

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN

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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

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Fickell, Jones Head Latest Group Of Commitments

Class Of Recruits Overflowing At OSU

By Mark Rea

With more than two weeks left in the 1992 recruiting season, Ohio State's number of verbal commitments continues to grow.

With more than a half-dozen players saying they wanted to become Buckeyes in the past week, OSU's recruiting class grew to 28, three over the limit of players any school can sign in one year.

And it appeared as though the Buckeyes were still trying to get a few more players to verbally commit before national signing day Feb. 5, approaching a class that could top out around 30 members.

The latest players to come on board the Ohio State recruiting juggernaut included two of the most highly recruited in-state players — defensive lineman Luke Fickell of Columbus DeSales and tight end D.J. Jones of Lebanon.

They joined four other Ohio natives — defensive back Dan Colson of Middletown, tight end Max Langenkamp of Cincinnati Moeller, running back Travis McGuire of Massillon and offensive lineman Juan Porter of Cleveland St. Ignatus — in committing to the Buckeyes during the past week.

OSU also collected one more out-of-state commitment, from linebacker Willie Lowery of Moreno (Calif.) Valley View.

Fickell, Jones, Colson, McGuire and Porter were all members of BSB's "Hot Twenty" this year. The Buckeyes have succeeded in getting commitments from 15 of the 20 players on BSB's list, an unprecedented number in the four years the "Hot Twenty" has been in existence.

This year, OSU head coach John Cooper and his staff concentrated their efforts on Ohio players and the efforts have paid off handsomely. Fickell, Jones, Colson, Langenkamp, McGuire and Porter give the Buckeyes 21 verbal commitments from Ohio alone.

And still the Buckeyes are not through with their recruiting efforts. They entertained another handful of prospects during the Jan. 17-18 weekend, including quarterbacks Derek Kidwell of Fostoria, Ohio, and Eric Randle of Baton Rouge (La.) Glen Oaks, offensive lineman Brad Trumpy of Pekin, Ill., and wide receiver Chris Campbell of Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary.

Next weekend, OSU is expected to have a few more prospects on campus, including offensive lineman James Darby of Streamwood, Ill.

Here are thumbnail sketches of the players who verbally committed to the Buckeyes during the past week:

• Fickell (6-5, 240, 4.8) was supposed to have waited to make a public announcement of his decision until after a

Jan. 24-25 visit to Notre Dame, but the recruiting grind started to affect his performance in wrestling and he moved up his announcement.

He met with OSU defensive coordinator Bill Young Jan. 17 to make sure that what Ohio State told him during his Dec. 6-7 visit still held true. When Young assured him it did, Fickell decided to verbally commit to the Buckeyes.

Before that, however, he went out and pounded five opponents in a combined time of less than seven minutes during the two-day Catholic Invitational Wrestling Tournament. A two-time state champion, Fickell was 15-0 this season on the mat through Jan. 19.

"This is a big relief," Fickell told BSB. "It was beginning to wear on me a little bit, so I'm glad to get the announcement behind me. I'm from right here in Columbus and I've followed the Buckeyes as long as I can remember. I just wanted to be a part of it all."

Because he is such an outstanding wrestler, most experts expect Fickell to become a member of the OSU wrestling team as well as the football team. However, he said he would most likely put his wrestling career on hold until at least his sophomore year.

"Right now, it's football first," Fickell said. "Then, maybe down the road, I think about wrestling."

He has qualified academically with a 3.60 grade-point average and 19 on the ACT.

• Jones (6-5, 253, 4.9) was recruited by several schools as a defensive lineman, but he will be a tight end at Ohio State. Although his team struggled to a 2-8 season, Jones still had an excellent season, catching 22 passes for 306 yards and two TDs as a tight end and registering 107 tackles as an inside linebacker.

He visited OSU the same weekend in December that Fickell was there but decided to tour Notre Dame, North Carolina, Vanderbilt and Penn State "because I thought I owed it to myself to see what else was out there," he said.

Upon returning from Penn State Jan. 19, he had decided that his first choice remained his only choice.

"I grew up in Ohio," Jones told BSB, "and I just felt comfortable with the players and coaches there. I liked the atmosphere of the whole place and I just thought it was best for me."

Jones also said he had some added incentive to become a Buckeye.

"I'm just really tired of everyone talking bad about Ohio State," Jones said. "I've grown up in Ohio, and it just kind of makes me sick the way people are talking Ohio State down. Hopefully, I can get there and do something about

OSU Football Commitments

High school football players who have verbally committed to sign national letters of intent Feb. 5 with Ohio State:

Player	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	High School
Jimmy Bell	LB	6-6	225	Youngstown (Ohio) Ursuline
Matt Christopher	LB	6-2	225	Uniontown (Ohio) Lake
Dan Colson	DB	6-0	180	Middletown, Ohio
LeShun Daniels	DL	6-3	260	Warren (Ohio) Harding
Luke Fickell	DL	6-5	240	Columbus DeSales
Eddie George	RB	6-3	220	Fork Union (Va.) Academy
Jayson Gwinn	LB	6-3	225	Columbus Brookhaven
Neil Hawkins	DL	6-5	238	Bucyrus, Ohio
Chris Holbrook	OL	6-4	258	St. Paris (Ohio) Graham
Ty Howard	DB	5-11	180	Columbus (Ohio) Briggs
D.J. Jones	TE	6-5	253	Lebanon, Ohio
R.C. Jones	DL	6-4	243	Youngstown (Ohio) Mooney
Rob Kelly	DB	6-4	210	Newark Catholic
Max Langenkamp	TE	6-4	230	Cincinnati Moeller
Willie Lowery	LB	6-5	230	Moreno (Calif.) Valley View
Travis McGuire	RB	6-0	185	Massillon (Ohio) Washington
Mike Mezgec	DL	6-4	258	Eastlake (Ohio) North
Ryan Miller	LB	6-3	210	Allen Park, Mich.
Eric Moss	TE	6-5	260	Belle (W.Va.) DuPont
Juan Porter	OL	6-5	310	Cleveland St. Ignatus
Steve Sheets	OL	6-5	253	Columbus West
Brian Smith	OL	6-6	260	Nitro, W.Va.
Eric Starks	WR	5-11	175	Columbus Ready
Tommy Stokes	LB	6-3	220	Houston (Texas) Alief Elsik
Korey Stringer	OL	6-5	290	Warren (Ohio) Harding
Lorenzo Styles	LB	6-2	225	Farrell, Pa.
Buster Tillman	WR	6-2	175	Steubenville, Ohio
Louis Willard	RB	6-0	205	Grove City, Ohio

High school players cannot officially commit to a college until Feb. 5. Buckeye Sports Bulletin has made every effort to confirm the verbal commitments above.

that."

Jones has qualified for freshman eligibility under Proposition 48 with a 3.90 grade-point average and 24 on the ACT.

• Colson (6-0, 180, 4.5) is perhaps the finest defensive back prospect in the state this season, and his 84 tackles and five interceptions would back that up. He also ran for 600 yards and 12 TDs as a running back.

He visited OSU in early December, then traveled to Purdue the weekend of Jan. 10-11. He was ready to tour Penn State Jan. 17-18 and Florida Jan. 24-25, but decided to issue his verbal commitment to the Buckeyes instead.

