we played. We just played harder the last two years."

That's not to say that Miller's strategy, especially on offense, has ever been complex or hard to digest. Indeed, before the game against the Yugoslav Nationals this season, Haas stormed out of practice, upset with what he saw as a lack of direction in the offensive attack. Since then, Haas has gradually swung toward Miller's way of thinking.

"People say he's a better coach now, but I don't feel Coach Miller has changed at all during my years here. He still stresses the same basic fundamentals he always has — defense, rebounding, getting your feet under you before you leap, not making mistakes.

"It's like we're put out there on the court without any real plays or a specific attack but with a backpack on our backs filled with these basic principles. We're out there alone and someone says, 'Well, we've got to do something' and we start pulling these things out of our packs and they start to work and we're thinking, 'Wow, these things really do work' and everyone gets excited and pumped up and that's when things go well.

"I have been skeptical about how basic Coach Miller's methods were at times, but he's proven to me that they work and I have nothing but the utmost respect for him."

Now, on the brink of leaving Columbus with his degree in marketing, Haas is not sorry he came to Ohio State.

"I can't imagine going anywhere else. It was frustrating at times but only because I wanted to do well. And I don't feel that's very negative. Now that I look back upon it, the frustration is gone and



Mitch Haas

I'm fortunate that I've come as far as I have as a basketball player. I've played with some great players and some great people. I'll never forget Clark (Kellogg) and Kelvin (Ransey) and Herb (Williams), the tremendous players who went on to the NBA. And I'll never forget the other players who maybe had less ability but still played awful hard.

"We played some great games and we played in the four corners of the U.S. and then overseas. We had some great times."

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# Miller Finds Life After Basketball

## From The Court To Condominiums

By David Jones

"Well uh, you know, I guess, it's like..."

These words don't mean a lot. Yet they are a good part of the stereotypical "dumb jock" vocabulary.

You won't hear Marquis Miller using these words much. Maybe that's because when Marquis speaks, he always seems to have an idea in mind, something worthwhile to say. Listening to him, it's not at all difficult to see why *this* jock, this former Ohio State basketball player, is where he is today — two years after graduation.

"I wanted to play basketball at Ohio State and make a contribution but, most of all, I was looking down the road to where I was going to be when I turned 40," says Miller, who is married with a four-year-old daughter.

"If I was going to be successful, then fine. Mainly, I wanted to be comfortable with my occupation, to work for that goal. And I would like to be both successful and comfortable by that age. That was what I was really looking at, even when I was a high school senior."

Where Miller will be at 40 is anyone's guess. But right now, at 24, he's doing just fine, thank you. In five years, using a contact he gained at Ohio State, he has thrust himself into a challenging investment position at Buckeye Federal Savings and Loan in Columbus, specializing in lending for condominium projects.

"What I do is plan and approve new developments, condominiums, cooperatives, just about all multi-family projects. I work in the city and right now we have a satellite program where we're acting as a lender for mortgage correspondents across the country."

"It's been a very informative position because I've had to teach myself about condominiums and the different types of financing for them. It's certainly a daily challenge because there's always something new to learn on top of my basic duties as a project specialist."

As impressive as all this sounds, it's easy to forget that Miller was a pretty fair player for the Buckeyes from 1977 to 1981, although his basketball career traveled a less fortunate path.

Five seasons ago, Miller arrived as part of the highly-touted '77 freshman class, immediately heralded as the saviors of the sickly OSU program and inevitable league champions. For awhile, things went quite well for both Miller and the Buckeyes. A 6-4 forward in high school at Columbus St. Charles, Miller made the transition to guard, steadily improved and saw considerable playing time early in the 78-79 season as Ohio State spurred ahead of the Big Ten pack.

When Miller came off the bench and made two late steals to spark OSU's overtime win over Indiana in February, his basketball future looked as bright as his business future does today.

But, a week later, a dislocated ankle in a painful loss to eventual national champion Michigan State shot Miller's season and the Buckeyes soon followed. Miller was never the same as a player and, though the Buckeyes came

within a whisker of a Big Ten championship in 1980, the Class of '81 never achieved its pre-ordained title.

The injury notwithstanding, Miller feels he could have and should have made a more meaningful contribution.

