

# BUCKEYE Sports BULLETIN

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**Jerry Francis Maneuvers Against Michigan**

## Francis Prodded By Strong Desire To Be Competitor

By Ken Halloy

Perhaps the word that is most overused in describing an athlete is "competitor." Ohio State sophomore forward Jerry Francis defines the word.

"Jerry is a competitor through and through," Ohio State coach Gary Williams says. "On the one hand you have those guys who get down on themselves and stay down. And then you have the competitors who get down on themselves and say, 'All right, I'm going to come back and prove that I'm good.' Jerry always comes back."

Chuck Kemper, who coached Francis in high school at Columbus Wehrle, agreed.

"WHAT MAKES JERRY stand out is the size of his heart," said Kemper. "No one works harder at the game than Jerry does. He's not a great jumper or a great shooter, but he's a great player because he plays at such a high level of intensity. He puts a lot of pressure on himself and he always expects his game to be 100 percent."

Meet Jerry Francis, Ohio State's 6-5 answer to a power forward. Despite the fact that Francis usually lines up against opposing players taller than he, the Columbus native refuses to sell himself short.

"It's really not that hard," Francis said of his new position. The night before against Michigan, Francis scored a career-high 24 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had six steals. Francis is beginning to fit into his niche quite nicely, though he admits it's not always smooth sailing.

"WHEN I HAVE a bad game, I make excuses saying I can't do this

and I can't do that inside," said the 220-pound bulky Buckeye. "But all they are are just cheap excuses. I tell high school players all the time that if they are 6-5 and want to play underneath in the Big Ten, they can because all it takes is heart."

"A lot of guys 7-foot just use their abilities in that they are big. They don't want to work by pounding it inside. But if you use your heart and intensity and just have a knack for playing inside, then they can't stop you."

Francis was willing to share his secret for inside success.

"I try to use my quickness and roll around the big guys," he said. "I'm sort of a wide body, so I like to push around a little bit and work for position. When the referee sees me, this little guy working hard and taking it against the big guys, he sits back and says, 'the little guy had to get fouled.' I try to take advantage of that."

FRANCIS SAYS HIS mother provides the proper incentive to get him to work harder.

"My mother always pressures me and pushes for excellence out of me," he said. "If I had a bad game when I was younger, she wouldn't cook dinner for me. I would come home and she would get on me about the game and then I would come down hard on myself. That's the way I am though. It makes me play better."

"Some guys can play a bad game and leave it at that and accept it. Not me. I have to take myself up to a higher level and work harder. My mother takes me

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## Buck Grid Recruits Coming From All Over

By Jim Wharton

The Ohio State coaching staff was expected to be spread all through the eastern part of the United States on Feb. 11.

Since that was the first day high school seniors could sign national letters of intent to play college football, and since the Buckeyes were apparently in line to sign players from Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, travel itineraries and airline reservations were as vital as names on the dotted line.

Buckeye coach Earle Bruce, if he would — which he can't — discuss the recruiting class before it becomes official, would undoubtedly speak in glowing terms.

Extensive digging and probing by

### Football Recruiting

Buckeye Sports Bulletin has turned up 18 prep seniors who have made verbal commitments to sign with Ohio State. At least three others known to be considering Ohio State were uncommitted at press time.

Heading the list is Cincinnati CAPE standout Carlos Snow, a 5-10, 200-pound running back, is regarded by just about every major scouting service as one of the top 10 running backs available this year.

"I've always dreamed of being a Buckeye and I already feel like I am one," Snow, who rushed for 7,856 yards and scored 108 touchdowns in his

illustrious prep career, told a newspaper in his hometown. "I've followed Ohio State for years and have been an Archie Griffin and Keith Byars fan. I'm really excited about next season."

Also announcing for Ohio State was Vincent Clark, a teammate of Snow's on the Division III state championship CAPE team. Clark is a 6-2, 180-pound defensive back who garnered all-state honors.

"That's a super, super achievement," said CAPE coach Steve Sheehan of landing two players at Ohio State. "We're very fortunate in that aspect. I'm sorry, though, because I wish we had them coming back next year."

Snow and Clark will be joined at Ohio State by a boatload of other outstanding prospects.

One of them is Cincinnati Purcell-Marian tight end Jay Koch. The 6-3, 200-pound Koch caught 61 passes for 1,106 yards and 11 touchdowns as the Cavaliers claimed the Division II state title. Koch, an outstanding blocker, was the Southwest District Class AAA lineman of the year and shared the same honor on a state-wide basis with Perry Bell of Alliance.

"I think he can play big-time," said Purcell coach Herb Woeste of Koch, who also played defensive end and outside linebacker. "He's going to be a good one."

A three-year starter, Koch was said to lack the necessary weight to play Division I football.

"I think he is going to put on the size

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# Williams Has Squad Taking First Steps On Mountain Climb

Gary Williams has a mission. It is not impossible. In fact, if the players on his Ohio State basketball team will take heed, the Buckeyes could be scaling mountains sooner than one thinks.

