



LOOKING AHEAD

'The Game' On Deck After OSU Squeaks Past Maryland

By **BRADEN MOLES**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Associate Editor

With every successive week this season, that gnawing feeling in the back of one's mind couldn't help but turn toward that final weekend in November. After last season's complete humiliation of Ohio State in Ann Arbor, Mich., the stakes – with the Buckeyes attempting to overcome a narrative of finesse and softness that had infiltrated the program, and the Wolverines trying to keep the good vibes rolling after their first win since 2011 – couldn't have felt higher for this year's rendition of The Game.

That was until the teams took the field this season. Ohio State opened things up with a win in prime time over Notre Dame, a top-five team at the time that has since risen again in the rankings, and continued the season with a ranked win

over Penn State and several drubbings of lower-ranked teams within the Big Ten. Michigan worked past a weak nonconference slate and then experienced a similar degree of domination over the rest of the league, including a ranked win over those Nittany Lions, as the Buckeyes and Wolverines both headed into the 11th game of the season with 10-0 records.

It became difficult to avoid imagining what the matchup in Columbus on Nov. 26 might look like, with fleeting thoughts of an undefeated matchup or a top-three pairing, but those daydreams were replaced, at least briefly, with a potential nightmare scenario on Nov. 19, as Ohio State – which had seemed, to some degree, to begin looking ahead to the Wolverines – was locked in a four-quarter battle with an upset-minded Maryland squad, while a few hours north



FILE PHOTO

GRUDGE MATCH — Ohio State and head coach Ryan Day (right) will be looking for revenge when Jim Harbaugh (left) and his Michigan team visit Ohio Stadium on Nov. 26.

of Columbus, Michigan was dealing with its own struggles while hosting Illinois.

It looked, if only for a few moments, that fate would intervene and cost fans one of the most anticipated iterations of The Game. Instead of a highly anticipated top-three matchup between undefeated teams, it would perhaps be a less-heralded contest between a pair of one-loss teams, lucky to be ranked among the nation's top 10 teams after falling to unranked opponents with history on the line.

The call was answered, though, and the teams reserved their dates with destiny. Ohio State overcame a halftime deficit and survived a late push by the Terrapins in a 43-30 win, while Michigan utilized the leg of kicker Jake Moody, who knocked in a 35-yard field goal with just seconds remaining, to boost the Wolverines over the Fighting Illini, 19-17.

The Associated Press announced the following afternoon that No. 2 Ohio State and No. 3 Michigan were unmoved in the AP top 25 poll following their wins, confirming the top-three matchup for The Game. But focus had already shifted to the rivalry within moments of Ohio State's and Michigan's wins the previous evening. Day confirmed the first thing said in the locker room after defeating Maryland had nothing to do with the Terrapins.

"It's hard to say," Day said when asked if Ohio State was looking ahead to Michigan against Maryland. "I just got done with the team and you probably could imagine the first thing that was said is, 'It's on to The Team Up North.'"

"But it's hard for me to do that when guys put their bodies on the line," he said of questioning whether his team was looking ahead. "That was a hard-fought game. They still need

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From The Message Board

There's not much point in reflecting on the 43-30 win over Maryland, because the next team on the schedule is Michigan.

With the focus now shifting to the matchup against the Wolverines on Nov. 26, BSB asked its readers for their final thoughts and predictions on The Game after watching both Ohio State and Michigan move to 11-0. Here are some of the answers:

"Even with the Maryland game, I'm confident Ohio State is coming out on top. I've said it all season and my opinion hasn't changed."

– Tiffin Buckeye

"I am not extremely confident going into The Game. This team is very inconsistent. The offense looked average in the first half against Maryland. They were better in the second half, but then the defense looked very 2021-ish. Need to play a full 60 minutes on both sides of the ball this Saturday."

– bstu9

"My confidence level depends largely on the health of both teams. If OSU plays their best and Michigan plays their best, I am confident OSU will win. As long as I can remember it has been said, 'When you come to this game, you can throw out the record book.' Upsets have been frequent."

– Terrier Buck

"I'm glad this game is being played in Ohio Stadium. Let's pray for decent weather for decent playing conditions. The Buckeyes need to 'let it all loose' on both offense and defense. Michigan has challenged the teams' toughness and physicality all year. The players need to respond to that challenge. It's hard to go into this game with any degree of

overconfidence. The defense has been underwhelming on first down allowing opponents 7-8 yards. That can't continue this week. The corners are playing too far off the line, let's tighten that up. Special teams need to be sharp. The defense needs to create a few turnovers, and maybe at least one score. A full year to deal with the pain of last year's tough loss. It's time."

– BYRON MCNUTT

"This Buckeye team is a winner. In this homestretch when faced with difficult situations they have found a way to win. They showed it against Maryland and they WILL find a way to beat The Team Up North."

– BuckeyeScott

"It's the beginning of championship season. Win to move on and frankly, we all have been waiting to get here. Let's get 'er done and move on to Indy. This team is built for dry and warm fields. Gotta get past TTUN. Go Bucks!"

– John Lanning

"The TTUN defense did not look too good against the Illini. The Illini QB was able to complete a high percentage of passes, and I was wondering what could have happened if he had a receiving corps like the Buckeyes. With Dallan Hayden's energetic running performance, and Xavier Johnson's exemplary performance every time he had the ball, it will be hard for TTUN to concentrate on C.J. Stroud defensively. I think the Buckeyes can blow this game wide open if Coach Day does not play injured offensive players for too long before trying fresh ones. Coach Knowles has to limit explosive runs by Blake Corum at all costs and if he does, we are off to Indianapolis."

– AnthonyBuckeye

"I think TTUN is way overhyped. The difference between the two teams is that the Bucks have better depth and that may be very much needed if this becomes a physical game, which it probably will."

– PeyoteBuck

"Revenge is a great motivator. True, it didn't work in 2018 on TTUN's Revenge Tour. But it will work for the Buckeyes because they are at home and will have the crowd, which also wants revenge, as the 12th man. The team and Buckeye Nation have been building to this for a year. Not to mention the fact the Buckeyes have the better team."

– Poster That Harley Built

FAN FORUM

Buckeye Leaves

Second-ranked Ohio State needed several heroes to step up against an upset-minded Maryland squad that played the Buckeyes down to the wire in a 43-30 win for OSU. As multiple players were worthy to receive Buckeye Leaves, we asked BSB staff writers and readers to recognize their players of the game.

Andy Anders, BSB: One could argue kicker Noah Ruggles had the single most clutch play of the game against Maryland. As such, he gets my Buckeye Leaf.

Having had his previous extra point blocked, Ruggles connected on a 45-yard field goal attempt with 42 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. A make, and Ohio State would go up 36-30 in the final moments. A miss, and Maryland would stay within a field goal and get solid field position.

The kick hit dead center, and Ohio State went on to win the football game. Ruggles also nailed a 47-yarder en route to a 3 for 3 day on field goals.

Jack Emerson, BSB: In what was an up-and-down day for the Ohio State offense, freshman running back Dallan Hayden was a consistent presence during the game's second half.

Hayden initially began the game slotted behind TreVeyon Henderson. However as Henderson proved to be hobbled for much of the first half, Hayden came in as the bell cow in the second half, amassing 143 of his 146 total yards in the game's final 30 minutes. Hayden also gave an ailing Buckeye offense a much-needed lift, scoring a trio of touchdowns in the second half.

Hayden's emergence came at just the right time for the Buckeyes, who have seen a revolving door at running back this season due to injuries to Henderson and Miyan Williams.

Braden Moles, BSB: While Maryland threatened for much of the second half, it felt as though the game took a turn in Ohio State's favor after safety Lathan Ransom blocked his second punt in as many games, leading to a touchdown by the Buckeyes just two plays later to make it 17-13, a lead Ohio State wouldn't lose for the remainder of the contest.

Ransom was also a strong contributor on defense, finishing with seven tackles (one for loss) and a pass breakup. On a day in which Ohio State's secondary did not put forward a strong performance, allowing 318 passing yards to the Terrapins, Ransom was able to stand out for the Buckeyes.

BSB Subscribers

Tiffin Buckeye: Dallan Hayden. Stepped up when needed. Gutsy performance.

bstu9: Dallan Hayden for sure. With both other scholarship backs unavailable, he was the last option but proved to be a good one. Carried the load in the second half and I'm not sure the Bucks win that game without him.