"I always felt like I should have played a lot more. I felt that my own abilities would have lent themselves to the situations we faced as a team."

"We played against a lot of quick teams. A lot of teams played a zone against us because we were so big and we were kind of embryonic when it came to attacking a zone."

"Plus, we liked to fast-break but we really didn't take advantage of a lot of our fast-break opportunities — there was a game when we were 1-of-9 on breaks — and I felt I could have helped out there. Plus, I felt I could have helped a lot more on defense. I was probably the best team-defensive player we had. We prided ourselves on pressure defense and, a lot of times, the pressure wasn't there. Guys would get tired."

Even with his playing time dwindling, Miller did not dissent and accepted his role as spot substitute and defensive specialist through OSU's dismal 1980-81 season.

Fortunately, he was about to graduate with a personalized study degree from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and his career with Buckeye Federal had already taken off. Obviously, he holds no grudge against Eldon Miller, for he is one of the Buckeye coach's most enthusiastic recruiters, a task he willingly took up during his playing days.

He has since had a hand in

snagging both Troy Taylor and Clark Kellogg.

Speaking engagements, some while still a player, have always been a challenge.

"If Coach Miller or one of the assistant coaches couldn't speak somewhere, I'd go. Playgrounds, grade schools, I went to banquets — anywhere I could get a free meal," says Miller jokingly. "I'd talk about the opportunities at Ohio State and people would shoot darts and bullets, throw tomatoes. They'd try to nail me to the wall about what happened our (14-13) senior year."

"Maybe the coaches felt like I handled it fairly admirably and they asked me to call some players, write some letters."

One of the reasons for Miller's eagerness to help out is that he has seen a tremendous change in the Athletic Department's approach to basketball.

"The program has probably done a 180 degree turnaround since I started there. The Athletic Department has gotten more involved in the basketball program. They're getting more academic help for the players from the academic counselors."

"When we were there, the program was just coming off of some of the worst seasons Ohio State basketball has seen and the mechanism just wasn't there for basketball (as it had been for football). We didn't really have anyone to turn to."

"When there were problems, we didn't really have 100 percent support from the Athletic Department. If a lot of our guys had had the type of situation the players have now, I wouldn't have been the only senior to graduate on time in '81. And my grade point average wasn't great. I had some hard times too."

Also, Miller has come to realize the value of attending school close to home and he stresses the point to prospective recruits.

"Some guys leave school and they are totally unprepared for what happens next. What do they do? Do they go out and find a job? Who do they know? I made a point of trying to meet as many influential people as possible."

"And I really hard-sell the Ohio players, because I feel for a highly-regarded player to come out of Ohio and not consider the opportunity to play at Ohio State would be foolish. Ohioans are generally going to take care of their own."

"The way the program is now, a kid from Ohio would do nothing but benefit by coming to OSU, if he looks at it in the proper perspective. You can't go in thinking, 'Well, I'm gonna go here a couple years and then go to the NBA.' That's not the way it really happens."

OSU or not, recruits would do well to listen. Nobody knows that lesson better than Marquis Miller.

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# Cage Prospects Perform At State Meet

By Frank Moskowitz

Ohio State basketball fans had plenty to watch for in the Ohio high school basketball finals at St. John Arena, March 24-26.

Among the main attractions were Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary guard Curtis Wilson, who was an early commitment to Ohio State, and Akron Central-Hower center Grady Mateen. While Mateen is only a junior, at 6-11, the center-poor Buckeyes certainly have an interest in him for the future.

Wilson, an all-stater, and his St. Vincent-St. Mary teammates faced Bexley and its all-state performer, 5-9 Steve Williard, in Class AA semi-final action.

The 6-1 Wilson was awesome in the first half, looking every bit a potential collegian as he hit four of seven from the field, grabbed four rebounds and passed out six dazzling assists. Wilson also helped hold Williard to just one of six shooting from the field as the Irish took a 37-28 lead at the intermission.

The Lions went to a box-and-one in the second half with 5-9 Rich Gatterdam constantly shadowing Wilson. In the final 16 minutes, Wilson was just two of eight from the floor with two rebounds and two assists as Bexley rallied to a 65-58 win.