A new coach with philosophies different than those of his predecessor, Williams admitted right off the bat that miracles could not be accomplished overnight. But two-thirds of the way through his initial season as the motivating factor behind the Buckeyes and Williams has OSU basketball fans buzzing. A 14-8 record as Michigan State came calling to St. John Arena on Feb. 9 had people talking about an NCAA tournament berth. Crowds in the arena have been captivated by, pardon the expression, "Gary Ball."

Much has been said about the 1986-87 Ohio State squad lacking in several areas. Not enough size. Too slow. Players with abilities somewhat less than those of other Big Ten teams. The Buckeyes were said to be a team of Dennis Hopson and whichever other four players were on the court with the 6-5 superstar.

Nearly everyone has found a way to be derogatory to the OSU team.

But Williams plows along relentlessly. His program is going in one direction — up.

A couple of samples of Williams' competitive desire came to the forefront the night the Buckeyes played — and beat — Michigan. The first happened about an hour before the game. Williams was walking toward the OSU locker room while some of his players were getting in a few minutes of shooting time on the St. John Arena floor.

A loose ball rolled toward Williams near the left corner of the floor. The Buckeye mentor, who played college basketball at Maryland, scooped the ball up and swished it from three-point range, deep in the corner. OSU junior Kip Lomax was amazed with the "touch" the boss had from that range. It was sort of like "don't do as I say, do as I do."

Another aspect of Williams' nature came as the Bucks were putting the finishing touches on their guests from that state up north. Only a few seconds remained and the game was in the bag. Williams paraded in front of the OSU bench, gesturing with a raised fist, first to the crowd across the court, then at one end of the court and, finally, behind the Buckeye bench. His attitude is contagious.

Granted, the win snapped a five-game losing streak to the Wolverines, and that in itself was reason to celebrate. But the victory was accomplished the way Williams wants his teams to play. They scrap. They claw. The dive for loose balls. They go all out for 40 minutes.

That is if they play "his" way. Against Michigan they did.

Prone to relinquishing big leads, the Buckeyes, after trailing by eight midway through the first half, bounced back to take a 12-point lead. There was no collapse this time.

"We had a lot of experience the other way the last couple of games," Williams would later say. "We did a good job with the lead tonight."

Three days earlier, in an 82-65 loss to

## Wharton's View

With Jim Wharton

Illinois, they didn't. As has been the case often this year, the Buckeyes did not put together two halves of basketball. They have been known to grab big leads at the break and then falter. Or they have sputtered at the start only to rally and fall short in the second half.

Williams said his team needs to put together "two" solid halves of basketball to win in the Big Ten.

"I think we got away from something we've been talking about all year — that for this team to be good, it has to play a certain way every night," said Williams after the Buckeyes blew a 14-point lead to lose by 17 to the Illini. "We don't have the luxury of going out there and tossing it up to the glass and making follow-up after follow-up by going over people and things like that."

"We have to play a team game and work very hard on both ends of the court. When we don't do that, we're pretty common."

What happened in the second half?

"I really don't know," said Williams. "The only thing I can think is maybe with a nine-point lead at halftime our players relaxed a little bit and didn't realize how talented Illinois is and how well they could play. We're not the type of team that can just trade baskets with anyone. I thought we knew that by now, but obviously we didn't look like it out there the second half."

Nonetheless, Williams isn't discouraged.

"I still think we're a good team when we play, and I hope we learn from this," he said. "This is halfway through the Big Ten schedule and I'm pretty disappointed with our performance tonight, but I think we played pretty well over all for the first half of the year."

With Michigan slipping into town three days later, was Williams fearful of his team again doing the "el-foldo" bit?

"No," said Williams, almost shouting. "I think if you're a competitor, you suck it up after a game like that. Just say, 'hey, they got us, they did a good job on us the second half and we have to be a better team because of it.' You can be negative if you want to after a game like that, but that's for losers to act like that. I don't want our group to act like that."

They didn't. And, provided they can continue to play the way they played against the Wolverines, the Buckeyes — with Williams prodding and pushing — are headed into the upper echelon of the Big Ten standings in the very near future.

## Cage Notes

■ Spectators and arena workers had a conversation piece prior to Ohio State's Feb. 5 game against Michigan.

"It's cold in here," said one fan, leaning over the mezzanine railing and directing his words to a friend below. "Maybe they forgot to pay the heat bill."

No, such was not the case. The heat was turned down in St. John Arena at



## Gary Williams Shows Emotion With Buckeyes

the request of OSU coach Gary Williams.

Williams thought his players were drained by the extreme heat created by 12,413 fans a few days earlier in a loss to Illinois.

"We want it hot for practice, but I don't want it that hot for the game," said Williams in explaining his reason for having the temperature set back a couple of notches.

■ Buckeye sophomore Jay Burson just might have to make a practice out of missing the team's pre-game meal. Burson, who tallied a career-high 25 points in the win over Michigan, did so without benefit of dinner.

"Jay forgot it was a seven o'clock starting time," said Williams after the game. "We ate our pre-game meal at three o'clock instead of four. He went over at four expecting to eat."

Burson went hungry and then went out and chewed up the Wolverines. Perhaps Williams could take care of that missed meal.

"I'd take him over to my house for dinner," said Williams. "But that would be a violation, too."