Terrier Buck: Since Noah Ruggles provided all 13 points in the final margin, let's give him a Leaf. Overall, it was probably the Buckeyes' worst performance of the season.

BYRON MCNUTT: I'm going to go a different direction this week. In anticipation of Saturday's game, we need the team's training staff to perform miracles and have our key players healthy and ready to put it all on the line. We have no choice but to put a physical whipping on Michigan. The West representative in the championship game might have 3-4 losses. The East representative will be undefeated. We need our walking wounded to be in uniform and ready to battle. Here's a chance for the training staff to earn Buckeye Leaves.

BuckeyeScott: I have got to give a Buckeye Leaf to Zach Harrison for his back-to-back sacks on Maryland's second-to-last possession, the second of which resulted in a fumble and the score by Steele Chambers. Also, give one to Tommy Eichenberg for his 13 tackles with 10 solo and 1 TFL. This Buckeye linebacker is on his way to becoming an All-American!

John Lanning: Eichenberg was a wrecking crew by himself. I said last week, Hayden was a player ... fast, instinctive, and determined. On to No. 12!

AnthonyBuckeye: All-American Lathan Ransom for ferocious tackles and a blocked punt for a momentum-changing play in the second half. Zach Harrison for game-winning sacks, including a sack causing a fumble to end the game. Dallan Hayden for a refreshing run game. Emeka Egbuka for his best game since the break with amazing catches. The offensive line for good run and pass blocking. Tommy Eichenberg and Steele Chambers for their usual excellence. Noah Ruggles for ultra-reliable kicking (the blocked XP wasn't his fault). Jack Sawyer and J.T. Tuimolouau for their sacks. And Ronnie Hickman for another good outing.

PeyoteBuck: Lathan Ransom for turning the tide. His block was the spark that fueled the Bucks to the end. Meanwhile, Ronnie Hickman was quietly tackling right and left. And Dallan Hayden, who set the field on fire as he did last week, deserves a giant Buckeye leaf. All the Bucks were leaf-worthy in this game.

Mcarr: Offense: Dallan Hayden. What a breath of fresh air. Defense: Lathan Ransom. This guy is simply great and among many playmakers on defense. Special teams: Xavier Johnson, one of the team's unsung heroes. This week he had a good kick return to set up an important touchdown in the fourth quarter. And I might have heard the announcers say it was Denzel Burke, but I think that was Johnson who for the second week in a row fell on Ransom's blocked punt.

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OPINION

Perfect Buckeyes Still Pursuing Perfection

After 11 games played and 11 games won, Ohio State remains a team with a perfect record that sometimes embodies anything but perfection. At one juncture, the Buckeyes appear as if they could beat any college football team in the nation while at others they seem to lose focus and look like they can't get out of their own way.

That was never more evident than in the 43-30 victory at Maryland on Nov. 19, a game in which Ohio State entered as 26-point favorites and nearly got caught looking ahead to a much-anticipated showdown with archrival (and equally perfect/imperfect) Michigan.

After gashing the Terrapins for a touchdown on the game's first possession – a drive that covered 75 yards in a mere 92 seconds – the Buckeyes not only took their foot off the gas pedal, they took their eyes off the road. The remainder of the first half featured an offense that looked uninterested and a defense that appeared overmatched by a Maryland attack that had scored exactly one touchdown in its previous eight quarters.

And then apparently someone made it clear at halftime that a loss to the Terrapins would have thrown a bucket of ice water on the following week's proceedings, and Ohio State got back to the business of playing like the No. 2 team in the nation.

It started when OSU safety Lathan Ransom stepped into the spotlight to smother a punt for the second week in a row. Two plays later, freshman running back Dallan Hayden was standing in the end zone after an 8-yard run, the Buckeyes had a 17-13 lead, and momentum had swung quickly to the Buckeyes.

Ransom's block – the first time since Mike Doss in 2001 that an Ohio State player had blocked punts in successive games – finished a personal flourish during which the third-year safety recorded a solo tackle of Terps running back Roman Hemby on first down, and on the next play snuffed out a screen pass, throwing Maryland tight end CJ Dippre for an 8-yard loss.

The blocked punt resulted in a lead Ohio State would not relinquish the remainder of the afternoon, although the Buckeyes looked very much at times as if they had little thought of putting the Terrapins away for good.

BSB publisher Frank Moskowitz touched on this subject last week, and I confess I agree there is something amiss with C.J. Stroud. The confident quarterback with the rifle arm and pinpoint accuracy has given way to a player who suddenly seems unsure of himself. Sportscasters and pundits continue to project Stroud as the front-runner for the Heisman Trophy, but I have not seen consistent Heisman-worthy performances lately.

Stroud managed to still complete 18 of 30 attempts for 241 yards and one touchdown, numbers that most quarterbacks around the country would gladly take. And the Ohio State QB is working on a streak of 129 straight attempts without an interception. In fact, he's thrown 11 touchdown passes since his last pick Oct. 22 against Iowa.

But Heisman Trophy quarterbacks don't typically throw sideline passes up for grabs in a group of closely-bunched defenders regardless of the talent of their intended target, and Heisman Trophy quarterbacks usually don't have a penchant for losing track of the play clock and drawing delay-of-game penalties.

Still, it's difficult to argue with the bottom line. Stroud now has a 21-2 record as the

starting quarterback at Ohio State, a .913 winning percentage that is better than everyone who's ever started more than 20 games for the Buckeyes with the notable exception of Rex Kern (25-2, .926). Then there are the 7,426 yards and 79 touchdown passes Stroud has accumulated, totals that rank third and second respectively on the Ohio State career passing lists.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK Mark Rea

There is one notable blemish on Stroud's résumé, however, and no matter what your gaudy numbers say, leaving the ledger blank when it comes to wins against Michigan separates the elite quarterbacks at Ohio State. Put a checkmark beside that bit of unfinished business, and then we can talk about the Heisman.

Looks Good To Me

Jim Tressel was never as quote-worthy as some of his predecessors at Ohio State, but Tressel did come up with some memorable quips such as the punt being the most important play in football. Maryland head coach Mike Locksley would likely agree since momentum of the game most definitely turned on Ransom's punt block.

Another of Tressel's go-to quotes involved running back depth with the coach insisting no team could get through the grind of a Big Ten schedule without "a pair and a spare."

For all the hand-wringing about the ongoing injuries to the current top pair of TreVeyon Henderson and Miyan Williams, it seems OSU head coach Ryan Day will be just fine with his spare. Hayden came to the rescue for the second week in a row, following a 102-yard performance against Indiana with career highs of 146 yards and three touchdowns on 27 carries against Maryland. Outside of a single carry for 3 yards, all of that was accomplished after halftime, making Hayden the first OSU freshman to score three TDs in a single half since Maurice Claret did it against Indiana in 2002.

I honestly don't know why Day didn't try to get through the afternoon without playing either of his top two running backs, and that was especially so when it became quickly evident Henderson was anything but 100 percent.

It's not like Hayden is your typical third-stringer. A four-star recruit out of the Memphis area, the 5-10, 195-pounder rushed for more than 2,000 yards in both his junior and senior seasons at Christian Brothers High School, and he is the son of former NFL running back Aaron Hayden, who played for three different pro teams after a successful college career at Tennessee.

Still, it seems Day has some kind of reluctance to get Hayden into the lineup. Maybe, like most freshmen, he needs work on blocking and blitz pickups. But it certainly appears as if Hayden needs no polish when it comes to running the football.

There is no doubt Ohio State will have to establish its running game – and establish it early – to beat Michigan. For all of the grief I have given him the last couple of weeks, Stroud remains extremely gifted and will obviously play a key role in the regular-season finale.

But for the Buckeyes to retain their per-

fect record, it would seem prudent to go with an old-school tactic and attempt to establish the run. Once that is accomplished, play-action is much more effective and can provide the quarterback with a comfort level that just might mean the difference between winning and losing.

Individual Performances

There were some outstanding individual efforts turned in by the Ohio State defense against Maryland despite the fact the Buckeyes surrendered 402 total yards, including seven plays of 25 yards or more while committing four penalties worth 57 yards.