However, he continued to help shut down Williard, who was just one of 11 from the field for the game. To show what an accomplishment this was, it should be noted that Williard came back to hit 11 of 14 while scoring 27 as the Lions took the AA title with a 77-58 win over Oak Harbor.

Wilson finished the semi-final game with 12 points, six rebounds and eight assists.

Mateen showed college potential, but appears to need more work in his senior year if he is to be an early contributor on a major college team.

In Central-Hower's AAA semi-final game with Medina, Mateen was content to stand between two defenders. He got off only two shots, though he made both of them, and the Eagles and Batling Bees were deadlocked at 28 at the half.

In the second half, Mateen worked harder for the ball and showed an excellent shooting touch, hitting six of eight and leading Central-Hower to a 75-55 rout over the Bees.

Suspect were Mateen's hands (he had five turnovers) and his defense, as 6-5 Jay Peters scored 27 points. Mateen finished the game with 16 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks.

The big junior faced stiffer competition in the final against Toledo St. Francis and 6-6 junior Todd Mitchell. Mateen, again, was the subject of double coverage and failed to work hard enough for the ball. He was five of 10 from the floor, scoring 11 points and pulling down 10 rebounds, as St. Francis won the state crown, 58-49.

Meanwhile, Mitchell, one of the surprises of the tournament, was scoring 17 points and grabbing 14 rebounds against Mateen.

In St. Francis' 73-70 semi-final win over Middletown, Mitchell scored 14 points and pulled down



Among the centers of attention at the Ohio prep basketball championships were Todd Mitchell and Grady Mateen (with ball) at left and future Buckeye Curtis Wilson at right.

13 rebounds. His scoring total could have been higher, had he not missed two dunks and shot a dismal four of 12 from the line. Mitchell, who goes to the hoop with authority, was five of seven from the floor in the game, 12 of 19 for the tournament.

Mitchell appears to be another potential collegian and he and Mateen bear watching next season. Mateen must work harder to be a real force, but you can't teach a player to be 6-11.

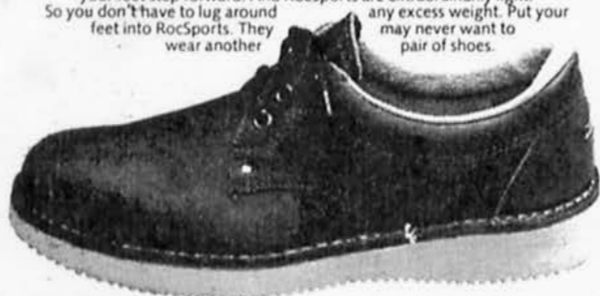
Two other future Buckeyes took the court in the state tournament.

Sonny Gordon, a 6-0, 175-pound defensive back who will be joining the OSU football team, played for Middletown in its loss to St. Francis. Gordon played only two minutes, but interestingly, Middles' coach Ted Stewart inserted Gordon in the final stages of a tight game, perhaps indicating cool under fire.

Another football recruit who played in the tourney was future tight end Ed Taggart of Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary. The 6-3, 205 pounder scored five points and pulled down five rebounds in the loss to Bexley.

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*Women's Cage Wrap-Up***NCAA Snub Mars Excellent Season***By Dave Kelch*

The 1982-83 Ohio State women's basketball season was one of many, many successes, but with one major blemish.

The goal of any Big Ten team is to win the conference title, as was the case with the Buckeyes, but they wanted more. Coach Tara Van Derveer's squad sought a repeat of their 1981-82 conference crown and NCAA tournament berth. OSU got the first, but was denied the second, a denial to which many among the Buckeye faithful took great exception.

"That's what our team learned real quick this year," said Van Derveer, "that they couldn't take anything for granted. What we learned from the Big Ten situation is that you have to win it (outright) to get in the NCAA."

With a 23-4 overall record and 15-2 in the Big Ten, league-leading Ohio State played second-place Indiana in the conference finale in Bloomington back on March 11. The Buckeyes had beaten IU 79-63 on Jan. 9 in St. John Arena in the conference season opener for both schools.

A victory at Indiana would have given OSU the outright conference title in the league's first season of double round-robin play and the NCAA's automatic bid. The Hoosiers won 62-56, as Ohio State shot a sub-par 40 percent from the field, made only eight of 17 free throws and had 23 turnovers.