"I've always kind of had in the back of my mind that I wanted to play for Ohio State," Colson told BSB. "That did

not change any when I had my visit there and went around with (former Middletown running back) Jeff (Cothran).

"I've been looking for a school where I'll have a chance to be a starter by my sophomore year. If I work hard, I think I can do that at Ohio State."

Colson carries a 2.90 grade-point average but has yet to achieve the minimum score on either the SAT or ACT. He retook the ACT last month.

• Langenkamp (6-4, 230, 4.8) is an outstanding prospect with excellent blocking skills. He could play a variety of positions but was recruited as a tight end. Langenkamp's brother, Steve, was

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Bill Should Continue To Start

I don't have any problem with Bill Robinson continuing to start for Ohio State at the center position.

In fact, I believe Robinson should continue to start ahead of Lawrence Funderburke.

It's no big secret that Robinson has been struggling much of this year, especially since the Big Ten season began and Funderburke became eligible.

Robinson has a case of what I refer to as KGS — "Kent Graham Syndrome." That is a malady that affects your play when you're a starter but constantly have to worry about whether the next mistake you make will land you on the bench. It affects your head and, therefore, affects your play. Pretty soon, you're afraid to do much of anything because you're afraid you'll make a mistake.

To be sure, Robinson has made his share of mistakes. Through the first three Big Ten games this season, against the likes of Michigan State, Northwestern and Indiana, Big Bill struggled.

He shot a ridiculously low 16.7 percent from the floor, attempting only six shots and making just one of them. Through the same three games, he had failed to make it to the free-throw line even one time and his number of personal fouls (11) nearly tripled his rebounds (4).

The performances against Northwestern and Indiana were particularly poor. Against the Wildcats, Robinson's line in the box scores had zeros in all categories except personal fouls. Versus the Hoosiers, he committed three fouls in the opening three minutes and sat the remainder of the first half. He got his fourth in the opening two minutes of the second half and never got back off the bench again.

Against Iowa, though, he appeared to be coming out. Starting alongside Funderburke, Robinson played a solid first half, scoring the Buckeyes' first four points in an 85-81 victory. In the first five and a half minutes, he drew a couple of fouls on Iowa, dunked over Hawkeyes center and ace shot-blocker Acie Earl, dove on the floor for a loose ball and even made a steal underneath the Iowa basket.

Some Buckeye fans have screamed for Robinson's head. Just last year, he was greeted with thunderous applause when he came off the bench to provide some relief underneath for Perry Carter.

This year, the big cheers are reserved for Funderburke and freshman Rickey Dudley. You can hear the buzzing — "When is Randy Ayers going to start Funderburke and sit Robinson down?"

Well, I believe that the Buckeyes must have quality minutes from Robinson the rest of the season if they are to be successful.

This is no knock against Funderburke. He obviously has a great degree of athletic talent. He can score a lot, rebound some and block shots a great deal. Three inches shorter than Robinson and 100 miles an hour more mobile, Funderburke has been and will continue to be a formidable player in the paint for the Buckeyes.

But Robinson can be, too. He will never have the mobility of Funderburke, but there are things that Big Bill

Editor's Notebook with Mark Rea

can do that would make the Buckeyes a stronger team.

In the half-court game, where Ohio State has not played particularly well since the win over Penn State Jan. 2, Robinson excels. His lack of mobility hurts him somewhat in the transition game the Buckeyes love so much, but the half-court offense is tailor-made for Robinson. In that Penn State game, when he could work around near the basket and didn't have to rely so much on running the floor, Robinson responded with six points, four rebounds and one blocked shot.

As for Robinson's penchant for picking up personal fouls, some of those calls are simply not his fault. There have been many times in the past three years that Robinson has been standing near the basket, feet planted and arms outstretched, when an opposing player piles into him and Robinson is charged with the blocking foul.

That happened a couple of times against Earl in the Iowa game. There was Bill, feet planted, and Earl moving into him toward the basket. The whistle blows and the foul's on Robinson.

Other times, especially in the Indiana game, Robinson's teammates do not do a good job of protecting him. The defensive effort by the guards against the Hoosiers was not very good at the outset of the game. Consequently, you had players such as Damon Bailey, Greg Graham and Chris Reynolds driving the lane against Robinson. Those

are mismatches and situations in which Robinson should not be placed.

Big Bill's detractors will probably say that Funderburke can switch off to a quicker man and still not pick up a foul. Maybe so. But Funderburke, despite the fact that he has bulked up to between 220 and 230 pounds, still cannot withstand the pounding that comes during a full Big Ten basketball season.

Funderburke needs Robinson. Witness Funderburke's 12-point, 13-rebound performance against Iowa in which Robinson allowed him to free lance a little more inside. The Buckeyes need Robinson in that regard, too.

He has already proved he can play and play well against some of the best. Remember last year's Georgetown game? Robinson came off the bench and played an excellent defensive game against Dikembe Mutombo of the Hoyas. Mutombo scored 15 points in that game and had eight rebounds in 36 minutes of play. In just 19 minutes, Robinson had limited Mutombo to four-of-10 shooting from the field and grabbed six rebounds himself.

Mutombo is currently among the top three rebounders in the NBA as a rookie for the Denver Nuggets. So the proof is there. Robinson has the ability to play and play well.

All he needs to do now is settle down, relax during games and not worry about whether he will start or how many minutes he will play. He can instead work on his offense a little bit, take a few more shots and work the boards better.

If Robinson can shake off the problems — and most assuredly the self doubts — that plagued him early in the Big Ten but seemed to disappear somewhat against Iowa, he can still remain a viable part of Ohio State's charge to a possible second straight conference title.

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ESPN Analyst Stands By Call On Funderburke Foul

Buck Fans Upset Over Vitale's Comments

By Mark Rea

Whether you love him or hate him, ESPN and ABC color analyst Dick Vitale always has something to say.

Sometimes he can be entertaining. However, late in the Ohio State-Indiana game nationally broadcast by Vitale, Buckeye fans gasped when the normally animated sportscaster went off the scale on an intentional foul called on OSU sophomore Lawrence Funderburke.

The Buckeyes had made up all of a 19-point deficit and eventually went ahead of the Hoosiers by five points with more than eight and a half minutes left in the game.

But by the time the clock had wound under the three-minute mark, Indiana had regained the lead and held a 78-73 advantage.

After OSU junior Jim Jackson had tossed in a short jumper, the two teams retreated to the other part of the floor. As Indiana sophomore guard Damon Bailey jockeyed with Funderburke for position, Funderburke put his arm up to prevent Bailey from going untouched into the lane.

At 6-3, Bailey gives up six inches to Funderburke. When the Buckeye forward's arm went up, it appeared to catch Bailey in the throat. Bailey went down and Funderburke was called for an intentional foul.

Under today's rules, an intentional foul is punishable by giving the opponent two shots at the foul line and possession of the ball. Bailey made both free throws and on the ensuing possession, threw in a three-pointer, giving the Hoosiers an insurmountable 10-point lead.