The "violation" statement was a little dig at all the recent legislation passed by the NCAA having to do with things you can and cannot do.

■ Jerry Francis is on a roll at the free throw line. By converting six straight against Michigan, the Buckeye sophomore now has a string of 20 consecutive successful attempts at the

foul line. The last miss for the 6-5 Francis came on Jan. 17 against Wisconsin. He followed that miss with two in a row against the Badgers, hit four straight at Minnesota, four at Iowa, two against Purdue, two against Illinois and the six against Michigan.

Francis, who had career-high figures of 24 points and six steals against Michigan, has hit on 26 of his last 27 charity attempts.

■ Former Buckeye Clark Kellogg was on hand for Ohio State's game against Michigan. Kellogg, now the property of the Indiana Pacers of the NBA but out of action because of recent knee surgery, praised the play of Jerry Francis.

"I think Jerry deserves the game ball," Kellogg said. "He did it all tonight — came up with the steals, scored inside and got loose balls. He was great to watch. He has to have a big heart to do what he does against some of those bigger players he has to go against."

Francis was pleased to hear such remarks.

"I had never met him before," Francis said. "I went to a camp where he was at in the 10th grade and afterward when all the kids went up to him asking for autographs, I didn't because I was too scared."

"But when we went to the locker room at halftime, I passed him and he said, 'Jerry, way to go, good game.' I thought wow, he knows my name. And then after the game we talked a lot."



# Snow Checks His List Twice, Decides To Attend Ohio State

By Jim Wharton

Snow, Christmas presents. Making lists. Checking them twice. Sounds like we're getting ready to back up six weeks to the holiday season. Wrong.

Let's see, the snow in this scene is Carlos Snow, a 5-10, 200-pound running back at Cincinnati CAPE High School. And when Snow announced that he would sign a national letter of intent to play his college football at Ohio State, he became a belated Christmas present to Buckeye coach Earle Bruce.

"I'm looking forward to getting up there," said Snow, the all-time leading rusher in Ohio high school football history. "I'm excited. Vinny is excited. Jay is excited. We're all excited."

Vinny is Vince Clark, a teammate of Snow's on a CAPE team which won the Ohio Division III state championship in Ohio Stadium last fall. Clark, a 6-2, 180-pound defensive back, also planned to sign with Ohio State.

Jay is 6-3, 200-pound Cincinnati Purcell-Marian tight end Jay Koch, an all-state selection who also made a verbal commitment to sign with OSU.

Snow signing at Ohio State brought an end to a long recruiting process for the services of a back considered among the top prospects coming out of high school this year. That got to be something of a drag for Snow and his family.

"At first it was," said Snow, who rushed for 7,856 yards in his four-year prep career.

And Snow, through it all, found it

hard to say no. It's not in his makeup, at least off the field, to be strong and forceful.

"It was hard for me to say no to all the colleges," said Snow, who set a national record for rushing touchdowns—although it now is being disputed—with 107. "There were some good colleges. I haven't got out of that soft stage yet. I want to do well for anybody and everybody, so it was hard for me to say no."

But Snow ultimately did. He and Clark, who wanted all along to go to college together, said no to Georgia, Nebraska, Purdue and Kentucky.

"Sometimes you have to be strong even when you don't really want to," he said.

CAPE coach Steve Sheehan had braced himself for the onslaught of recruiters who would swoop down on his school and his star.

"I think we kind of saw it coming," said Sheehan. "He kind of steered away from the people that he was really not interested in and picked the five schools he would visit. Penn State backed out of it so that opened up something else. So it wasn't as bad as I thought it might be."

"It could have been real bad if he hadn't picked five. I mean there were so many people that wanted him to visit. He just said 'no thank you, no thank you' and it worked out OK that way. We let them know early enough and they were appreciative of that. If they don't have a chance, they're not going to waste their time."

Ohio State quarterbacks and receivers coach Tom Lichtenberg, a former head coach at Purcell before it merged with Marian, recruits the Cincinnati area for the Buckeyes. It was a combination of Lichtenberg, Bruce and some former Buckeye players who Snow idolized, that convinced the standout back to choose OSU.

"Archie Griffin," said Snow. "And Keith Byars, he was a heck of a running back. I look up to those two because I always wanted to be a Buckeye. I'd always say 'well, if I can be in that uniform someday.' I'm finally going to have my chance."

But before Snow could get that chance, Sheehan wanted both his standout players to be sure of what they were getting into. That's where the making of lists and checking them twice comes into the picture.

"We give them a list of things we wanted them to check out while they were visiting," said Sheehan. "Courses. Major studies. What happens to them if football no longer is in the picture. Black-white mixture. All those types of things."

Snow apparently found the answers all to be to his liking after making his official visit the weekend of Jan. 15-17.

"He really came back with all those questions answered," said Sheehan. "And I guess his parents probably had some input as to where they would like to see him go."

Snow, fourth of five children, touched on the family aspect.

"My dad, he's crazy about coach Earle Bruce," said Snow, named the back of the year in Ohio in each of the last two years. "But it's close and they can come up and see me play home games. That's what I wanted, for them to see me play—come see the Buckeyes play."