The NCAA women's tournament selection committee, heavily populated by members from the southern, southwestern and western states, passed over Ohio State for an at-large berth. The Big Ten has only one representative on the committee.

"I think when people looked at our roster and saw all the freshmen and sophomores," said Van Derveer, "they weren't very excited about our team." Ohio State lost six top seniors last year, and although the Bucks were the choice (in a pre-season coach's poll) to repeat as conference champs, they gained little respect around the country.

Ohio State made the Top 20 (*Associated Press* coach's poll) only once during the season and



Ohio State women's basketball coach Tara Van Derveer, along with graduate assistant Amy Tucker (rear), watch a Lady Buckeye team that was 23-5 this season and will have everyone except guard Julie Plank returning in 1983-84.

that was for just one week in the No. 20 slot.

But Van Derveer holds no grudges. With the entire 1982-83 unit returning except for senior point guard Julie Plank and a solid freshman class coming in (OSU had at least four verbal commitments before the April 13 signing date), Van Derveer is quite optimistic on the 1983-84 campaign.

"This time last year," said Van Derveer, "we were faced with losing six seniors and two more players who weren't returning. Basically, when you lose eight players and then you have two recruits (incoming freshmen Toni Roesch and Francine Lewis) with knee injuries, there's reason for concern."

As it turned out, six of Van Derveer's top eight players this season were either freshmen or sophomores. "I think our young

people came around quickly," said Van Derveer. "I think they did an outstanding job of molding together with only one senior and two juniors. I think it's a real good start for the future."

Sophomores Yvette Angel and Carla Chapman led the 1982-83 team in scoring the 15.3 and 13.6 scoring averages, respectively. Freshman Carol Hamilton was third at 10.4. Altogether, the top six scorers were non-seniors. The top five rebounders, with Chapman leading the way with 7.2 a game, will also be returning. All offensive and defensive statistical categories were led by underclassmen.

In Big Ten statistical standings, Angel was 15th in scoring and Chapman 15th. Angel led the league in field goal percentage with a .565 percentage with Chapman seventh at .498. Lewis, coming off the bench, was the fourth best shot-blocker at 1.4 a game. Angel tied for seventh in assists at 3.9 and was ninth in free throw percentage at .729.

The Buckeyes ended the season, as they had started, with a starting lineup of Angel (5-8) and Plank (5-6) at guard, and a front line of Chapman (6-1), Kelly Robinson (5-11) and Hamilton (6-0). The top three subs were Lewis (6-2), Roesch (5-5) and Theresa Busch (5-11).

Van Derveer said that Chapman was probably her most consistent player. Of highs and lows, Van Derveer said the rout of Minnesota Feb. 11 was "a game that we put a

lot of energy into," and the 88-70 loss at Northwestern Feb. 18 was a low point.

But looking ahead, the Bucks will have to continue to improve because Van Derveer, in an effort to improve her program as well as attract more national attention, is stepping up the schedule.

The 1983-84 slate has yet to be finalized, but it appears at this point, OSU would play three of the final four teams in this year's NCAA Division I tournament.

"In order to make the step, we've got to improve the schedule," Van Derveer said. In the Big Ten, she added, "I think as far as OSU is concerned, it's going to get harder because the bottom teams will get better."

"We will be better adjusted next year. I don't think people were satisfied with a tie (Big Ten with IU), we saw where that got us. I think that IU beating Kentucky (in an NCAA first round game) helps the Big Ten as far as legitimacy as a conference."

Of next year's team, Van Derveer said, "We're sitting again in the situation that we're a sophomore-junior oriented team. Right now, it's 28-0, in my mind," she said of next year's record. "I think we can be competitive with anybody next year. You have to increase your chances of winning. One thing they are going to have to learn is that the game is 40 minutes long. Our team wants to win in the first five (minutes)."

Looking to next year's starting lineup, Van Derveer, who is now 102-41 (five years — two at Idaho before OSU) as a head coach, says that who plays point guard and center will decide the other positions.