Tommy Eichenberg continued his stellar play with a game-leading 13 tackles, marking the third time in his last four games the OSU linebacker has registered double-digit stops. Eichenberg has already shattered his career high of 64 tackles set last season and heads into the Michigan game with 105, the most of any Ohio State defender in seven years.

I've already written about Ransom, whose comeback after breaking his leg in the Rose Bowl is nothing short of remarkable. In addition to his outstanding play on the punt-block team, Ransom totaled a career-best seven tackles against the Terrapins. That gives him 61 stops for the year, 41 of them unassisted.

And then there was Zach Harrison, the former five-star prospect who has been the subject of more "what's up with him" speculation than just about any other OSU defensive player in recent memory. I have to admit I wondered what had happened to Harrison until he showed up big-time at the end of the Maryland game.

The fourth-year defensive end obviously saved his best for last, swallowing Terps QB Taulia Tagovailoa for a 7-yard sack on the first play of Maryland's final possession and then executing a strip-sack of Tagovailoa on the next play that plunged the dagger in any thoughts the Terrapins entertained about a last-ditch comeback.

As Tagovailoa crumpled to the ground underneath Harrison, OSU linebacker Steele Chambers grabbed the loose football and carried it into the end zone to set the final score. Believe it or not, it was the first multi-sack game of Harrison's career, while Chambers scored his first touchdown since 2019 when he was still a running back. That was a 2-yard run that marked the final score for the Buckeyes during their 76-5 blowout of Miami (Ohio).

In addition to the outstanding individual defensive performances, there were plenty of others on offense, not the least of which was Emeka Egbuka's third-down catch in the waning minutes of the fourth quarter.

Ohio State was trying to run out the clock while protecting a 33-30 lead when faced with third-and-6 on the Maryland 42. Under a heavy pass rush, Stroud threw off his back foot to Egbuka, who despite tight coverage from Terps cornerback Jakorian Bennett was able to grab the ball just before it hit the turf. The play was worth an 8-yard gain, enough to move the chains, and kept the Buckeyes in possession of the ball with the clock winding under three minutes.

By the time Maryland finally stopped Ohio State, the Buckeyes were close enough for a 45-yard field goal from Noah Ruggles with only 42 seconds remaining. On the next play from scrimmage, Harrison corralled Tagovailoa for the first of his back-to-back sacks, and that was that.

OHIO STATE INSIDER

GameDay, Big Noon Kickoff Headed To Columbus

Columbus will play host to both FOX's "Big Noon Kickoff" and ESPN's "College GameDay" when the Buckeyes welcome bitter rival Michigan to Ohio Stadium on Nov. 26.

The meeting between Big Ten titans will serve as the second consecutive top-five matchup in The Game. This is the second straight season in which Ohio State and Michigan will be featured both on "Big Noon Kickoff" and "College Gameday," after both pre-game shows were on hand in Ann Arbor, Mich., for last season's game.

This will mark the second time "College GameDay" has been on Ohio State's campus this season. Lee Corso and Co.

took in the Buckeyes' 21-10 win over Notre Dame on Sept. 3. Ohio State is 2-0 when "Big Noon Kickoff" makes its way to Columbus, collecting wins over Iowa on Oct. 22 and Indiana on Nov. 12. "Big Noon Kickoff" was also in attendance for the Buckeyes' 44-31 win over Penn State at Beaver Stadium on Oct. 29.

Both shows have Buckeye ties with former Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer an analyst on "Big Noon Kickoff," while former quarterback Kirk Herbstreit is a host on "College GameDay."

OSU "Hoping" To Get Smith-Njigba Back

News has been sparse of late concerning wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba, who hasn't been on the field for the Buckeyes since they played Iowa.

Smith-Njigba appeared briefly in the contest, hauling in one reception for 7 yards, but he left shortly before halftime after appearing to tweak his hamstring, which has ailed him ever since the opener against Notre Dame. Ohio State head coach Ryan Day said at the time that Smith-Njigba was on a pitch count that led to his early exit.

Day has been hesitant to provide updates on Smith-Njigba's status in the ensuing weeks, but he did provide a brief up-

2022 Ohio State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result/Time (ET)	TV	Record, Last Result
Sept. 3	NOTRE DAME	W, 21-10	ABC	8-3, 44-0 win over Boston College
Sept. 10	ARKANSAS STATE	W, 45-12	BTN	3-8, 16-13 loss to Texas State
Sept. 17	TOLEDO	W, 77-21	FOX	7-4, 42-35 loss to Bowling Green
Sept. 24	WISCONSIN	W, 52-21	ABC	6-5, 15-14 win over Nebraska
Oct. 1	RUTGERS	W, 49-10	BTN	4-7, 55-10 loss to Penn State
Oct. 8	at Michigan State	W, 49-20	ABC	5-6, 39-31 loss to Indiana
Oct. 22	IOWA	W, 54-10	FOX	6-4, 13-10 win over Minnesota
Oct. 29	at Penn State	W, 44-31	FOX	9-2, 55-10 win over Rutgers
Nov. 5	at Northwestern	W, 21-7	ABC	1-10, 17-9 loss to Purdue
Nov. 12	INDIANA	W, 56-14	FOX	4-7, 39-31 win over Michigan State
Nov. 19	at Maryland	W, 43-30	ABC	6-5, 43-30 loss to Ohio State
Nov. 26	MICHIGAN	12 p.m.	FOX	11-0, 19-17 win over Illinois

date on Nov. 17 in regard to whether Ohio State is expecting to have Smith-Njigba back at some point this season.

"I wouldn't say expecting – I'd probably say more hoping," Day said. "But no update at this point."

It's a slight contrast from previous updates about Smith-Njigba in which Day said he "absolutely" was optimistic about seeing Smith-Njigba on the field again this season.

No indication has been given in regard to a potential timeline for Smith-Njigba to return, but with just The Game remaining on the regular-season schedule, time is ticking for him to see the field.

Henderson Returns To Lineup, Williams Out Vs. Maryland

Ohio State was without running back Miyan Williams against Maryland, though the Buckeyes did see the return of running back TreVeyon Henderson, who had missed the previous two weeks with a foot injury.

The Buckeyes remained without Smith-Njigba while safety Kourt Williams II also remained out after getting banged up earlier this season, and there were no game-time decisions. Ohio State welcomed back running back Chip Trayanum and right tackle Dawand Jones, who were game-time decisions against Indiana and did not play.

Henderson struggled in his return, carrying the ball 11 times for 19 yards during the first half before sitting out nearly the entire second half, still appearing hobbled from his injury. Henderson was seen wearing a boot on his left leg on the sideline following the game.

Along with Henderson exiting the game due to injury, right guard Matthew Jones was also injured during the game, staying down on the turf after a play and holding his right leg. He was helped off the field before being carted off to the locker with less than three minutes remaining in the game. Guard Enokk Vimahi replaced Jones in the lineup for the remainder of the contest, and Day did not offer an update on Jones after the game.

Focus Remained On Terps Despite U-M Looming

Ohio State's annual battle with bitter rival Michigan is fast approaching and will carry postseason implications in the form of the Big Ten Championship Game and College Football Playoff. However, before the Buckeyes could turn their eyes to the Wolverines, they needed to dispatch Maryland first.

Day said the focus remained on the Ter-

rapins while acknowledging that they've also spent a considerable amount of time on building callouses to seamlessly prepare them for The Game.

"(The Game is) something that comes up every week, it comes up every year around this time," Day said on Nov. 15. "The competitive excellence focus is something that we talked about early on so that (when) we got to a moment like this, you don't just walk in on a Tuesday meeting and say 'Guys, OK, we have to really focus on this week.' We've been saying this all along.

"March Madness starts the first week of the season around here, and so you have to embrace that and understand what it means to bring it every single week," he continued. "We're working The Game at the end of the year, every day out of the year. That's not something that's out of the ordinary, to know that's always in the back of our minds."

The battle with Maryland marked the final time the Buckeyes were able to take the field prior to their meeting with Michigan, and Day emphasized that the only thing he needed to see from his team against the Terrapins was the level of consistency that they've approached each week, even with The Game on the horizon.