But it was Vitale's comments, as well as those from broadcast partner Mike Patrick, that incensed Buckeye fans and head coach Randy Ayers alike.

Vitale called Funderburke's play "stupid," "weak," and "bush league," adding "there is no place for that in college basketball." He also said Funderburke should be ejected from the game.

Patrick's two cents included saying Funderburke was "not adverse to throwing an elbow" and that he had seen the OSU sophomore throw a few against Michigan State center Mike Peplowski in another game ESPN broadcast Jan. 7.

One day after the game, and obviously after viewing a tape of the ESPN broadcast, Ayers was unhappy about the comments from Vitale and Patrick.

"Here the kid is playing in his third game for us, and things are being said about him early in the first half," Ayers said. "The more I think about it — what

was said and especially the tone that was used — the more unbelievable it sounds."

Funderburke told reporters that Bailey took the foul with no malice intended. In fact, the two talked briefly later during the game and again after it. A large photo from *The Associated Press* of the two patting one another on the back ran in several Midwestern newspapers.

"He ran into me and did a good job of faking," Funderburke said. "If you would talk to him, he would say the same thing."

"I wouldn't try to hurt anybody. I'm not a cheap-shot artist and anybody who knows me and sees me play knows that."

Bailey reportedly told members of the Indiana press following the game that he and Funderburke simply collided and he did not know why the foul was ruled intentional.

However, 24 hours after making the television call, Vitale did not back down from his original comments. Interviewed from his home by WBNS-TV in Columbus, Vitale contended Funderburke's foul was intentional and the only ones who did not agree were connected with Ohio State.

"There's no question that it was a cheap shot," Vitale told sports reporter Barry Katz. "The arm was placed in the young man's throat. Run the tape on your TV screen."

When asked about Bailey's comments that he believed the foul was unintentional, Vitale replied, "What is he going to say after the game? ... Why did Lawrence Funderburke apologize to Damon? Why would you apologize if you did nothing wrong? Are the referees wrong?"

Vitale went on to say that Buckeye fans were prejudiced in their criticism of his call on the play.

"When are we going to face reality and not see it from an emotional standpoint that their team lost the basketball game?" he said. "They made a great comeback; they were super. I praised Jimmy Jackson and Randy Ayers so much that I was berated by Bloomington fans at the Indianapolis airport saying, 'You're in love with Randy Ayers, you're in love with Jimmy Jackson.'"

Later, when Katz suggested that some believe Vitale's "love affair" was with Indiana head coach Bob Knight, Vitale answered, "You're trying to get me in something. I'm nice enough to come on with you. Now, let's face reality. You saw the play. I ask you, should that be condoned in basketball?"

"Number two, Randy Ayers is quoted all over the Chicago paper talking with the Big Ten coaches how these types of actions have to stop on the floor. Talking trash to another (player). It's becoming absurd on the floor."

Katz also told Vitale of Ayers' distaste for his comments.

"We went over the line?" Vitale asked incredulously. "Lawrence Funderburke put a forearm in the young man's throat. Did you see that? Then what did we do wrong? You tell us what we did wrong."

"I can't understand the logic. Everybody else who has talked to us, who aren't Buckeye fans, see nothing wrong



ESPN basketball analyst Dick Vitale, shown here with broadcast partner Mike Patrick during a game at Ohio State, unleashed a storm of criticism from Ohio State fans following comments during the broadcast of the OSU-Indiana game Jan. 14.

(with what we said). A lot of people were surprised he wasn't ejected from the game.

"I say it wasn't flagrant. It was an intentional foul, but it was not a flagrant foul. I support him on that fact. I definitely feel he did not flagrantly throw him to the deck. But he definitely placed his forearm in the young man's throat and that's not to be condoned in college basketball or any basketball."

The next day, Ayers and Vitale talked to one another by phone.

"I think we both expressed our opinion about it and we had a little difference on whether the foul was intentional or not," Ayers told WBNS-TV. "But Dick explained to me where he was coming from and I can appreciate that. I feel a lot better that he and I had the opportunity to talk ... To me, it's a dead issue."

Vitale and Patrick are not scheduled to make another trip to St. John Arena until March 3, when ESPN broadcasts the Buckeyes' game against Michigan.

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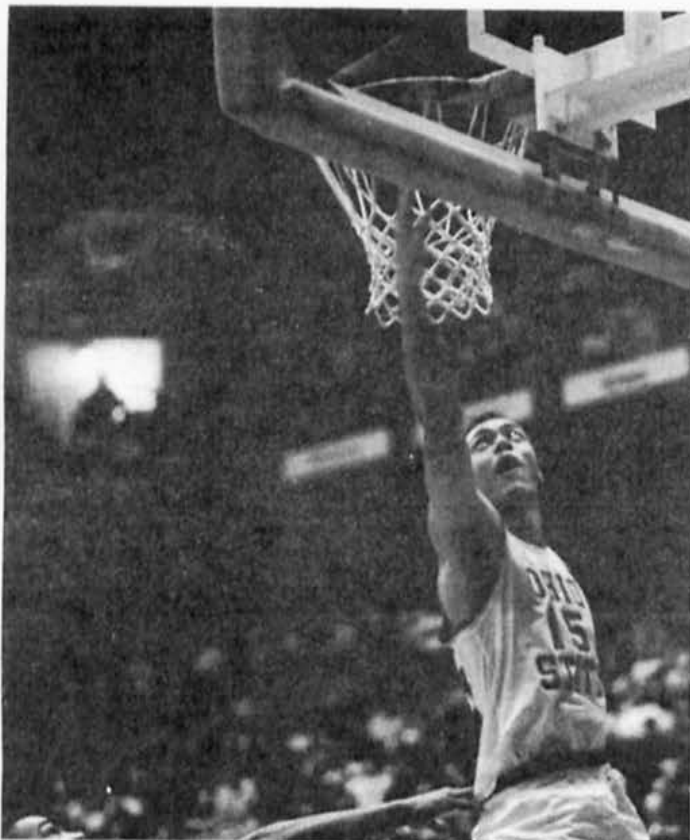
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*Sophomore Gives Bucks Outside Threat Off Bench***Skelton Not Afraid To Keep Firing Away**

KEVIN DYE



Ohio State sophomore guard Jamie Skelton (15) glides under the basket for a layup against Iowa in Big Ten action Jan. 19. Skelton came off the bench to score six points in just eight minutes, helping the Buckeyes to an 85-81 victory.

By Mike Wachsman

If at first you don't succeed, shoot, shoot again.

In the case of Ohio State sophomore guard Jamie Skelton, that adage couldn't be more appropriate.

Skelton came to the Buckeyes from Dayton Meadowdale High School after averaging 28.1 points per game as a senior and 23.1 points for his prep career.

He scored because he shot a lot, and the 6-2 guard is trying to duplicate those feats with the Buckeyes.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," Skelton said. "I know that if I miss one shot, if I keep on shooting, the ball will go in."

"Last year, I went into games trying to force shots. That's the way I was in high school. I didn't really have anyone on the team that went on to college-level ball, so I had to take up a lot of the slack. When I got to college I didn't have to do that, but I still forced some things."

Nevertheless, Skelton had a nice freshman campaign, averaging three points per game with a season best of 11 against Bethune-Cookman.