"There is a very positive spirit of competition," Van Derveer said of her team. "Next year the juniors will have the experience and I'll be looking at who has improved. The summer is when they can improve individually. We really try to look at combinations. It's everybody's obligation to improve."

Has Van Derveer noticed changes in women's basketball the last five years?

"There's more of a commitment by the administration here and that's happening all over the country," said Van Derveer. "I think what it does is give more people a shot at the top." That supports her point that "Ohio State should be able to compete with anyone."



David E. Long

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# Bruce Wants Buckeyes To Stay Physical

Continued From Page 3

"If that could carry over, the physical toughness of our football team could carry over through spring and into fall, it could be very important. The opening three games for Ohio State University are very important as far as setting the tempo for the rest of the season."

"We'll tackle in almost all of our drills in the spring, even our passing drills, to make our young men more physical and tougher. That's what we're known for around here, but it's very difficult to maintain that when you're facing passing football teams. That seems to take that side away from you."

"But we want to emphasize that because we open with Oregon, Oklahoma and Iowa, which are more run-oriented football teams, and physical football teams. We want to get off on the right foot."

Bruce won't have the luxury of working with them during spring

ball, but he took the time to talk about his latest recruiting class.

"While there weren't a lot of the really blue chip players in the state of Ohio this last year, I think we got our share of good solid football players that will fit into our team very well. We got what we needed."

"We needed to replace some defensive backs that we're going to lose. We got some big guys on the defensive line that are not only big, but can run, which is very important."

"We got some outstanding football players from out-of-state in Eric Kumerow and the other two young men that came from Chicago, Joe Jenkins and Rich Morris."

We also got a running back from New York, George Cooper, who I think is outstanding. Of course Johnny Ross from Florida is an exceptionally fine receiver. He played some running back, but he has blinding speed and is of the

caliber of receiver of Cedric Anderson.

"I think we added some spice from out of state and I think the 20 young men that we have will help us tremendously. I think they'll fit in well for us."

"It's also going to be interesting for us," Bruce adds, "because we red-shirted 18 freshmen last year. They ought to be ready to go."

The fact that the Buckeyes collected three players from the Chicago area this year is no coincidence.

"When I was at Iowa State," Bruce explained, "we got some of the best football players from Illinois to come to Iowa State. Twice we got the best player coming out of that state."

"I think they know what Earle Bruce and his staff stand for. It's not like going into an area cold and having to work through the fact that we're the new kid on the block."

"When we go into that area and

we get a player like Mike Tomczak, or Eric Kumerow or (sophomore defensive tackle) John Sullivan or Jenkins or Morris and they like it here, that should attract others. Obviously Mike Tomczak and John Sullivan did a great job of recruiting this year."

One of the questions surrounding this year's recruiting class has been what position the 6-6, 218-pound Kumerow would play.

"We promised him that when he came here we would try him at quarterback," Bruce said.

"When he came to our summer camp before his senior year, he had thrown the ball at a previous camp and had a sore shoulder. We moved him to tight end and he was tremendous. And he was a tremendous defensive linebacker and defense back on his high school football team."

"He's a very talented athlete that we're going to give an opportunity to play quarterback. Then we'll have to decide what we'll do with him."

Bruce adds that Kumerow said that Jenkins, a 6-2, 210-pound linebacker, was the best player, the most physical, he had played against.

"I thought that was something really nice, particularly since Kumerow said that before he decided to come to Ohio State."

This year's spring practice will climax with not one, not two, but three spring games.

The Buckeyes will scrimmage at Massillon on April 22 at 7:30 p.m., return to Kings Island on April 30 at 1:30 p.m. and play their traditional Scarlet and Gray game on May 7 in Ohio Stadium.

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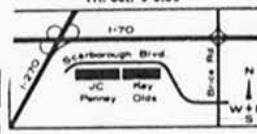
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# Top Stars To Be Featured In Owens Meet

By Rich Exner

The first Jesse Owens Track and Field Classic slated for Sunday May 8 in Ohio Stadium looks to be a fitting climax to a sports bonanza weekend at Ohio State.

St. John Arena will be the site of the 1983 NCAA Volleyball Championships on Friday and Saturday, while in Ohio Stadium on Saturday, the Buckeye football team will play the last of three intersquad spring games.