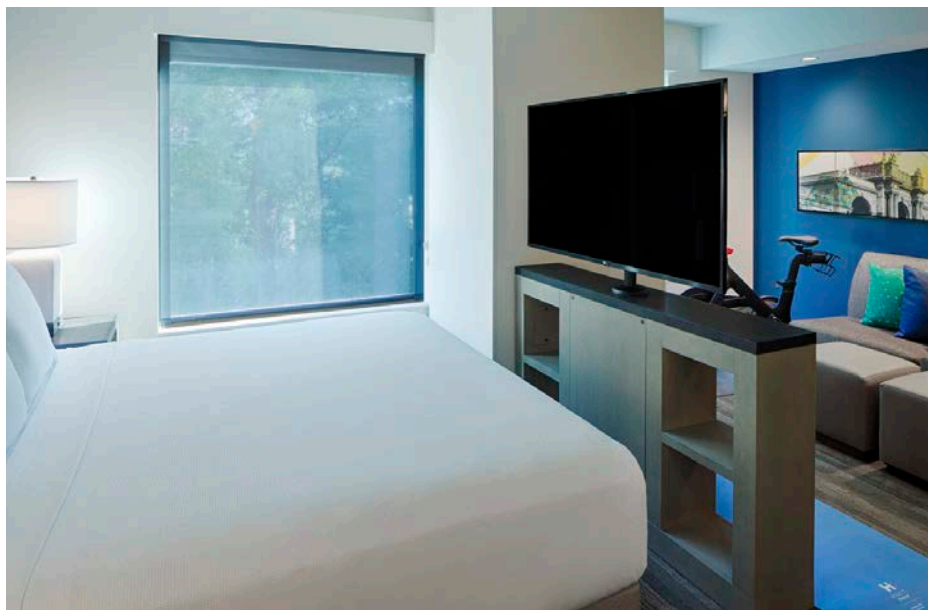
"I don't think there's anything that will make us say 'Now, we're ready to go play this game,' " Day said. "We just have to keep doing what we're doing and keep preparing in the way that we prepare. (We need to) play well and find a way to win the game and then move on to that one."

OSU Sticks At No. 2 In AP Poll

It was a strange week in college football, as each Associated Press top-five team faced distinct challenges from lesser opponents, with several matchups coming down to the wire.

The top four all survived unscathed, with No. 1 Georgia, No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Michigan and No. 4 TCU all picking up closer-than-expected wins. Tennessee, which entered the week at No. 5, wasn't so lucky, falling to South Carolina 63-38 while losing star quarterback Hendon Hooker to an injury in the process. Jumping into the vacant No. 5 spot was USC, which took down then-No. 16 UCLA in a classic Battle of L.A. rivalry game. The top 10 was rounded out by No. 6 LSU, No. 7 Clemson, No. 8 Alabama, No. 9 Tennessee and No. 10 Oregon.

It was the usual suspects from the Big Ten that populated the poll. No. 11 Penn State was the only team to join Ohio State and Michigan. Illinois (12), Iowa (five) and



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Former OSU Guard Brown Passes Away At 52

Former Ohio State guard Jamaal Brown, who served as a captain on the Buckeyes' 1992 Big Ten title team, passed away at his home in Texas over the weekend of Nov. 13, the program announced on Nov. 14. He was 52.

Brown played in 127 games as a Buckeye from 1988-92 while becoming one of 60 Buckeyes to score over 1,000 career points in the scarlet and gray, tallying 1,139 points during his career. Brown was a key figure on Ohio State's back-to-back Big Ten title teams in 1991 and 1992, producing a career-best mark of 12.0 points per game in 1991. However, Brown made his name on the defensive end of the floor, serving as Ohio State's primary perimeter defender during his time with the program.

"(He was) a guy who knew how to play the game, didn't make a whole lot of mistakes, made jump shots, was a physical presence and a great defender," his former teammate and fellow captain Tony White said in the program's release.

Brown's efforts led the Buckeyes to a trio of NCAA Tournament appearances, with the deepest run coming in 1991-92, in which OSU made it to the Elite Eight before falling in heartbreaking fashion to Michigan. The Buckeyes finished that season with the No. 3 ranking in the final AP poll.

Off the court, Brown received his degree in communications and was known to speak to students at local elementary schools about his life as a basketball player.

Although current Ohio State head coach Chris Holtmann said he didn't know Brown closely, he emphasized that he left a legacy within the OSU program that's still felt to this

day.

"It hits home because he was a young man," Holtmann said. "From what I understand, he was really beloved. He played on some outstanding teams and played with obviously some tremendous players during his time here.

"(Former coach and current ESPN analyst) Fran Fraschilla texted me last night, talking about how special that recruiting process was, in recruiting Jamaal and how special of a person he was. He just seemed to really impact a lot of people, and our thoughts are with his family and loved ones."

Buckeye Sports Bulletin alum Steve Helwagen, who covered Brown during his time with the Buckeyes, noted that he was someone who kept those Big Ten title teams connected despite having several NBA-caliber players.

"He was a backbone type of guy that was reliable," Helwagen said. "He always had a smile on his face. I don't think he said a bad word about anybody, and I don't think anybody said a bad word about him. I don't know what to say, I'm sure his teammates are broken up about this because he was the greatest guy.

"In 30 years, people forget a lot of things. But I think people around Columbus who were alive then do still have fond memories of those teams because Ohio State had just been mediocre for so long. They were always in like sixth in the Big Ten, just always around the NCAA Tournament but never a great, great team and didn't win the Big Ten until those guys did in 1991."

tial warmups prior to its matchup with Indiana, offensive tackle Josh Fryar was in a state of limbo.

With starting right tackle Dawand Jones listed as a game-time decision, Fryar was slotted as the next man up if Jones couldn't play. When Jones emerged from the locker room in street clothes following warmups, Fryar knew it was his time to shine, noting that he only had 20 minutes to calm his nerves and get himself ready for game action.

"Coach Day and Coach (Justin) Frye came up to me in the locker room and went, 'We're rolling with you,' " Fryar said. "I was pumped because it was against my hometown team and the game plan was good."

There were extra stakes on the line for Fryar, a native of Beech Grove, Ind., because his father, Jeff, played tight end at Indiana from 1984-88 and he grew up just an hour's drive away from the campus. He added that getting to accomplish the milestone of his first career start against such a familiar opponent was exciting for him.

"It was pretty special," Fryar said. "It was cool to play against his alma mater and get a little one up on him."

As for his play, Fryar was impressive in the spot start. He helped spring several chunk runs by Ohio State's six ball carriers, primarily thanks to his ability to get to the second level and seal off linebackers. His efforts in the running game helped the Buckeyes to their best rushing

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Purdue (two) each received votes.

Notre Dame enjoyed the highest climb in the rankings, jumping five spots from No. 18 to No. 13 after a dominant 44-0 victory over Boston College. UCF saw the largest fall in the rankings after a stunning 17-14 upset loss to 3-7 Navy, dropping eight spots to No. 25.

Day, Holtmann Send Condolences To UVA

During their respective weekly press conferences, Day and OSU men's basketball coach Chris Holtmann each reflected on the shooting on the campus of the University of Virginia on Nov. 13 which left three Cavalier football players dead and two others wounded, while also offering condolences for those who were affected.

"On behalf of the Ohio State football program, I want to express our sadness and our prayers to the entire University of Virginia and its football program over the senseless killings that took place over this past weekend," Day said Nov. 15. "Our prayers to the families and friends who have lost loved ones. It's tragic, senseless and pains me to understand why something like this would happen. Our thoughts are with everyone there in Charlottesville."

The Buckeyes honored the victims of the shooting – Lavel Davis Jr., Devin Chandler and D'Sean Perry – with a helmet decal of Virginia with a heart marking the location of Charlottesville, the site of UVA's campus.

In addition to sharing condolences for Brown's family, Holtmann also offered sympathies to the victims on the campus of Virginia.

"It's been a really tough couple of days with the passing of Jamaal Brown and what happened on the campus of the University of Virginia," Holtmann said Nov. 15. "Our condolences and thoughts go out

to Jamaal's family as well as those at the University of Virginia."

Harrison Surpasses 1,000 Receiving Yards

A pair of receptions on Ohio State's opening drive against Maryland lifted Buckeye wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. above 1,000 yards on the season and into the OSU record books.

Harrison is only the eighth Buckeye all-time to surpass the 1,000-yard mark in a single season, joining Cris Carter (1,127 yards in 1986), Terry Glenn (1,411 in 1995), David Boston (1,435 in 1998), Michael Jenkins (1,076 in 2002), Parris Campbell (1,063 in 2018), Garrett Wilson (1,058 in 2021) and Smith-Njigba (1,606 in 2021).