"I came into last year confident and hoping to play," he said, "and I wound up playing in every game. Some games I played well, some games I didn't. I think I helped the team out last year and made a contribution."

Seeking improvement, Skelton honed his skills in the Worthington Summer League, and it has paid off.

He had raised his scoring average to 6.6 points per game and was hitting 46.5 percent from the floor through Jan. 19. In the Big Ten, he was averaging 6.7 points and 53.8 percent from the floor.

Skelton's big contribution to the Buckeyes is his outside shooting. Through Jan. 19, he had nailed 37.0 percent (10 of 23) of his shots from beyond the three-point arc for all games and 50.0 percent (five of 10) against Big Ten competition.

Skelton is not the usual three-point bomber. Most need to have their feet set before firing. Skelton simply needs to feel the ball before putting it up.

"In the summer league, I worked a lot on ball handling and shooting," he said. "I shot a lot. By shooting a lot, you get a certain confidence. When I go out on the court for our games, I know I don't have to shoot every time. But when I do shoot, I'll be more confident."

OSU head coach Randy Ayers believes playing in the summer league has helped Skelton's game flourish.

"He's done a good job of recognizing his shots in our offense," the OSU coach said. "He was a young player last year and it's tough sometimes for young players to know where they fit in. He's a lot stronger from a physical standpoint this year."

"Jamie came out of high school with the reputation for being a scorer. When you come to this level, you have to know what a good shot is."

Skelton has had his strongest games in marquee match-ups. He tied his career high with 11 points in OSU's 91-83 loss to Indiana Jan. 14 in Bloomington and tallied eight crucial points in OSU's double-overtime classic win over the Hoosiers last year. He also hit for nine points in the NCAA Tournament loss to St. John's last year.

Skelton sees games such as those as opportunities to shine and perhaps raises his game a notch or two.

"I like a challenge," he admitted. "Nothing should be easy. Games like that are a test. It shows I'm willing to work hard and have a winning attitude."

Ayers likes the fact Skelton steps up in those make-or-break contests.

"He's got a lot of confidence in his ability," Ayers said. "He's not afraid to put himself out there on the line. You like that from a player. One day he's going to have to carry the load for us at the guard position."

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if the Buckeyes are going to recapture the league title they shared last season is first-half shooting. OSU has been plagued by slow starts in Big Ten play, shooting under 40 percent in the first half in three of its first four contests.

"I don't know why that is," Skelton said. "Sometimes the atmosphere going on the road can disturb you. We just have to go out and think of the court as a court and just play our game."

Skelton was not playing in games when the Buckeyes took a two-game swing to California Dec. 18-21. He traveled with the team but was benched for the Cal-Santa Barbara and Southern Cal contests by Ayers for academic reasons.

Skelton retained his eligibility, but Ayers said, "I thought he could do better than he did in the classroom."

The two-game benching hurt, but it also served as motivation to Skelton to hit the books as hard as he hits the court.

"Coach Ayers stresses academics and I looked at my situation not so much as a test, but to show that he is serious," Skelton said. "It just happened to be me, so I took it in stride."

"I'm hoping the rest of the year is uphill. Even when I was in California, I was ready to play. I never was not wanting to play. I wish I would have been in the last few seconds of the USC game (one of only two losses for the Buckeyes this season). But it didn't happen."

The Buckeyes were rolling along with an 11-2 mark following a win over Iowa Jan. 19, only slightly below last

year's 13-0 in a comparable number of games.

Skelton is not certain if last year's Buckeyes were a better unit than this year's, but he has noticed a difference.

"You never can tell how the season is going to go," Skelton said. "Last year, we had a pretty good team. We could go inside and score, but our outside shooting wasn't up to par. This year, it's vice versa. Our shooting is up, but our inside game is down. Hopefully we can get that turned around."

"And I think we will. We have Lawrence (Funderburke) in there now, and along with Bill (Robinson) and Chris (Jent) and our other inside players, we should only get better."

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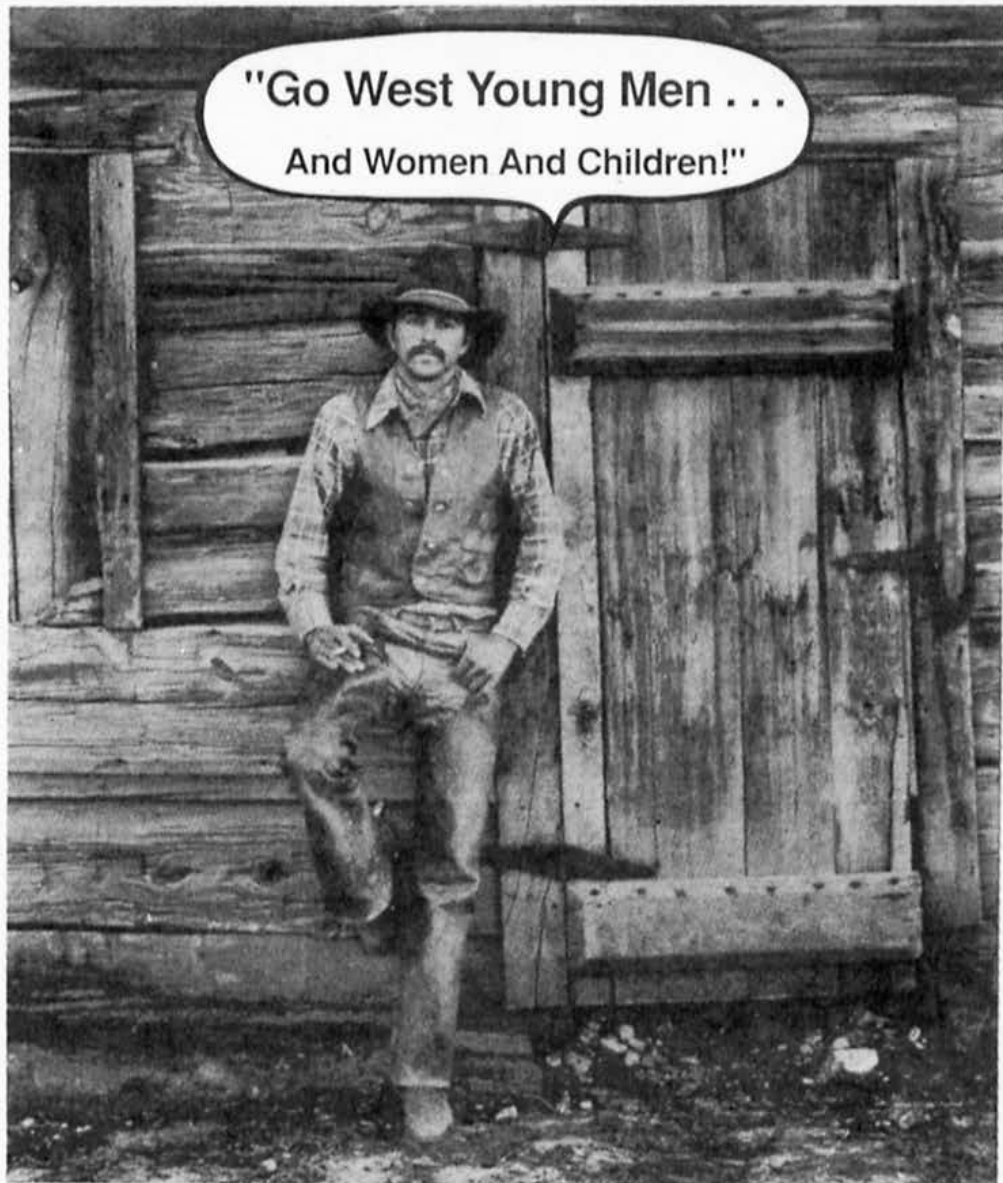
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'91-'92 Schedule