Highlighting the cast of well-known track and field athletes making an early commitment to competing in the meet are sprinter-long-jumper Carl Lewis, high-jumper Dwight Stones, pole vaulter Billy Olson and shot-putter Brian Oldfield.

"It will be, without a doubt, the greatest collection of track and field athletes ever seen in Ohio Stadium," said meet Director Ron Althoff.

Lewis is ranked No. 1 in the world in both the long jump and the 100-meter dash, while also holding down a No. 6 ranking in the 200.

His personal long jump best of 28-9 is the second best effort of all time, and he also has the longest five jumps in the world this year.

Lewis' 10.0 clocking in the 100-meter dash is the third fastest time ever recorded, and he is the current world record holder in the 60-meter dash with a 6.02 time.

The field events have attracted some outstanding talent. Along with Lewis in the long jump, some of the world's best have said they will be competing in the pole vault, high jump and shot put.

At least five 18-foot foot pole-vaulters are planning on vaulting at the Ohio Stadium complex, including the biggest name in pole vaulting circles — Olson, holder of the world indoor vault record at 19 feet, 7/8-inch.

Jeff Buckingham, the 1981 NCAA pole vault champion, has committed along with a trio of 18-foot vaulters from Abilene Christian — Brad Pursley (18-8), Dale Jenkins (18-6) and Tim Bright (18-6).

Stones, a former world record holder, heads the field in his specialty. The 26-year-old Stones is the American high jump record holder with a leap of 7-7/8 and is ranked sixth in the world.

Two-time Olympian Oldfield is the biggest name in the shot put field. He's the American record holder with a heave of 72-3 and will have his Ohio Stadium record of 65-7/8 on the line.

Providing Oldfield with plenty of competition will be former OSU All-American Kevin Akins. The 6-5, 300-pounder is ranked fifth in the world and, earlier this year, putted the steel ball 70-5/8.

Mike Lehmann, an old college arch-rival of Akins, also has said he will be on hand. The former Illinois star captured the 1982 NCAA Indoor title with a toss of 67-7/8. Lehmann won the Big Ten

indoor crown but was second behind Akins in the outdoor meet last season.

An Ohio State flavor will also be present in the track events in former Buckeye All-Americans Stephanie Hightower and Scott Rider.

Hightower was a member of the 1980 Olympic team and was a four-time All-American at OSU. She currently is the sixth ranked women's hurdler in the world and is holder of American records in the 60-meter hurdles with an 8.02 clocking and the 100-meter hurdles at 12.79.

Rider was a two-time Big Ten 800-meter champion and holds the indoor and outdoor school records for the event.

Jeff Phillips, a former Ohio high school state champion at Columbus Whitehall, adds another local interest to the field.

The huskily-built Phillips, who was an All-American at Tennessee, is ranked third in the world in the 200-meter dash and fifth in the United States in the 100.

Three-time Olympic middle distance ace Francie Larrieu gives the meet strength in the women's distance races.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 3:15 p.m. and will include a performance by the Ohio State Marching Band, the introduction of at least 12 of Jesse Owens' 1936 Olympic teammates and the induction of the first class into the Ohio Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Olympic gold medal winners Jesse Owens, Mal Whitfield, Glenn Davis, Harrison Dillard, Willie Davenport and Dave Wottle along with silver medal winner Dave Albritton and coaches George Rider and Larry Snyder will be

inducted into the Ohio Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Competition in the invitational division is scheduled to run from 3:45 p.m. until about 7:30. All races will be finals as there will be no trials run.

A high school meet will precede the invitational beginning at 1 p.m.

Advance ticket prices range from \$3 to \$15 and may be purchased in advance by contacting the Athletic Ticket Office, 410 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, Ohio, 43210. Tickets at the gate will start at \$5.

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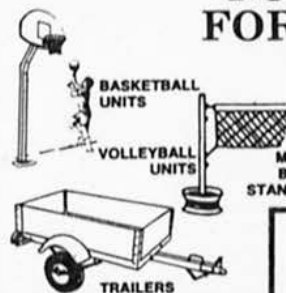
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Courtesy OSU Photo Archives

Joe Sparma

# Gridiron, Diamond Careers Leave Sparma Fond Memories

By Steve Siegfried

On the credenza behind the desk is a large picture of Al Kaline. On an adjacent wall hangs a commemorative plate, festooned with a picture of Woody Hayes. The office, with its memorabilia, belongs to Joe Sparma, the former Massillon High School whiz-kid, who played both football and baseball at Ohio State before passing up his final year of eligibility to sign a major league baseball contract with the Detroit Tigers.