Through 11 games this season, Harrison has hauled in 65 receptions for 1,037 yards while sitting tied for third in the nation in receiving touchdowns with 11. Harrison is one of 11 receivers over 1,000 yards through 11 weeks and is the lone member of the Big Ten to surpass that mark.

Ransom Accomplishes Special Teams Rarity

Ohio State safety Lathan Ransom elevated his name alongside a Buckeye legend at his position against Maryland, though it was thanks to his play on special teams rather than in the secondary.

With a blocked punt following Maryland's first offensive drive of the second half, Ransom became the first Buckeye to register blocked punts in back-to-back weeks since Mike Doss did so in 2001 against UCLA and Indiana. Ransom kick-started the run with a swat on Hoosiers punter James Evans with 9:48 remaining in the third quarter during the Buckeyes' 56-14 win over IU before blocking his second punt against the Terrapins.

Ransom is tied for fifth in the country

in blocked kicks with 10 other players.

Fryar Touches On First Start Against IU

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output of the season, going for 340 yards on a 7.9 average per carry. He was also solid in pass protection, as he – along with the rest of the Ohio State offensive line – did not allow a sack on quarterback C.J. Stroud.

Day said that Fryar graded out as a champion, a status reserved for those who stood out to the coaches on film, for his role in the 56-14 win over Indiana. Fryar did not start against Maryland when Jones returned to the lineup, but Day said that based on what they saw on film, he would feel comfortable with Fryar in an increased role if the injuries to the front continue.

“You know now that he can play in a game and do well,” Day said. “With some of the new challenges ahead of us, he’s going to have to be able to do that as well. He comes in, certainly in that ‘Bison’ package that we have and does a really good job there. We’ll continue that package and try to find more things for him to do there.

“If there’s any hiccup with anybody on

that offensive line, he would, obviously, be one of the first ones to go in.”

Vincent, Hamilton Drive Defensive Success From Inside

To the untrained eye, the contributions of defensive tackles Taron Vincent and Ty Hamilton may go unnoticed. Ohio State’s current starting interior defensive line duo combine for just 31 tackles, 21 of those belonging to Vincent, and Hamilton has recorded half a sack, while Vincent has recorded none.

But defensive coordinator Jim Knowles’ eyes are certainly trained, and he sees something beyond those raw numbers:

Hamilton and Vincent’s ability to clog offensive lines and free others up to pile up the tackles.

“There’s nothing sexy about it,” Knowles said Nov. 15. “It is just hard work. It’s hard work. It’s the way football was initially created, those battles at the line of scrimmage. It’s morphed a lot since then, but it still takes place, and you still need your tough guys to be tough and that’s where we’ve gotten such great play out of our tackles and it’s going to be key as we move forward.”

Hamilton’s usage has increased as the season has progressed. After recording a season-high 36 snaps against Northwest-

ern, he logged 27 plays the following week against Indiana. His strength at the point of attack makes him valuable against the run in particular, Knowles indicated.

“Ty’s like a cold-blooded gentleman, I guess I would say,” Knowles said. “Quiet, good smile, but man, he’s just really tough inside, and he’s athletic. I’ve seen him use his hands and get off blocks and make plays. Not only hold point, but I’ve seen his hand skills really developing.”

Vincent is a multi-year starter with the Buckeyes, and in addition to his 21 tackles this season, he’s picked up two tackles for loss. He’s frequently deployed in a one-technique (outside shoulder of the

Don’t Miss Any Breaking Ohio State-Michigan News

This edition of the Ohio State-Michigan game is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in years, and you don’t want to miss any of the news leading up to The Game. The Buckeye Sports Bulletin staff will be tracking any breaking stories and posting them right up until game time at the electronic BuckeyeSports.com.

There will also be immediate coverage after The Game, and readers can discuss the game on the Fan Forum, including “The Official Game Thread” with real-time comments from BSB staff members and readers throughout the contest.

There are also additional electronic stories throughout the week, including coverage of Ryan Day’s weekly press conference, as well as news from any other press availabilities leading up to The Game. Football recruiting is a 365-day-a-year process these days, and the BSB staff has stepped up its coverage of Ohio State’s quest for prep talent as we approach the early signing period. We have also upped our basketball recruiting coverage, so be sure to check in regularly at BuckeyeSports.com.

Along with daily posts, we offer reprints from the Buckeye Sports Bulletin archives as part of our popular Reprint Thursdays. Additionally, staff members man the previously mentioned

Fan Forum, interacting with subscribers on the hot topics of the day. Staffers and readers alike have also been reacting to recruiting efforts on the Forum’s football and basketball recruiting threads.

Don’t forget, the complete print edition of Buckeye Sports Bulletin is posted at BuckeyeSports.com at the time the issue is mailed and is available to subscribers free of charge, as is all the other content provided at the site.

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Last Call For Brutus Level VIPs To Be Recognized In Michigan Issue

If you have wanted to show your support for Buckeye Sports Bulletin through the VIP program but are unable to participate at the Scarlet, Elite or Elite-Plus level, now is the time to sign up at the Brutus level for just \$50. Brutus level VIPs are recognized in BSB twice a year, and we will be running the complete list of Brutus VIPs in the upcoming Michigan Issue.

VIP donors help Buckeye Sports Bulletin stay alive and vibrant.

“We want to thank the many BSB readers who have stepped up and shown their support for Buckeye Sports Bulletin through the VIP program,” BSB publisher Frank Moskowitz said. “It is a true vote of confidence in what we are doing now, what we have done the previous 41 years and what we plan to do in the future.”

A VIP upgrade can easily pay for itself each year with special VIP discounts and perks.

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As mentioned, with the \$50 Brutus VIP upgrade, Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers will have their names and cities listed in two different issues annually as supporters of BSB.

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And those who donate more than \$125 will have their names listed as Elite-Plus VIPs.

To upgrade your existing subscription to VIP status, with all the benefits that come with that designation, go to BuckeyeSports.com/vip-memberships to pay by credit card, or call us at (614) 486-2202 during regular business hours. If readers have questions about this program, they can call the same number.

The following are our Elite Wachsman, Elite-Plus, Elite and Scarlet VIP subscribers. **Elite Wachsman Donor (in honor of late BSB assistant publisher Karen Wachsman):** Roosters Restaurants Foundation.

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From The Pages Of BSB

40 Years Ago — 1982

It seemed that everyone at Ohio State was pleased with Glen Cobb's play over the last few years.

Everyone, that is, except Glen Cobb.

Although the senior from Washington Court House, Ohio, had been OSU's starting inside linebacker for the past three years and had been the second-leading tackler for the last two, Cobb felt he had room for improvement.

"I'm not totally satisfied as far as my performance goes," Cobb said. "I know it can get better.

"I wanted to be the starter by the time I got out of here, and when I look back on my freshman year, there were a lot of things I was in doubt about. I was playing behind a good group of linebackers and just got set that I wanted to start and be the best player I could be by the time I got out of here.

"I plan on working and improving."

35 Years Ago — 1987

When Earle Bruce and his staff recruited offensive linemen, they looked for size. Therefore, it was no surprise the Buckeye brass latched onto to Jay Shaffer four years previous.

Shaffer, 6-7, 288 pounds, fit the mold of a massive bookend on the right side of the Buckeyes' front line. The senior tackle from Lakeside, Ohio, had to wait his turn for an opportunity behind the likes of former Buckeyes Mark Krerowicz, Rory Graves and Larry Kotterman.

After an injury to Kotterman during the 1986 season, Shaffer took over the starting right tackle spot and stayed there through the Cotton Bowl.

"It's frustrating, but you have to stick in there knowing your chance is going to come," Shaffer said. "Usually it takes an offensive lineman three years to break into the lineup at Ohio State. That's why it's such a great place to play."

30 Years Ago — 1992

On one hand, Ohio State men's basketball coach Randy Ayers enjoyed the challenge of working with a flock of new players.

On the other hand, Ayers and company likely missed the presence of sure hands Jim Jackson, Jamaal Brown, Chris Jent and Mark Baker while defending OSU's back-to-back Big Ten championships.