Nov. 26 Miami (Ohio), W 94-61
Nov. 30 Chicago State, W 116-44
Dec. 4 Ohio University, W 78-62
Dec. 7 Oregon State, W 84-56
Dec. 14 Howard, W 114-53
Dec. 18 UC-Santa Barbara, W 82-75
Dec. 21 Southern Cal, L 79-77
Dec. 29 American Univ., 96-70
Jan. 2 Penn State, W 73-63
Jan. 7 Michigan State, W 62-46
Jan. 11 Northwestern, W 60-52
Jan. 14 Indiana, L 91-83
Jan. 19 Iowa, W 85-81
Jan. 22 MINNESOTA
@ 8 p.m.
Jan. 26 vs. Seton Hall
at The Meadowslands
12 noon/CBS
Jan. 30 at Illinois
@ 8 p.m.
Feb. 2 at Michigan
1 p.m./CBS
Feb. 5 WISCONSIN
@ 8 p.m.
Feb. 8 PURDUE @ 8 p.m.
Feb. 15 at Wisconsin
@ 8 p.m.
Feb. 18 at Iowa
7:30 p.m./ESPN
Feb. 23 INDIANA
2 p.m./CBS
Feb. 26 at Purdue @ 8 p.m.
Feb. 29 at Michigan State
@ 1 p.m.
Mar. 3 MICHIGAN
7:30 p.m./ESPN
Mar. 7 NORTHWESTERN
@ 3 p.m.
Mar. 11 ILLINOIS @ 8 p.m.
Mar. 14 at Minnesota TBA

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Verbals Continue To Roll In For Buckeyes

Continued From Page 1

recruited by OSU last year until he decided to sign with Kentucky.

OSU assistant coach Joe Hollis made an in-home visit to Langenkamp Jan. 13 and a representative from Colorado was expected to visit him Jan. 14. Langenkamp told *BSB* Michigan was supposed to visit him Jan. 15, but he told the Wolverines to hold off on the home visit. The next day, he committed to the Buckeyes.

"I just felt real comfortable with Coach Cooper," Langenkamp told *BSB*. "I had a really good time on my visit and I found out a lot of things about the school last year when my brother was recruited up there."

"I also think there are a lot more op-

portunities at Ohio State than anywhere else. You not only have the opportunity to play football, but you have a chance to get a great education. After graduation, there are also a lot of job opportunities there, so I just thought it was the best place for me."

He carries a 3.00 grade-point average and scored 890 on the SAT, qualifying him academically for next season.

• McGuire (6-0, 185, 4.5) burst into the spotlight this year vacated when Louis Willard of Grove City injured his knee. As a result, McGuire became regarded as the top running back prospect in the state with 1,414 yards as a senior, breaking the school record for most yards in a regular season.

After December visits to OSU and Miami (Fla.), McGuire went ahead with

tours of Indiana and Michigan. But shortly after returning from Ann Arbor, he issued his commitment to Ohio State. It all came down to playing at home.

"I really just didn't want to leave the state," McGuire told *BSB*. "I have made a name for myself here and hopefully that will carry me through until I can make a name for myself at Ohio State. I think if I work hard and I'm given the opportunity, that can happen."

"I also started looking at all of the other great Ohio athletes who signed up with Ohio State, and I decided that I wanted to play with them."

McGuire has qualified academically with a 3.00 grade-point average and 18 on the ACT.

• Porter (6-5, 310, 5.3) was somewhat of a surprise when he committed to the Buckeyes, but a pleasant one nonetheless. Thought to be leaning toward Michigan, he got a list of the OSU verbal commitments and decided to stay in his native state.

"I weighed my choices and Ohio State has more to offer me than any other school," he told *BSB*. "I think they have more to offer athletically and academically, and I thought maybe I would get to play there a little sooner than I possibly would have at Michigan."

"Plus, I know some of these guys who are coming in and I've read a lot about some of the others and I'm anxious to have them as my teammates. It feels

good to be part of a class like this."

A former high school teammate of OSU quarterback Joe Pickens, Porter helped St. Ignatius to another Division I state title this year and is considered one of the top run-blocking prospects in the Midwest. He took December visits to Ohio State and Tennessee, then toured Michigan before making his decision.

He has qualified under Prop 48 requirements with a 2.20 GPA and a 21 on the ACT.

• Lowery (6-5, 230, 4.7) was another pleasant surprise for the Buckeyes. He verbally committed to OSU during his visit Jan. 10-11, then announced that decision upon his arrival home.

The Buckeyes won out over several other outstanding schools, including Washington, Washington State, UCLA, Colorado and Nebraska.

"I just liked what I saw," Lowery told *BSB*. "What they were telling me made a lot of sense. They talked about taking the football program to the next level, but they also talked to me about the importance of academics. Some schools don't talk about academics that much, but the way it was presented at Ohio State impressed me."

Lowery averaged more than 10 tackles per game last season and collected 21 sacks from his linebacking position. He carries a 2.30 grade-point average and scored 18 on his ACT.

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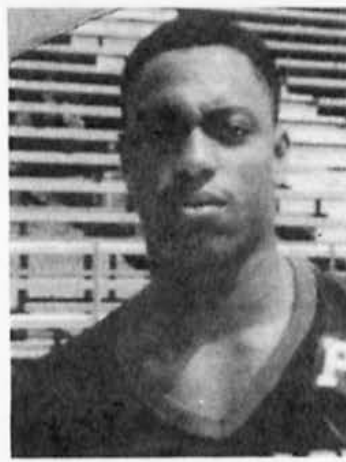
Luke Fickell



D.J. Jones



Dan Colson



Travis McGuire

Buckeyes Continue To Sweep State Clean

By Mark Rea

When Ohio State head coach John Cooper said that he wanted to keep the best Ohio players at home this year, he threw down the challenge to members of his coaching staff.

They have responded with a crusade through the state the likes of which has not been seen in many years.

As the Buckeyes' number of verbal

commitments rose to 28, a full three-quarters of the 1992 recruiting class hailed from inside Ohio's borders.

Seven more verbal commitments came to Ohio State during the past week and six of them were from native sons.

Defensive lineman Luke Fickell of Columbus DeSales and tight end D.J. Jones of Lebanon were the latest to join

the OSU recruiting class, following on the heels of defensive back Dan Colson of Middletown, running back Travis McGuire of Massillon, tight end Max Langenkamp of Cincinnati Moeller and offensive lineman Juan Porter of Cleveland St. Ignatius.