Sparma is currently the vice-president in charge of sales at Buckeye Steel Castings, a subsidiary of Worthington Industries, the company he has worked for since his retirement from baseball twelve years ago.

"I miss baseball," Sparma said. "The recognition, the competition, the friends I made in the game. It's (being a professional baseball player) like any job. We all work

every day, or every fourth day, to be recognized. We compete here (at Buckeye Steel) to make a product that's better than our competition. I take pride in that," Sparma said.

Sparma can also take pride in major league accomplishments that include three one-hitters, a Tiger record of twenty-one consecutive scoreless innings his rookie year, a 16-9 season with five shutouts in 1967, and clinching the American League pennant in 1968 with a 2-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

"I guess winning the World Series was my biggest thrill in baseball, but there were some others. I remember pitching in Yankee Stadium for the first time when I was a rookie.

"Mickey Mantle came to bat, and I walked to the plate and shook his hand. The papers made a big deal out of it because I struck him out three times. He was one of my heroes. Mickey Mantle and Al Kaline."

Sparma wants to go on talking about Kaline, but the man who once beat the Yankees seven consecutive times has to be reminded that he is the subject of the interview.

Sparma was with the Montreal Expos when he retired.

"I didn't have what you would call a long career. A pitcher has to be confident, almost to the point of cockiness. When the time came that I had lost some of that, and something off my fastball, I knew it was time to quit. I didn't want to linger.

"Baseball jobs were offered, but I've had no second thoughts about going into something else."

But Joe Sparma could also throw a football.

"I'm still not sure football wasn't my best sport. This may sound corny, and I may sound like a kid, but if you're from Massillon, and then Ohio State, football gets in your blood. In (professional) baseball, if the team loses, but you're two for three, you don't feel as bad because you know you're getting paid on your performance. Football is more of a team sport. Collectively, it takes more to win. There's no way a player can feel good when the team loses, no matter how well he plays."

When the All-Ohio quarterback enrolled at Ohio State, speculation

was that the dust level at Ohio Stadium would decline Saturdays. But the Olentangy sunsets kept their color, and after two years and only 109 forward passes for 629 yards and eight touchdowns, Sparma signed with the Tigers at the end of his junior year.

"I started a lot of (football) games as a sophomore, and split time with Bill Mrukowski. We were tied by TCU in the opener, and then went on to win the rest. We beat Michigan 50-20 at Ann Arbor, and we were ranked first in one of the polls (Football Writer's Association of America).

"But the university (Faculty Council) voted not to go to the Rose Bowl. If playing in the World Series was the high point for me in sports, not going to the Rose Bowl was the low point.

"Woody sent us all a Christmas card with a wilted rose, and told us we would have won the Rose Bowl (Minnesota went in place of the Buckeyes and beat UCLA — a team OSU had beaten during the regular season. Ohio State was second to Alabama in both the AP and UPI polls in 1961.) We all thought we were the best team in the country at the end of the season."

Sparma looks over at the plate on the wall with Hayes' picture on it.

"I don't think there's a coach anywhere who does more for his players after football. It doesn't matter to him whether it's the first player on the roster or the last. This may sound unrealistic, but I think Woody could win a World Series if he managed a decent major league team. I'll tell you one thing... his players wouldn't throw to the wrong base or miss a cut-off man too often."

The man behind the desk looks fit, almost dapper in the business suit. He is asked what he does to stay in shape.

"I play a little racquetball. I get out and work with kids' baseball, with the pitchers mostly. My son is a pitcher-shortstop, and both of my daughters pitched softball (Deborah is a sophomore at Ohio State). I play a little golf."

"What do you shoot, Joe?"

"Do you recognize Bill Freehan in that foursome on the wall?"

The ex-Tiger catcher has a driver in his hand.

"What do you shoot, Joe?"

"Righthanded."

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