"Anytime you lose a senior class like we did and an impact player like Jackson, you're in transition," Ayers said. "But that doesn't bother us at all. Hopefully, it will serve as some mo-

tivation for us to come out every day and work hard and be competitive in our conference."

25 Years Ago — 1997

John Cooper had answered all of the pertinent questions regarding Ohio State's 41-6 romp over Illinois on Nov. 15 at Ohio Stadium.

As he knew it eventually would, the postgame discussion turned to Michigan. The OSU coach was asked if he was looking forward to the game and he was armed and ready.

"What kind of question is that?" Cooper shot back. "That's why you come to Ohio State. It's a great game. I'm looking forward to it, our players are looking forward to it. It should be another great ball game."

20 Years Ago — 2002

It was hard to find anyone close to the program who wasn't high on sophomore big man Terrance Dials.

"Terrance is somebody who will really contribute to this team," OSU forward Zach Williams said. "He has gotten a lot stronger and he's becoming a more complete player."

Dials' averages of 6.7 points and 4.2 rebounds as a frosh figured to only go up, especially considering that he was rid of problems with his knees that plagued him in high school and affected his durability during his first year with the Buckeyes.

15 Years Ago — 2007

Seated at the dais where he typically held postgame press conferences in Value City Arena, Thad Matta, in his fourth year at the helm of the Ohio State men's basketball program, had to detail his latest recruiting class, a group that was ranked among the tops in the country.

Again.

For the third consecutive season, Matta had landed a recruiting class that ranked among the top 10 in the country. After bringing in the "Thad Five" in 2006 with the nation's No. 2 class, according to Scout.com, Matta welcomed the nation's No. 7 group with his 2007 class.

"I think we've got a lot of positions covered," Matta said. "I think that with the size and the athleticism, guys that can do certain things, I think there is a parallel there."

10 Years Ago — 2012

Sam Covelli, owner and CEO of Covelli Enterprises, and

his wife, Caryn, pledged a \$10 million donation to assist in the funding of a multi-sport arena that would bear the couple's last name.

The Covelli Arena would seat approximately 4,000 and become the new home of Ohio State volleyball, gymnastics and wrestling – sports that called St. John Arena home at the time.

"It's a tremendous gift that really jump starts construction for us, but it also talks about the relationship we have with Buckeye Nation," senior associate athletic director Ben Jay said.

Five Years Ago — 2017

Even if Ohio State had one eye on its showdown at Michigan – no one associated with the Buckeye program would ever admit to that – there was never a cause for concern in the game leading to The Game on Nov. 25

That's because No. 9 Ohio State had no trouble toying with overmatched Illinois, 52-14, at a rain-drenched Ohio Stadium on Nov. 18.

The Buckeyes clinched no worse than a tie for the Big Ten East title and assured themselves a berth in the conference championship game on Dec. 2 in Indianapolis against Wisconsin by virtue of wins over Penn State and Michigan State.

"The message in the locker room was to get out fast, take care of the ball and execute," said OSU fifth-year senior center Billy Price. "We had a good game plan going in. We knew what they were going to do."

One Year Ago — 2021

Chris Olave made history against Michigan State on Nov. 20 when he hauled in two touchdown passes to bring his career total to 35, surpassing David Boston's long-standing record of 34.

Boston took to Twitter to congratulate Olave for breaking his record, which Boston had held for 23 seasons since 1998. He complimented the senior wide receiver's ability and exciting play style.

"Congratulations on breaking the touchdown record!" Boston posted. "You are one hell of a football player, love watching you play."

Olave scored on 23- and 43-yard passes from quarterback C.J. Stroud, who finished with six touchdowns in the 56-7 win at Ohio Stadium.

center), meaning he's eating a lot of double teams and freeing up linebackers to make plays. Then he'll make a few plays of his own.

"Taron, very similar (to Hamilton)," Knowles said. "It's one thing to hold the point, but to have the athleticism to do what you saw Taron do also in the (IU) game – and you've seen him do it – to disengage from the block and make tackles, that's the next step. So I think both of those guys are doing really good things in that area."

Stroud Betting Favorite For Heisman Trophy

As buzz surrounding the Heisman Trophy continues to pick up with one week remaining in the regular season, Stroud has largely remained in the driver's seat for the award.

According to the DraftKings Sportsbook, Stroud is the front-runner to win the award prior to Ohio State's season finale against Michigan. He enters The Game with -120 odds to win the Heisman, with USC quarterback Caleb Williams (+120), Michigan running back Blake Corum (+1500), TCU quarterback Max Dugan (+4000) and LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels (+4000) following behind.

Stroud has dazzled all season, but he'll still need a solid outing in The Game to secure the award going directly against Corum – assuming he plays – and with Williams hot on his tail. The USC signal caller vaulted himself into a two-person race with Stroud thanks to a lights-out performance against UCLA in which he produced 503 total yards while tossing a

pair of touchdowns and running one in himself. Williams has thrown for 3,480 yards, with a touchdown-to-interception ratio of 33-3, while adding 316 yards and seven scores on the ground.

The Heisman Trophy will be awarded on Dec. 10 in a ceremony in New York City, one week after the Big Ten Championship Game.

Several Buckeyes In Contention For Awards

With Ohio State jumping out to an 11-0 record, several Buckeyes have garnered significant national attention and have vaulted their names into award races.

Starting with Stroud, who leads the nation in passing efficiency with a 183.3 mark and is tied at the top with 35 touchdown passes, he has collected semifinalist distinctions for the Davey O'Brien Award (best quarterback in the country) and the Maxwell Award and Walter Camp Award, which are both awarded to the most outstanding player in college football. The Inland Empire, Calif., native sports a 66.5 percent completion percentage to go along with 2,991 passing yards.

Stroud's favorite target, Harrison, joined Stroud on the Maxwell and Walter Camp Award semifinalist lists. Harrison leads the Buckeyes in receptions, yards and touchdowns.

Elsewhere on the offense, it's been the year of the tight end for the Buckeyes, and national audiences have taken notice. Ohio State tight end Cade Stover was named one of the final nine players in the running for the John Mackey Award, which is given to the best tight end in

college football. Stover has hauled in 31 receptions for 386 yards and five touchdowns this season.

In addition to his Rotary Lombardi Award semifinalist distinction, offensive tackle Paris Johnson Jr. was also named one of seven remaining players in the running for the Outland Trophy, which is granted to the best lineman – offense or defense – in college football and is voted on by the Football Writers of America Association. Johnson's efforts have helped the Buckeyes to the No. 8 offense in the country, with 492.7 yards per game.

The Buckeye defense is also well-represented with linebacker Tommy Eichenberg remaining in the running for the Butkus and Bednarik Awards, while safety Lathan Ransom is a semifinalist for the Jim Thorpe Award. Eichenberg leads the Buckeyes with 105 tackles, 12 of which went for loss, while Ransom has produced 61 tackles and three pass breakups.

Off the field, wide receiver Kamryn Babb was nominated for the Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award after the Buckeyes' win over Indiana in which he scored his first career touchdown. He also was named a semifinalist for the Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award, which is presented to the player who has most demonstrated leadership in their program.

Even the coaches are getting in on national award scene. Knowles, who is in his first season with the Buckeyes, was nominated for the Broyles Award, which is bestowed upon the top assistant coach in the nation. Knowles has revamped the Ohio State defense, leading the Buckeyes to the ninth-ranked total defense in the country by allowing just 283.4 yards per game. Ohio State also has the 10th-ranked scoring defense in the country, giving up just 16.9 points per contest.



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Ohio State Motivated By Last Year's Loss

Continued From Page 1

to be recognized for that. You can't just go through the motions and think you're going to win a conference game like this on the road. All that being said, you know our No. 1 goal is to beat The Team Up North."

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh was slightly more lax, giving himself some time – a very specific amount, in fact – to enjoy the win over Illinois before moving on to Ohio State.

"I think I'll just enjoy this one," Harbaugh said. "This is like the biggest win. Maybe one of our biggest wins ever. I think I'm just gonna enjoy this one for a few hours, probably about six. Give it six hours. I'm really happy with the guys. Probably about six hours from now, I'll be thinking about the Ohio State game."

Of course, it's his prerogative to prepare for The Game how he and the Wolverines see fit, seeing as though they're the most recent winners after last year. And though the press conferences on Nov. 19 were some of the first times the teams have opted to speak about The Game this season, it's clear that it's weighed heavily on the programs – as a point of pride for Michigan, and as a blight for Ohio State.