Those Ohioans join a host of in-state players who committed to the Buckeyes during the first week of January — offensive lineman Corey Stringer of Warren Harding, defensive linemen R.C. Jones of Youngstown Cardinal Mooney and LeShun Daniels of Warren Harding, defensive back Ty Howard of Columbus Briggs and linebacker Jimmy Bell of Youngstown Ursuline.

And they all joined linemen Chris Holbrook of St. Paris Graham, Mike Mezgec of Eastlake North, Steve Sheets of Columbus West and Neil Hawkins of Bucyrus, wide receivers Buster Tillman of Steubenville and Eric Starks of Columbus Ready, linebackers Jayson Gwinn of Columbus Brookhaven and Matt Christopher of Uniontown Lake, defensive back Rob Kelly of Newark Catholic and running back Louis Wil-

lard, who had committed previously.

All in all, it stacks up to be one of the biggest house cleanings of the state in recruiting history. Still, OSU may give a look at one or two other recruits. Here are some of the top in-state players reportedly still being recruited by the Buckeyes:

- Offensive lineman Eric Wendt (6-5, 275, 5.1) of Cincinnati Moeller. An excellent line prospect out of Moeller, Wendt is on record as saying his favorites are Michigan and Notre Dame, but he visited Ohio State the weekend of Jan. 10-11 and came away impressed. Penn State is also in the running for his services, but Wendt has conceded that his decision will probably come down to either Michigan or Notre Dame. Rumors have the Fighting Irish holding a slight lead at this time.

- Running back/defensive back Terry Killens (6-1, 205, 4.5) of Cincinnati Purcell. A workhorse of a running back who averaged over 25 carries per game, Killens is a tough runner who had a 1,000-yard season. He played some linebacker this season and was the team's second-leading tackler. Killens also grabbed five interceptions. Should he become a member of the Buckeyes, it would almost assuredly be as a defensive back, since McGuire was rumored as getting the "last" scholarship OSU would offer to a running back this season. In addition to Ohio State, Killens has already visited Purdue, Colorado and Michigan and winds up his visits with a trip to Georgia Tech.

- Wide receiver/defensive back Chris Campbell (6-2, 183, 4.5) of Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary. He caught 35 passes for 819 yards this season on offense and made 58 tackles and snagged three interceptions on defense. Campbell toured the OSU campus Jan. 19-20 and has already visited Penn State, Indiana and Michigan. He is slated to visit Michigan State Jan. 24-25. Rumors have him leaning heavily toward Penn State.

There are also several Ohio players whom Ohio State is reportedly no

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longer pursuing. Here is a partial list:

• Running back Tracy McDaniel (6-1, 185, 4.5) of Fairborn, Ohio, is an excellent prospect after rushing for 1,200 yards and 18 TDs as well as averaging 31 yards per kickoff return and taking three back for scores. The only knock against him is a question over whether he will qualify under Proposition 48. McDaniel was scheduled to visit OSU the weekend of Jan. 17-18, but that visit was canceled. McDaniel will now reportedly choose between Michigan and Indiana. He has already visited Ann Arbor and tours Bloomington Jan. 24-25.

• Tight end Brian Wolf (6-5, 227, 4.7) of Minster will likely accept a scholarship offer from Bowling Green. Wolf liked his visit to Ohio State in December, but after Langenkamp and Jones committed as tight ends, he was offered a full ride by the Falcons and decided to accept. Wolf was a running back in high school, rushing for over 1,100 yards, and also played at inside linebacker, registering 45 tackles. Extremely strong, he should have no trouble making the transition to tight end. He chose BGSU over Indiana because of his desire to attend college near his home.

• Offensive lineman Matt Jones (6-7, 335, 5.4) of Bucyrus is still taking visits and will not make a decision until sometime around national signing day on Feb. 5. A teammate of Neil Hawkins, who verbally committed to the Buckeyes last month, Jones is a huge tackle who is capable of filling gaps in any offensive line. He visited OSU and Michigan State in December and is scheduled to visit Indiana, Michigan and Colorado.

Recruiting Notes

It appears that quarterback Derek Kidwell of Fostoria will become the first "Mr. Football" in the state not to become a Buckeye.

Kidwell visited Ohio State Jan. 19-20 and decided against the Buckeyes' offer for him to walk on.

"The way they are right now with the number of scholarships, they're still checking everyone to see who qualifies," Kidwell told *BSB*. "I know they needed a quarterback, but they wouldn't budge on a scholarship. They wanted me to walk on, but I can do better than that."

Kidwell said he would most likely end up at Bowling Green, where he visits Jan. 24-25. "Their quarterback has only one more year left, plus I really don't want to go out of the state," he said. "I really wanted to go to Ohio State, but I guess it just wasn't meant to be."

The 6-4, 227-pounder led Fostoria to the Division II state championship in 1991, completing 90 of 156 passes for 1,560 yards and 16 TDs.

The Buckeyes had successfully recruited all the previous "Mr. Football" winners — Buster Howe of Zanesville (1987), Robert Smith of Euclid (1988 and 1989) and Bob Hoying of St. Henry (1990).

FOUR OTHER Ohio-born prep stars will also reportedly end up somewhere other than Ohio State. Those include wide receiver Ronnie Burr of Canton McKinley, running back Chris Jaquillard of Toledo Woodward, defensive back Tony Everhart of Middletown and offensive lineman Norman Ayers of Bellaire.

The 6-3, 175-pound Burr is currently being courted by Minnesota and Duke

after catching 36 passes for 432 yards this season. Jaquillard, a hard-nosed 6-0, 212-pounder, is mainly looking at Bowling Green and Toledo.

Everhart is a 6-0, 180-pound speedster who teamed with Colson in the Middies' defensive backfield. He intercepted seven passes this season from a cornerback spot and also averaged better than 17 yards per carry at wing-

back. Indiana, Illinois and Bowling Green are now on his list. Ayers, at 6-3 and 285 pounds, will now reportedly look at Indiana, Miami (Ohio) and Bowling Green.

The Buckeyes reportedly cooled on Burr after what they considered a sub-par senior season. Jaquillard, Everhart and Ayers have not yet qualified under Proposition 48 guidelines.

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Linebacker Chooses OSU Over Several Other Top Programs

Test Performance Makes Styles Proudest

By Mark Rea

Lorenzo Styles has just about done it all at Farrell (Pa.) High School.

A multisport star for Farrell, Styles made nearly 250 tackles in his last two seasons and rushed for more than 1,000 yards in 1991 as a fullback. On the basketball court, he averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds per game.

But Styles' biggest accomplishment at Farrell, and the one of which he is most proud, did not come on the playing field. It came in the classroom.

"Of all the things he's accomplished here, I don't think I have ever seen him more proud than the day he received his test score," said Farrell athletic director Chuck Branca.

"I remember he was at basketball practice, and I came in and he ran up to me with that score. He acted just like a kid at Christmas."

Styles had scored 720 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and was thereby eligible to play college football as a freshman. Several weeks later, he decided that he would wear an Ohio State uniform.

"I was very happy to get the SAT behind me," Styles said. "That took a lot of the pressure off me. Then I could decide

which school was best for me rather than wondering whether or not I was going to be able to get in."