There was a time when Ralph Snow, a truck driver for the city of Cincinnati, didn't come to see Carlos play. Apparently he didn't think his son was serious about the game.

"They'd come to see me play but at first it was a little shaky," said Snow. "But they haven't missed a game since they began to realize how serious I am and how dedicated I am."

Snow expects to dedicate himself to Ohio State for the next four or five years. He has goals in mind and said he would work overtime to realize them.

"Basically," he began, "go there the four or five years, whatever it takes for me to get my degree. That's first. I want to get my degree. Aside from that, hopefully stay healthy for the four or five years and just get a chance to play."

And he doesn't expect to be an overnight sensation, be it in business school or on the gridiron.

"I'm not expecting to come in and play right away," said Snow. "But if I do get a chance to play up there, I think everything will work out for me. I could have gone down to the University of Georgia and played right away. They were in trouble at running back. And Kentucky said I could alternate. Really, though, I'm not ready to take on something by myself."

Snow, while getting ready to tackle college football, is preparing himself to return to the track. As a freshman, he finished second in the state in the 100 and fourth in the 400. As a sophomore he placed sixth in the 100. He failed to



Carlos Snow

qualify as a junior after being bothered by a nagging injury. But all the while, his mind will be on the date in August when he reports to the OSU team.

"My life's just beginning," said Snow, noting that he was impressed by George Cooper, James Bryant and Sonny Gordon while visiting OSU. "The past was just getting prepared, seeing what I wanted to do with my life. The dream is coming for real. It's stuff I've dreamed of. Everything I've dreamed of is just coming true."

There were those who had wanted to live Snow's dream for him. There were thousands of suggestions for his future.

"People off the street, if I'd go to the store or something, everybody had their thoughts on where I should go to school," said Snow, who will be in Columbus Feb. 13 to pick up the Columbus Touchdown Club Ohio high school player of the year award. "I listened to them, but it's not their life, it's my life. I didn't let them interfere with what I wanted to do."

He also plans to take the future in stride and will persevere both on and off the field.

"I know when I get up there (that) things aren't going to be totally like I expect them," he said. "Sometimes I'm going to get yelled out or something unexpected is going to happen to me. I just look at all things as positive. I strive for more."

"Like if I mess up a play or something, if we run the same play again, I'm going to run it harder. I'm going to do things the way he (Bruce) wants it done."

"Or if I'm in a class and I don't understand something, I'm not going to start going off, going haywire. I'm going to ask questions about it. I don't take everything serious, but I'm going to take everything serious from here on out."

On out for Snow means graduating from college and someday owning his own business.

"That's just another challenge and another goal that I set a long time ago," said Snow, adding that he admired Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton for the things he has going for him in the business world. "It's just now beginning to happen for me and I'm very happy about it."

Snow will attempt to reach his goals with his longtime friend Clark at his side.

"We've been together since third grade," he said of Clark, who lives just around the corner from Snow. "We grew up together. At first, the way recruiting was going, we thought we were going to have to split up. But he sat down and told me what he wanted to do and what his goals were. It seemed like they were similar to mine. And most of the schools, especially Ohio State, wanted both of us."

Ohio State will get them both. Sort of like celebrating Christmas in February.

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# OSU Recruiters Spread Out

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that it's going to require," said Woeste. "He's a little over 200 pounds, so he's put on a few pounds in the last month or so. Once he eliminates basketball and really hits the weights hard, there's no doubt that he can play at 240 or so."

John Spencer, the younger brother of former Buckeye Tim Spencer, also announced for Ohio State. Spencer, a 6-1, 205-pounder, rushed for 1,420 yards and helped lead St. Clairsville to an 11-1 record his senior season.

Tom Lease, a 6-5, 220-pound linebacker at Kenton, Ohio, planned to join the Buckeyes.

"We're really excited about him choosing Ohio State, especially as close as we are," said Kenton coach Mike Mauk. "Ohio State is getting a good one and we're pretty excited about watching him play the next four years."

Lease, the Northwestern District and state Class AA lineman of the year, picked Ohio State over Michigan, Michigan State and Cincinnati.

An "all-around athlete" was how national recruiting experts described Kettering (Ohio) Alter's Jeff Graham, who also was to sign with the Buckeyes.

The 6-2, 185-pound Graham, who has been timed in 4.5 in the 40, played quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back in high school. His coach, Ed Domsitz, said Graham, who rejected offers from Nebraska, Michigan and Akron, was recruited as a wide receiver by Ohio State.

"That's the implication I got from Ohio State," said Domsitz. "Unless a void would occur elsewhere, perhaps somewhere in the secondary, which he played real well for us."

Another "burner" of a wide receiver is Ft. Myers, Fla., flash Bernard Edwards. A 6-5, 185-pounder who played quarterback his senior season,

Edwards verbally committed to Ohio State after listening to offers from Miami of Florida, Georgia, Minnesota and Florida.

"He won't have any trouble playing anywhere," said Ft. Myers coach Sam Sirianni.

Edwards, who completed 63 of 122 passes for 949 yards and nine touchdowns last fall, was impressed on his visit to the OSU campus.