"We've been scarred, even though we've been on a 12-game run (since last year's loss to Michigan)," Day said. "Coming off of that game, we were highly motivated this season to get back to where we are right now. There's been a lot of hard work, a lot of blood, sweat and tears, to get back to where we are right now to get the team to this point right here."

And for the pain experienced by Day and the coaching staff in the year since last season's loss, it's been tenfold for the players who were made an example of on the field by Michigan.



FILE PHOTO

CLEAN IT UP — Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud is one of several Buckeyes who played in last year's loss to Michigan who are hoping to turn the tide this time around when Michigan visits on Nov. 26.

"We've been licking our wounds for 365 days, hearing all the laughs and everything that everybody's been saying," quarterback C.J. Stroud said. "I definitely think that we've been preparing for it. Not only on the field, but in the weight room as well. We're very excited."

Stroud and Co. are not the only ones that sense a feeling of excitement in the air. ESPN's "College GameDay" and FOX's "Big Noon Kickoff" will broadcast live from Ohio Stadium in advance of the contest, and it's hard to fathom that televisions across the country will be tuned in to anything else given the top-three billing. While this upcoming

contest evokes more recent memories of Curtis Samuels' walk-off touchdown in overtime in 2016, this upcoming edition of The Game can be more aptly compared to the matchup in 2006.

That season featured a No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup with undefeated squads, at the time the first meeting between the teams in which both boasted a top-three ranking (a mark that was later met in 2016). That contest was dubbed "The Game of the Century" in Ohio State's 42-39 win, but this year's game has all that going and a little something extra: the revenge factor.

The Buckeyes had won the last two games against Michigan and four of the last five going into 2006, but Ohio State is tending to its wounds entering The Game on a loss for the first time since 2012 and just the fourth time since 2000.

"We've lived it every day," defensive end Zach Harrison said. "Coach Mick (Marotti) didn't let us forget how many yards they ran for and what they did on both sides, offensive line and defensive line. It's just something that has been in the back of our minds since a whole year ago. We've just got to go out there and play on Saturday and get the win."

This game not only serves as an opportunity for revenge for Ohio State, but it helps the Buckeyes reach their other goals. Day said entering the season that the program's three objectives are to beat Michigan, win the Big Ten and win a national championship.

A win over the Wolverines directly accomplishes one of those goals, and it secures Ohio State's spot in Indianapolis on Dec. 3 for the Big Ten Championship Game against whatever team survives the

battle royal known as the Big Ten West. Regardless of that result, though, a win over Michigan may still be enough to clinch a spot in this year's College Football Playoff, potentially putting Ohio State just two games away from the program's first national championship since 2014.

But none of that matters if The Game doesn't go Ohio State's way on Nov. 26. Another loss to the Wolverines – which would be the first ones in consecutive years since before Jim Tressel arrived on campus – and the Buckeyes, barring some chaos that results in a surprise appearance in the College Football Playoff, would likely end up with the Rose Bowl as a best-case scenario.

For all the pageantry and history associated with "The Granddaddy of Them All," it would be a difficult landing spot in back-to-back seasons for a team with a legitimate chance at title contention.

"None of it matters if we don't win on Saturday," Harrison said. "That's our mindset. It's not over. We've got a long way to go until we reach all of our goals."

With nearly a year to stew over the loss while Michigan has basked in glory, Day said it hasn't been easy for the Buckeyes in preparation for this season's contest. But regardless of the scars left by last season's loss, it's now time for Ohio State to get to work.

"It hasn't been good," he said. "We'll probably talk about it more this week, but we're looking forward to the preparation. Our guys have been focused on it all offseason, and during the season it's always in the back of our minds. The Week is officially here."

Terps Give Buckeyes Their Best Shot

While everyone – Ohio State and Michigan included – was seemingly peeking ahead to Nov. 26, there was a game to be played at Maryland's SECU Stadium on Nov. 19, and it didn't come easy for the Buckeyes.

Quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa was virtually unstoppable, finishing 26 of 36 passing for 293 yards and a pair of touchdowns, but the Buckeyes (11-0, 8-0 Big Ten) were able to escape College Park, Md., due to some pivotal second-half performances and down the Terrapins (6-5, 3-5) in a 43-30 win.

As has been the case with Ohio State since the off week in a phenomenon that will be studied by experts for years to come, the Buckeyes got off to a mostly slow start. After a six-play, 75-yard scoring drive to open the game – one that included another jaw-dropping grab by Marvin Harrison Jr. and a 31-yard touchdown pass from C.J. Stroud to TreVeyon Henderson – the Buckeyes were aimless, picking up just 84 yards and a field goal during their four remaining drives in the first half.

The Terrapins took advantage, picking up a pair of first-quarter field goals and adding a touchdown to take a 13-10 lead into the

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locker room. It was the third halftime deficit faced by Ohio State this season (Notre Dame and Penn State were the other instances) but the first against an unranked team.

"They're very dangerous and they're very athletic," Day said of Maryland. "They have good cover guys. Taulia is very talented. He has some very good weapons on the outside. Those guys played well."

Despite the early struggles, any momentum needed for the Buckeyes to head back to Columbus with a win came after Maryland's first drive of the second half. Ohio State's defense forced the Terrapins to punt after an incompletion on third-and-12, and safety Lathan Ransom – in a repeat performance from Ohio State's win over Indiana – shot past Maryland's blockers and blocked Colton Spangler's punt, which was recovered and returned to Maryland's 14-yard line by Xavier Johnson.

It took two plays for running back Dallan Hayden – filling in for an unavailable Miyan Williams and a hampered Henderson – to find the end zone, one of his three scores on the day, and give the Buckeyes a 17-13 lead.

"I just knew I had to be ready for whenever my number was called," Hayden said. "They needed me to go in, so I felt like I was ready. My teammates were very encouraging, so that always helps."

The teams continued battling back and forth deep into the final quarter with Ohio State eventually taking a 36-30 lead and leaving the Terrapins with the prospect of

an 84-yard drive to either tie or take the lead with under a minute remaining.

It was at that moment that Harrison introduced himself to the 41,969 fans in attendance. He sacked Tagovailoa on first down for a 7-yard loss, and on the next down, he immediately bull-rushed the quarterback, forcing him out of the pocket and chasing him before getting home. This forced a fumble that was plucked out of the air by linebacker Steele Chambers, who returned it a yard for the game-ending touchdown.

"I think we played tough," Harrison said. "They were a good team and they were tough, too. They threw some punches and we definitely took some. That's what Coach Day says, just keep swinging. They're going to fight back and they're not just going to roll over and let us come in there and beat them. So I'm just happy that we were able to keep fighting and keep playing hard and come out with a win."

Day agreed with Harrison's premise and said that despite the battle with the Terrapins, he was happy to leave with a win.

"There's some reasons for (the slow start) that we need to clean up, but what I think was the most important thing was at halftime, we came together and said, 'OK, this is going to be a four-quarter battle now,'" he said. "Sometimes we get in these games and they're not, but this was going to be, and we really buckled down in the third quarter, did a nice job, and then finished out the game the way that we should."



SONNY BROCKWAY

A WIN IS A WIN — Though Ohio State was perhaps looking ahead when it traveled to take on Maryland on Nov. 19, the Buckeyes still escaped College Park, Md., with a 43-30 win, capped off by a 1-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown by linebacker Steele Chambers.

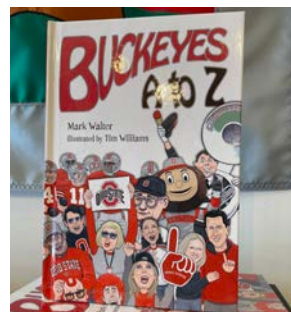
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Frosh Hayden Holds Down Running Game

The revolving door of running backs continued to spin for Ohio State against Maryland as the Buckeyes saw TreVeyon Henderson return from a two-week injury hiatus while Mivan Williams was sidelined after his leg was rolled up the week prior against Indiana.

Henderson got the nod to open the game, taking the lion's share of the carries during the game's first half while getting Ohio State on the board for the first time of the afternoon on a 31-yard catch-and-run on its opening drive. However, it became increasingly apparent as the game wore on that Henderson was still affected by his previously mentioned lower-body ailment, and he was not displaying his typical burst and came up limping on several runs.