Styles was one of approximately 18 players who visited the OSU campus during the weekend of Jan. 10-11. Half of those players issued verbal commitments to the Buckeyes.

"To tell you the truth, I was kind of surprised when he came back from Ohio State and told me he had committed," said Farrell head coach Lou Falconi. "I knew that he had some interest in Miami (Fla.) and Nebraska and that he was scheduled to visit both of those places."

"But I also knew that he was interested in Ohio State from the very beginning. So I guess you could say I was surprised at the timing of the announcement, but not really at the announcement itself."

Styles said that he simply wanted to visit the OSU campus for himself.

"It was great," he said. "They talked about football a little bit and the great tradition. Then we also got to see the facilities and we talked to the academic advisers."

"I liked the fact that they didn't only talk about athletics. I was looking for a



Lorenzo Styles

program where I felt I fit in, but I was also looking to get the best education possible. I think that Ohio State gave me the best of all of those things."

Styles had always had an affection for the Buckeyes. He spent some time growing up in central Ohio and attended his first two years of high school in Columbus.

His freshman year was spent at Walnut Ridge and he was a sophomore at Independence High School one year after Roger Harper left there to become a defensive back at Ohio State.

Falconi said that he has never coached a better player than Styles in his 12 seasons at Farrell.

"I refer to him sometimes as a player-coach," Falconi said. "He's very strong, quick and had great natural athletic abilities, and he uses those abilities in an intelligent way."

"I call him the best player I've ever coached because he can play any position on the field and still be the best player on the field at any given time."

Last season, Styles played inside linebacker and registered 105 tackles,

10 for loss, and broke up four passes. He also caught 13 passes for 212 yards at tight end. Six of his 13 receptions went for touchdowns.

This season, while still manning his linebacker position and upping his tackles total to 140 with 12 sacks included, Styles switched to tailback and bulled his way for more than 1,700 yards and 23 touchdowns.

In 1990, Styles helped Farrell to a 14-1 record and a Class A (small school) state runner-up finish. This past season, despite losing 21 seniors to graduation, Farrell returned to the state playoffs and Styles was responsible for the return in no small measure.

"We played for the state championship last year and Lorenzo was certainly a big factor in that," Falconi said. "This year, we had only three starters back, but Lorenzo was the catalyst that put us back on track."

"He was one of our co-captains and a real team leader. He continued to play well defensively and we really appreciated what he did when we switched him to tailback."

The 6-2, 225-pounder said that he enjoyed running the ball as a senior but would be happy to concentrate on defense in college.

"I'd like to be an outside linebacker in college because I think I fit that position pretty well," Styles said. "I play the run a little better than I play the pass. I think I do a pretty decent job of stepping up in the holes and cutting off the run."

"I know I may need to put on a little bit more bulk and maybe get taller, but I think I can fit in some place on defense."

Styles runs the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds and Falconi said he has been timed as fast as 4.58.

Most of the college scouts were recruiting him as a linebacker. He earned pre- and postseason prep All-American honors from national recruiting expert Tom Lemming and was named to *The Associated Press*' Class AA-A all-state team in Pennsylvania.

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THE STYLES FILE

NAME — Lorenzo Styles
HIGH SCHOOL — Farrell, Pa.
POSITION — Linebacker
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BENCH PRESS — 350 pounds
40-YARD DASH TIME — 4.6 seconds
GRADE-POINT AVERAGE — 2.30

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS — Scored 720 on the SAT

VITAL STATISTICS — Earned all-state recognition after helping Farrell make a return trip to the state playoffs in 1991 despite losing all but three starters from the 1990 squad. Registered 140 tackles and 12 sacks this season as a linebacker and also accounted for more than 1,700 yards and 23 TDs after switching from tight end to tailback. Has been timed in the 40 as fast as 4.58 seconds. Former resident of central Ohio area, played freshman football at Columbus Walnut Ridge and as a sophomore at Columbus Independence.

COACH'S COMMENT — "I think Lorenzo is a tremendous player. In my 12 seasons here, I don't think we've ever had a better one. We refer to him as a player-coach. I call him the best player I have ever coached because he can play any position on the field and still be the best player on the field at any given time. I think Ohio State has recruited a top-quality player." — Farrell High School head coach Lou Falconi.

HOBBIES — Basketball, being with friends

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN — Selected Ohio State over Nebraska, Miami (Fla.) and Pittsburgh

George Got Serious About Academics At Prep School

Recruit Has Mother To Thank For Grant

By John Redd

Some people thank their coach for getting them a scholarship at a major college sports program. Others thank their academic adviser.

Running back Eddie George has his mother to thank for his scholarship to Ohio State.

George, a running back out of Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy, has verbally committed to attend Ohio State. A native of Philadelphia, George was sent to Fork Union by his mother, who thought he would never receive a scholarship unless he got serious about his academics as well as athletics.

"My mom saw that I had potential, so before my junior year, she sent me down here," George said. "Now I'm happy about it. At the time, I wasn't."

George graduated in 1991 but is spending an extra year at the academy to prepare himself for college, he said. The prep school is the same one that also produced Ohio State freshman basketball player Rickey Dudley.

Dudley went to Fork Union after graduating from high school in Henderson, Texas, but he went there to avoid sitting out a year due to Proposition 48. George, however, has already satisfied Prop 48 requirements and is currently carrying a 3.13 grade-point average.

Regardless of how he got to Ohio State, though, George is a 6-3, 220-pound promising prospect for the Buckeyes.

In the past two seasons, George has used his 4.5 speed to chalk up 2,572 yards and 37 touchdowns for Fork Union.

Fork Union coach Micky Sullivan said he will miss his star halfback next season.

"I'd like to have him back for another year," Sullivan said. "He was the best back we had. He was captain of the team and played a great leadership role."

Sullivan said George was a do-everything type of running back.

"Eddie was the big-play guy when he got the football," the head coach said. "He did everything we asked him to do."

George could run the ball inside and outside equally well, Sullivan said.

Ohio State's extension of head coach John Cooper's contract was a major factor in his committing to Ohio State, George said.

"If (Cooper) would have left, I wouldn't have gone to Ohio State," he said. "When he first got his extension, the Buckeyes were number one. At first I was looking at Penn State or Virginia, but after the extension, I chose Ohio State."

George said he was impressed with everything about OSU.

"I feel it's the best place for me to go," he said. "I see a lot of opportunities there for me both athletically and academically."

George, who plans to become an architect, is really impressed with the academic program at Ohio State.

"The academics speak for themselves. OSU is ranked nationally," he said.

George's mother is proud of his decision to attend Ohio State, he added.

"My mother feels wonderful about it. She was more excited than I was."

Sullivan is also excited about George's decision.

"It was great for him. He and his mother visited Ohio State and were happy," Sullivan said, "so that's where he should go. And if the boy is happy, I'm happy. He's going to play at a great football institution and get a great education."

George has already set some goals for his OSU career.

"I want to get a 3.00 (GPA) and go on the field and do the best I can do. I just want to contribute to the team," he said. "I also want to go to the Rose Bowl and possibly win a national championship."

Sullivan said George's success will depend on how quickly he is able to adapt to the college game.