"Before he even came back on Sunday, he called me long distance and told me how impressed he was with Ohio State," said Sirianni. "He was impressed with the community, he was very impressed with the athletes and he was very impressed when he met Woody (Hayes). He thought Coach Bruce was a real father image to the boys."

While Sirianni said Bruce projected a fatherly image to "the boys," he'd better think again about calling future Buckeyes Mike Huddleston, Roy Nichols and Mike Shoaf boys.

Huddleston, a 6-5, 265-pound two-way tackle at Wooster (Ohio) High School and the offensive player of the year in the Cardinal Conference, also chose Ohio State.

"He's got great speed," said Wooster coach Robert McFarland. "You're talking about a 4.9 40."

Huddleston picked OSU after also weighing offers from Michigan State, West Virginia, Clemson and Ohio University.

Nichols, a 6-5, 240-pound two-way lineman and all-state selection at Jeannette, Pa., also will join the Buckeyes.

"He still has some growing to do," said Jeannette coach Art Tragesser. "He added 20 pounds before the season and he's still young. He just turned 18."

Tragesser said Nichols, the starting center on the basketball team, would probably be tried on defense at Ohio State.

"In high school, he was good either

## Known OSU Commitments

Vincent Clark	DB	6-2	180	Cincinnati
Bernard Edwards	WR	6-5	185	Ft. Myers, Fla.
James Graham	RB	5-10	200	Long Beach, N.Y.
Jeff Graham	WR	6-2	185	Kettering (Ohio) Alter
Andrew Gurd	LB	6-3 1/2	201	Chagrin Falls (Ohio) Kenston
Tyrone Harrison	FB	6-2	220	Highland Park, N.J.
Mike Huddleston	OT	6-5	265	Wooster, Ohio
John Kacherski	DL	6-3	240	Milford (Conn.) Prep
Jay Koch	TE	6-3	200	Cincinnati Purcell-Marian
Tom Lease	LB	6-5	220	Kenton, Ohio
Paul Long	OL	6-5	245	Mayfield, Ohio
Derek MacCready	DL	6-5	275	Waldorf (Iowa) J.C.
Roy Nichols	DL	6-5	240	Jeannette, Pa.
Tim Rutledge	DB	5-11	175	Youngstown East
Mike Shoaf	OT	6-5	275	Orwell (Ohio) Grand Valley
Mark Smith	PK	6-1	185	Canton McKinley
Carlos Snow	RB	5-10	200	Cincinnati CAPE
John Spencer	RB	6-1	205	St. Clairsville, Ohio

way," said Tragesser. "But in college, they really don't know if they're going to play him on offense or defense. They're going to give him a shot at defense first. Then they're going to go from there."

Shoaf, out of Orwell (Ohio) Grand Valley, stands 6-5. His weight, however, has been listed at anywhere between 270 and 290.

"He's got great size, great strength and great quickness," said Grand Valley coach Jim Henson of Shoaf, an all-district and all-state selection who decided on Ohio State over opportunities to attend Notre Dame and Michigan. "He went both ways for us but he's going to be better on offense."

Tyrone Harrison, a 6-2, 220-pound fullback out of Highland Park, N.J., will become a Buckeye after gaining 850 yards and scoring 13 touchdowns his senior season.

"They feel like he's a raw talent," said Highland Park coach Joe Policastro. "He's an excellent football player. We think he's one of the best big running backs in the country."

Policastro said people should not be concerned because Harrison did not rush for 1,400 or 1,500 hundred yards.

"That (his rushing total) is deceiving because we had another great tailback," said Policastro. "So we shuttled them a little bit."

James "Scotty" Graham, another running back, comes to Ohio State out of Long Beach (N.Y.) High School, the same prepping grounds of former Buckeye standout Pete Johnson.

Graham, a 5-10, 200-pounder, rushed for 1,534 yards and scored 17 TDs as a senior. Ten of those scoring plays covered 40 yards or more.

"He's a bruiser," said Long Beach coach Jimmy Bernhardt. "Your people will see what I mean when he gets there."

There was, according to Bernhardt, a slight problem with Graham's grade transcripts, although he felt things would be worked out before signing day.

Keeping OSU coaches in suspense as of Feb. 9 were Cleveland John Adams wide receiver Anthony Morgan, Louisville Male tight end and linebacker Jeff Ellis and Anthony Judge, a linebacker at Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.) Stranahan.

"I just don't know yet what he's going to do, but he can't lose on any of them," said John Adams coach Gene Young about Morgan, a 6-1, 190-pounder with 4.4 speed in the 40. Morgan was still considering Nebraska, Ohio State, Michigan, Miami of Florida and Tennessee — the five schools he visited.

"We're going to announce tonight (Feb. 9)," said Stranahan coach Rick Perry about the intentions of Judge, a 6-1, 220-pound three-year starter who reportedly had narrowed his choices to Ohio State or Auburn.

"He's narrowed it to the schools he's

visited," said Louisville Male coach Jim Jordan of Ellis, adding that his standout performer, who visited Ohio State, Kentucky, UCLA, Alabama and LSU, had put some additional pounds on his 6-5 frame and now weighed in at 233.

Announced in previous editions of *BSB* as having committed to Ohio State were: Andrew Gurd, a 6-3 1/2, 201-pound linebacker out of Chagrin Falls (Ohio) Kenston; Tim Rutledge, a 5-11, 175-pound defensive back out of Youngstown East; Paul Long, a 6-5, 245-pound offensive lineman out of Mayfield, Ohio; John Kacherski, a 6-3, 240-pound defensive lineman out of Milford (Conn.) Prep and Mark Smith, a 6-1, 185-pounder from Canton (Ohio) McKinley who placekicks, punts and also plays quarterback.

Derek MacCready, a 6-7, 275-pound defensive tackle from Toronto, Canada, signed with the Buckeyes in December out of Waldorf Junior College.

## Recruiting Notes

Toledo Macomber coach Bill Youngs, after telling *BSB* that Ohio State had backed out on recruiting tight end Chris Craig because of his grades, was quick to point out that Buckeye coaches will stay in touch with the Macomber program because of junior running back Chuck Webb.

"They're trying to get their foot in the door for my tailback," said Youngs. "Everybody in the country is going to be on him. That's going to be a real recruiting war."

Webb, a 5-11, 188-pounder, missed one game with an illness and was limited to only 31 yards in another but still rushed for 1,800 yards and was named the state's top back among Class AAA schools.

"Chuck is really fast, but he's strong, too," said Youngs. "They hit him and they bounce off. The best thing is I have him back for another year."

■ There has been no word on the status of running back Marc Hicks.

Hicks reportedly quit the California team and expressed an interest in transferring to Ohio State.

According to a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, teammates said Hicks was upset with his playing time and performance when he did play. After gaining 538 yards and being named the Pac-10 freshman of the year in 1985, Hicks managed only 373 yards and lost nine fumbles last fall while also being bothered by a knee injury.

Hicks, regarded as one of the top five backs in the nation during the 1985 recruiting season, has been unavailable for comment.

John Patella, owner of a sporting goods store in Davis, Calif., and a close friend of Hicks, denied reports that the latter was leaving school because of academic problems.

## Several Top Prepsters Picked Other Colleges

It is obvious that Ohio State cannot land all of the top high school football players it goes after during the annual recruiting wars.

Several top-notch players in Ohio and around the country, who were said to have been considering signing with the Buckeyes, opted to go elsewhere.

Contrary to reports published in the *Columbus Dispatch*, two players who were reportedly heading for Ohio State will not sign with the Buckeyes.

One of them is Roy Barker, a 6-6, 240-pound defensive tackle at Central Islip, N.Y.

"They tried to recruit him," said Central Islip coach John DiClemente. "Ohio State was one of his first considerations. But he decided he didn't want to go out to Ohio."

DiClemente said Barker, who reportedly gave commitments to three different schools, would probably sign with North Carolina.

Another not coming to OSU is Ambridge, Pa., defensive back Kelvin Fisher.

"That's false information," said Ambridge coach Frank Antonini. "They were after him, but he gave a commitment to Arizona State yesterday (Feb. 5). I know things can happen between now and the 11th, but I don't think so in his case."

There was no word on what Toledo DeVilbiss standout Jeremy Lincoln planned to do.

Lincoln, a 6-1, 168-pound defensive back, was still trying to decide between Tennessee, Ohio State, Penn State, Notre Dame and Ohio University.

Cincinnati Northwest's Brian Townsend, a 6-4, 220-pound linebacker, announced publicly that he would sign with Michigan. Townsend, who still has to attain NCAA freshman qualifying status, picked the Wolverines over Ohio State, Michigan State and Kentucky.

Paul Mays, a 6-5, 220-pound defensive tackle at Akron Buchtel, committed to Akron.

"OSU talked to him," said Buchtel coach Tim Flossie. "But they couldn't go after him because of his grades. He didn't pass the ACT. They wanted him to go to a junior college and pick him up later. But they just couldn't touch him."

Among others: Chris Hofmeier, a 6-5, 280-pound tackle at Cincinnati Anderson committed to Indiana; Donnie Hoog, a 6-4, 215-pound quarterback at Brookville (Ind.) East Central, said he would sign with Cincinnati; Chris Williams, a 5-10, 180-pound running back at Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward, will go to North Carolina State.



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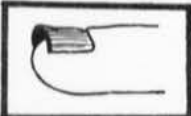
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## Francis Driven

Continued From Page 1

up to that higher level."

Francis speaks quite fondly of Peggy Francis, his mother, who introduced him to the game of basketball when he was in sixth grade. It's an admiration that has steadily grown since his father, who was a standout basketball player at Columbus West High, left home when the younger Francis was in the second grade.

Francis said it's not a love-hate relationship that exists between him and his mother, it's more of a love-respect brand.

"She's the boss and I listen to her," Francis said. "All the intensity and the desire I have to win came strictly from her. She's very critical of my game and always putting it down, but she only does it to get me mad."

It's a psychological ploy that has proven very effective.

"It makes me work harder so that she'll be quiet," the deep-voiced Buckeye said. "When we were getting ready to play Iowa, she said things like, '(Roy) Marble is going to eat you up and use you inside all day.' I know she's only trying to fire me up so that I'll play hard. It works."