"I think he can play. The biggest challenge is the mental aspect of the game," Sullivan said. "He can always get faster, and I think he will. He works hard, and he'll improve."

George said the only adjustment he needs to make will be to the football team, adding he has strong study habits and has gotten used to living away from home while at Fork Union.

Although George realizes the adjustment to college football could be made easier by redshirting, he's not interested.

"It would probably be better to get redshirted because I could get used to things, but I'd rather not. I would like a chance to play," George said.

With only Butler Bynoté, Raymont Harris and Jeff Cothran returning with any appreciable experience at running back, George may get his chance at playing time right away.

If he does get the chance to play next year, don't expect miracles, though.

"I really don't know (what to expect). I just want to do my best and show the coaches what I can do," George said. "I'm looking to get better. Every year, I want to get better."

George said his greatest asset is his running ability.

"(The thing I do best) is running the ball, running fast, powering through holes, giving a cut here or there," George said. "I need to improve my blocking, but I'm going to work on everything."

Asked how he plans to be remembered at Ohio State after his playing days are over, George said, "As a great student-athlete, with an emphasis on student."

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THE GEORGE FILE

NAME — Eddie George

HIGH SCHOOL — Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy

POSITION — Running back

HEIGHT, WEIGHT — 6-3, 220 pounds

BENCH PRESS — 335 pounds

40-YARD DASH TIME — 4.5 seconds

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE — 3.13

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS — Scored 700 on the SAT

VITAL STATISTICS — Originally from the Philadelphia area, George enrolled at Fork Union at the insistence of his mother. Became one of the best football players ever produced by the school, rushing for more than 2,500 yards and 37 touchdowns during 1990 and 1991. Also runs track for Fork Union and was the state low and high hurdles champion last spring. Underpublicized because of his prep school background, but many college scouts believe George can be an excellent college running back.

COACH'S COMMENT — "He was the best back we had. He was captain of the team and (played) a great leadership role. He was the big-play guy, he got the football. He did anything we asked him to do. I'd like to have him back for another year. He's going to play at a great football institution and get a great education." — Fork Union Military Academy head coach Micky Sullivan.

HOBBIES — Basketball, reading

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN — Selected Ohio State over Penn State, Kansas, Nebraska and Virginia

The View From 15th and High

By Frank L. Moskowitz, Publisher

OSU, IU Never Fail To Put On An Entertaining Show

You have to say this for the Ohio State and Indiana basketball teams: When they meet, they usually put on a good show. Their most recent match-up, Jan. 14 in Indiana's Assembly Hall, was no exception as the Hoosiers posted an exciting 91-83 victory.

Ohio State stormed back from a 19-point second-half deficit to take a five-point lead against the Hoosiers. You have to appreciate the disciplined nature of the Indiana basketball team under Bobby Knight as well as the mystique of Assembly Hall to appreciate how remarkable it is to make up that much ground against the Hoosiers.

While Indiana came back to take the game, that run by the Buckeyes could be of benefit later in the year. If OSU gets down in a game, the Bucks will have the confidence they can come back, knowing they had done it against a team as good as the Hoosiers.

All the excitement in the game will just add more to this already intense rivalry, and the game between the Buckeyes and the Hoosiers in Columbus is bound to be another doozy. Pardon me for bringing up a sore subject, but the electricity that the OSU-Indiana game has begun to generate is rapidly gaining on the amount generated by the Ohio State-Michigan football game.

Too bad that after such an exciting game, most of the discussion centered around one play, a foul called on Lawrence Funderburke. The foul really wasn't that extraordinary, an elbow by Funderburke that seemed to catch Damon Bailey near the throat. The Big Ten is a rough conference, and elbows aren't that uncommon. And Bailey did a nice acting job, which is as much a part of basketball as setting a pick or boxing out.

I thought it was a foul. Whether it was intentional or not was a debatable point, though there is no debating the fact that the call was pivotal in the game. Bailey converted the whistle into a five-point play, pretty much sealing the Buckeyes' fate in the contest.

The impact that the play had on the

game did not seem to bother Buckeye fans as much as the commentary on the play by ESPN broadcasters Dick Vitale and Mike Patrick. A lot of the criticism may have been fueled by the fact that some Buckeye fans just don't like Vitale, who has become sort of the new Howard Cosell in terms of grating on viewers. Personally, I find Vitale far more entertaining and a heck of a lot more insightful than Cosell ever dreamed of being.

Yet there is no arguing the fact that Vitale just loves "The General, Robert Montgomery Knight." That fact surely bothers many Buckeye fans and causes them to assume Vitale is biased toward the Hoosiers. He may have gone a bit overboard in his commentary on the Funderburke-Bailey play, but I noticed Randy Ayers immediately yanked Funderburke, so the play must have bothered the Buckeye coach as well.

I guess I was bothered more by Patrick's comment that Funderburke was not adverse to throwing elbows. How did Patrick know that? If he was basing his statement on the clash between Funderburke and Michigan State's Mike Peplowski a week earlier, I saw plenty of big-time leaning and even a little banging (both standard in the Big Ten), but no elbows.

All of the controversy surrounding the call will just serve to put an even greater charge in Funderburke, the Buckeyes, the Hoosiers and the St. John Arena crowd on Feb. 23. Too bad Vitale and Patrick won't be on the call. That would have just added to the atmosphere.

As for Funderburke, the incident at Indiana seems to have shaken him little as he bounced back to score 12 points, pull down 13 rebounds and block three shots in his next outing, a start against Iowa.

A BIG difference between the Buckeyes' two wins last season and the loss in Bloomington was the play of Jamaal Brown. Last season, the Buckeyes got 29 points from Brown in the first game and another 17 in the double-overtime affair in Columbus.

Brown tallied a disappointing six points in this go-around with the Hoosiers, including just two of eight from the field. The senior from Texas was 12 of 19 against Indiana last season.

THE RECRUITING effort by John Cooper and his staff so far this season

has to go down as one of the major surprises in recent memory. The Buckeyes had to scramble just to put together a recruiting class of any sort last year. This time around, they seem to be pretty much getting whomever they want, especially within Ohio.

Much of the credit has to go to new recruiting coordinator Bill Conley. He is a former Ohio State player and coach, so who better to extol the virtues of being a Buckeye? And the fact that he was a longtime high school coach in Ohio has to have helped in the recruiting as well. Certainly that gave Conley an in with the prep coaches.

But some of the credit for the outstanding recruiting effort has to go to the recruits themselves. It seems that they talked among themselves about

coming to Ohio State as a group and helping bring OSU back to prominence. The prospects pretty much sold each other. I like that attitude.

THERE WERE two couples who enjoyed several days in the Tampa Bay area as winners of Hall of Fame Bowl trips in contests sponsored by *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*. Mr. and Mrs. Mark Green of Westerville enjoyed the trip, arranged by Buckeye Boosters, as winners of BSB's Buckeye Bowl Bonanza.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ballmer of Columbus also went on the trip as winners of the Big Bear Fantasy Trip #3. The Fantasy Trips, which included trips to the OSU-Northwestern game in Cleveland and the OSU-Michigan game in Ann Arbor, were sponsored by *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* and Big Bear.

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