And when things aren't going so well and the confidence begins to slip, Francis likewise turns to mom. Francis recently had a long talk with his mother and his girlfriend, Filicia White, who is a hurdler on the OSU women's track team. The rap session centered around what Francis said were his two worst defensive efforts, against Purdue and Illinois.

In those games, Francis was paired against the Boilermakers' Todd Mitchell and the Illini's Lowell Hamilton, two of the conference's best — if not the nation's best — forwards.

"They just told me to stop feeling sorry for myself and to quit being so hard on myself," he explained. "I was making all these excuses like I'm too small and I can't check out all those big guys inside."

"But I know I can play inside. I just have to quit being so hard on myself and being so negative because you're going to have bad games every once in a while."

Nate Mitchell, Francis' summer league coach at the Westside Boys Club, said Francis' high self-demands are a result of his desire to be the best.

"He wants to reach perfection," Mitchell said. "When you go in at 6-5 and fulfill the role of a power forward in one of the best conferences in the country, I'd say you're well on your way to achieving greatness. He'll get there because in his mind, there's no such thing as second-best."

Francis said he realizes too much self-criticism may be a factor in his somewhat inconsistent play this year.

"I know I need to be more consistent," he said. "If people see me play one good game, they want to see another, and another. So I just have to say, 'Jerry, you played a good game, but now you have to go out and do it again tomorrow.' It doesn't have to be 20 points. It could be eight points and a bunch of rebounds and some steals."

Doing it all has been a trademark of Francis since his high school days at Wehrle. In four years of varsity play, he failed to score in double figures only one time. He even made the all-league team as a freshman. As a senior, Francis averaged 19.5 points and 14.8 rebounds a game and was named Franklin County player of the year.

With the departure of Brad Sellers after last season, Francis said he wanted to assume the responsibility of



**Jerry Francis**

picking up the slack, especially on the offensive end.

"I don't want to sound selfish, but I wanted to score more this year," said Francis, who averaged 6.1 points and 3.3 rebounds last year. "I think we all did because we know Dennis (Hopson) couldn't score all the points and expect us to win. I also wanted to crash the boards a lot harder this year."

The latter improvement was a direct "request" from mom.

"She isn't too particular about scoring, but she likes rebounding," he said. "She likes me to beat up somebody by working inside."

Heading into the Michigan State game on Feb. 9, Francis' numbers have indeed improved over last year. He was averaging 11.1 points and 5.2 rebounds a game.

And what lies ahead?

A career in coaching, especially working with kids, is where Jerry Francis says he'll find personal contentment.

"I've just fortunate to have a couple of great coaches," he said. "Coach Kemper was a great one-on-one coach. He was super in teaching the individual things."

"Coach Mitchell is just like Coach Williams in that he'll grab you by the collar and swing you around a couple of times to fire you up. As a coach I'd like to be a combination of those two."

Williams says he's convinced Francis will make it as a coach.

"Jerry would be an outstanding coach because he has experienced every possible feeling a basketball player can have," said Williams, "and he'll appreciate that in the future when his players have the same feelings."

Why the yearning to work with kids? "There's a lot of tough kids in Columbus," Francis said. "I just want to show them, 'Jerry did it, so why can't I?'"

But perhaps most of all, Francis wants to be remembered, especially for his playing days as a Buckeye.

"My mother told me that when I leave here I should leave something behind, like I'm a part of that," he said pointing to last year's NIT Championship banner hanging from the St. John Arena rafters. "When people come in here 20 years from now and look, they'll say, 'Jerry Francis, yeah I remember him.'"

"I just want to be remembered as someone who contributed and made a difference."



## Big Ten Notes

# Alford Sets Hoosier Scoring Mark; Johnson Moves Up On MSU Chart

By Mike Wachsman

Indiana's Steve Alford had a career and Assembly Hall high when he scored 42 points in Indiana's 84-80 win over Michigan State, Feb. 4. The performance, which should help get him some player of the year votes, was on 12 of 19 shooting, including four three-pointers.

The previous Assembly Hall high was set in 1973 when Indiana's Steve Downing hit for 41 against Illinois. The win by Indiana halted a three-game Assembly Hall losing streak to Michigan State. The Spartans have won five of 16 games over the years at the Hall, two more wins than any other team.

Alford was near the top of a myriad of statistical categories. In Big Ten games through Feb. 3, Alford was fourth in scoring (21.8 points per game), first in three-point shots (58.8 percent) and free throws (91.3) and eighth in assists (4.2).

The Hoosiers were leading the nation in three-point shooting, hitting on 54.4 percent of their three-pointers through Feb. 3.

**MICHIGAN STATE'S** Darryl Johnson has moved into 10th place on the MSU all-time scoring list, compiling 1,205 points through the Spartans' tilt with Indiana. Johnson passed Lindsay Hairston (72-75, 1,155 points) and Lee Lafayette (66-69, 1,176) to get to 10th place, and within reach in the ninth spot is Stan Washington (63-66, 1,242).

Johnson was fifth in conference scoring, hitting 21.1 points per game, third in free throw percentage (88.9) and third in steals with 2.4 per game.

The Spartans continue to be hot at the free throw line, hitting at a clip of 79.2, second in the nation to Army, which is hitting 81.0 percent from the charity stripe.

**WITH EIGHT** assists in Northwestern's games against Purdue and Illinois, Wildcat Shawn Watts has broken the school assists record. Watts had 347 assists (through Purdue), five better than previous record-holder Michael Jenkins (80-83, 342). Earlier in the season, Watts had broken the career steals record. Interestingly, Watts is not among the statistical leaders in the conference in either category.

Junior Shon Morris, who grabbed a Big Ten career-high 15 rebounds against Wisconsin, was among the conference leaders in rebounds (9.2)

## Men's Big Ten Standings

School	W	L	Pts	Opp	W	L	Pts	Opp
Indiana	10	1	943	776	19	2	1731	1410
Purdue	9	2	866	762	18	3	1744	1422
Iowa	8	2	833	709	21	2	2015	1670
Illinois	8	3	891	778	18	5	1878	1629
Michigan	6	5	943	917	15	8	2009	1798
Ohio State	5	5	826	812	14	8	1886	1697
Michigan State	3	7	737	777	8	12	1521	1542
Minnesota	2	8	606	776	9	11	1459	1458
Wisconsin	1	10	729	847	11	13	1694	1702
Northwestern	1	10	635	855	6	15	1268	1526

scoring (16.0) and free throw shooting (88.9). Morris has a career free throw percentage of 80.1, which places him ninth on NU's all-time list. Just ahead of him are number eight Terry Gamber (67-69, 80.4 percent) and number seven Mark Sibley (71-73, 80.6 percent).

**PURDUE'S JUNIOR** guard Troy Lewis has moved into 10th place on the school's all-time scoring list. In the Boilermakers' two wins over Wisconsin and Northwestern, Lewis hit for 29 points to run his career total to 1,291. He passed Frank Kendrick (1,269) to move into 10th place, and ninth on the list is Eugene Parker, who scored 1,430. Lewis was second in the conference in scoring (23.1), fifth in three-point shooting (43.2 percent), eighth in free throws (80.0) and 10th in rebounds (5.8).

Lewis' teammate, junior Todd Mitchell, is doing well for himself also. Mitchell passed number 23 scorer Wayne Walls (1,030) and was just two points behind number 22 man Billy Keller (1,056) on the school scoring list. Mitchell had scored in double figures in 17 consecutive contests.

It's not only offense that wins games, though. Tough defense wins games, and Purdue's is among the toughest. The Boilers have limited opponents to 50 percent field goal shooting or lower in 18 of Purdue's 21 games this season. The three teams that hit over 50 percent from the field were North Carolina 57.4 percent, a Purdue loss, Michigan State 58.2 percent, a Purdue win, and Illinois 51.6 percent, a Purdue overtime win.

**INDIANA CENTER** Dean Garrett, who totaled 34 points, 19 rebounds and 11 blocked shots in wins over Illinois and Purdue to move Indiana into first place in the Big Ten, has been cited as Big Ten player of the week.

In the number two-ranked Hoosiers' 69-66 win over number 14 Illinois,

Garrett, a junior from San Clemente, Calif., scored a season-high 20 points and added nine rebounds and six blocks.

**AT THE MIDWAY** point of the season, composite conference scoring trends showed that 1987 scoring, field goals made and attempted, and free throws made and attempted are equal to or at their highest level this decade.

Big Ten teams have combined for 151.6 points per game through the first half of the season, the highest total since 1976 when teams averaged 155.3 points per game.

Conference teams average 117.3 field goal and 40.4 free throw attempts per game, figures that are highs for the '80s. If the Big Ten's current 49.2 composite field goal percentage were to stand at season's end, it would rank second to last year's 50.3 percentage as the highest in conference history. Big Ten teams were 319-792 from three-point land in conference games, a 40.3 percentage. Of the 5,279 field goals attempted (after 45 games), 792, or 15 percent, have been three-pointers.

**A SURVEY OF** non-conference Division I opponents records through games of Jan. 25 showed that Michigan's opponents have the highest winning percentage at 63.2



Steve Alford

(110-64). Illinois was next at 62.6 percent (127-76), followed by Ohio State 60.7 (125-81), Iowa 60.6 (109-71), Indiana 60.5 (98-64), Northwestern 59.0 (69-48), Michigan State 54.4 (92-77), Purdue 53.7 (73-63) and Wisconsin 52.0 (90-83). Some of the non-conference teams that will probably get NCAA bids that have been beaten by Big Ten teams are Syracuse (by Michigan), Duke and Pitt (by Illinois), N.C. State, Northeastern and Arizona (by Iowa), California (by Wisconsin), Jacksonville, Kansas and Florida (by Ohio State) and Wichita State (by Purdue and Minnesota).

**AND FINALLY,** It looks like the Kickoff Classic will be Big Ten versus Southeastern Conference for the second straight year. Last year, Ohio State played Alabama, and the 1987 Classic, to be played Aug. 31, will pit Iowa against Tennessee.

Iowa, which finished 9-3, went to the Holiday Bowl where it defeated San Diego State, and the Vols finished 7-5, capping their season with a win over Minnesota in the Liberty Bowl.

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