Henderson closed the first half with just 19 yards on 11 carries, amassing a career-low 1.7 yards per attempt. After it became clear Henderson would be unable to make any meaningful contributions in the second half due to his injury, head coach Ryan Day and running backs coach Tony Alford turned to freshman running back Dallan Hayden, who did not play down to his freshman label.

Although the Buckeyes were able to churn out only 28 rushing yards during the first half, with Henderson as the primary ball carrier, Hayden helped Ohio State to 132 yards on the ground during the game's final two frames. The freshman finished the evening with 146 rushing yards and three touchdowns, with all three scores coming in the second half.

"We didn't quite get the running game go-

GAME NOTEBOOK Jack Emerson

ing in the first half and then made the change to Dallan," Day said. "He really got us into a rhythm. I thought he was hitting the holes hard. For a young player with so much on the line here today, to play like that – first off, to take care of the football, that's the No. 1 thing. When you hand somebody that football, you're putting the whole team in their hands. That's something we talk about a lot.

"We trusted that Dallan was going to do that. He had a couple spots this year, but this was big, and for him to get this game under his belt will build some confidence for him."

Hayden ran the ball just once during the game's first two quarters, carrying the rock during Ohio State's final drive of the half for a gain of 3 yards. Although his role was largely limited to start the game, it became increasingly clear that he would have to carry the load in the second half.

Day and Hayden shared a moment prior to entering the locker room, which essentially served as a passing of the torch from Henderson to the freshman.

"He was just telling me to calm down," Hayden said. "In this offense as a true freshman, sometimes you can get overwhelmed,



SONNY BROCKWAY

PAY THE RANSOM — In his last two games against Indiana and Maryland, Ohio State safety Lathan Ransom became the first Buckeye to block a punt in back-to-back game since Mike Doss completed the feat in 2001.

but I felt like I was good. He was just being motivating like he always is."

Hayden's big second half was sparked by a blocked punt from safety Lathan Ransom following Maryland's first drive of the third quarter, which set the Buckeyes up from the Terrapin 14-yard line. It took only two carries for Hayden to find pay dirt, scoring on an 8-yard run which was freed up by excellent downfield blocking by center Luke Wypler.

Hayden was off and running from there, carrying the ball an additional 24 times in the second half while producing an additional pair of touchdowns. What largely stood out from his performance was his ability to hit the hole, which he described as a trait that comes easily to him.

"I feel like I've always been naturally able to hit the hole, get downhill and get vertical," Hayden said. "I've never really been a dancing-type of back. I feel like it's natural."

Although he was placed in an adverse situation, filling in for one of the most highly touted running backs in the country, Hayden

made the most of it and noted that he feels he gained trust from his coaches. He said there's still plenty of areas for improvement and made it clear that he can't rest on his laurels from just this game.

"I just always try to maintain the next-play mentality," Hayden said. "You're going to have good plays and bad plays. You just can't think about the last play. You just have to keep moving forward."

Ransom Battles Through Injury

Although standout safety Ransom had another night to remember, it did not start in a positive light for the Tucson, Ariz., native.

On Maryland's opening play, quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa connected with tight end CJ Dippre, who shook Ransom en route to a 25-yard catch-and-run. Not only did Ransom miss the tackle on the play, but he also sustained a broken thumb and was forced to play the rest of the game with a cast on his right hand. Although Ransom had the full use of only one hand, he said the bonds within the defensive unit were the spark that kept him in the game.

"I broke my thumb the first play of the game and then just had to come back," Ransom said. "I mean, we have a leader like Tommy (Eichenberg). Tommy, he's our leader and we look up to him and he's one of the toughest dudes I know. And it really just shows the defense how tough we are."

Ransom was all over the field yet again, confirming his status as a semifinalist for the Jim Thorpe Award, which is granted to the best defensive back in college football. He finished the game with seven tackles, six of which were solos, while adding a tackle for loss and a pass breakup. While Ransom's defensive contributions were solid, it was his play on special teams that turned the tides of the game.

The Buckeyes trailed 13-10 early in the third quarter. Maryland was set to punt after failing to convert on a third-and-12. Upon the snap, Ransom burst off the right edge of the line and blew past both lines of blockers to swat the punt off Terrapin punter Colton Spangler's foot. The blocked punt set the Buckeyes up from the Maryland 14-yard line and helped kick-start Ohio State's second-half

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Ransom recorded his second blocked punt in as many weeks, marking the first time a Buckeye blocked a punt in back-to-back weeks since Mike Doss did so in 2001 against UCLA and Indiana.

"In today's day and age, there's a lot of things that go on and are said – this guy's producing," Day said. "That's amazing. And that was a really huge point of the game, got us a lot of momentum."

Although Ransom was forced to utilize his broken thumb to block the punt, he was unbothered by any pain and relished the moment instead.

"(It was) not painful," Ransom said. "It felt great."

Tagovailoa Troubles Ohio State Defense

Ohio State's pass defense faced its stiffest test against the Terrapins, as Tagovailoa – along with five-star receiver Rakim Jarrett – boasted the fourth-best passing offense in the Big Ten, racking up 242.0 yards per game, prior to meeting the Buckeyes.

However, there was some question regarding the Maryland aerial attack prior to the game after the Terrapins failed to reach over 100 yards passing in each of their last two contests while Tagovailoa recovered from a knee injury and the offensive line also worked through some injuries. Despite laying duds in his last two outings, Tagovailoa showed a rejuvenated energy against the Buckeyes, burning Ohio State's secondary to the tune of 293 yards and two touchdowns while completing 72.2 percent of his passes.

Tagovailoa completed his first 11 attempts of the afternoon, hitting eight different receivers in the process. Ransom said Tagovailoa's ability to get several receivers involved gave the Buckeyes fits at times, but he also felt the defense did a solid job adapting to Maryland's strength in numbers approach.

"They spread the ball around," Ransom said. "They got the ball out fast. He was making a lot of plays, extending plays. They had a good game plan in. But at the end of the day, we made adjustments and finished the game."

Tagovailoa completed five passes of at least 25 yards, including a long of 49 to Jarrett, which came on a key scoring drive during the early stages of the fourth quarter.

The Ewa Beach, Hawaii, native was also impactful with his legs, an area in which the Buckeyes have struggled this season. While Tagovailoa netted only 12 yards on the ground, primarily due to five sacks dipping his yardage total by 25, he added a carry of 26 yards along with a 5-yard score with 13:53 to go in the fourth quarter.

Day gave credit where it was due following the game and said there were areas of improvement for the secondary ahead of The Game.

"I thought Taulia played his heart out today," Day said. "I thought he did really well, did a nice job. But there's some plays in there that we've got to look at and try to address what's going on there because certainly we'd like to see better play. There are good players in this league, and they're going to get yards."

Penalties Pop Up Despite Win

Although it appeared that Ohio State's early-season penalty issues had largely been quelled at this point in the campaign after the Buckeyes registered just three in each of their

Be it a change in scheme, change in running back or turn-around on the offensive line, Ohio State found something running the ball in the second half against Maryland.

The Buckeyes' yard per carry doubled from 2.2 yards in the first half to 4.4 in the second, and that's factoring in a cluster of short runs up the middle late in the game that served to chew clock while gaining little yardage.

Freshman running back Dallan Hayden picked up 3 yards on one carry in the first half, took over for injured running back TreVeyon Henderson in the second and rattled off 143 yards and three touchdowns on 26 carries.

Hayden mostly did it in chunks, too, with his longest run of the night going for 18 yards. His style appeared much more downhill than Henderson's before him, with Ohio State utilizing more runs between the tackles as opposed to its wide-zone concepts with Henderson on the field.

While there were few rushers who contributed for Ohio State other than Hayden, the Buckeyes nearly doubled the Terrapins' rushing total for the afternoon, churning out 160 yards to their 84.

What Didn't Work

Ohio State's pass defense got gashed by Maryland quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa. Whether on short, predictable throws underneath or deep shots down the field, he kept the Terrapins in the contest with his arm. His final stat line read 26 of 36 with 293 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. Six different Maryland receiving targets recorded at least three catches.

He was accurate deep downfield as well as in both the short and intermediate range. On the Terrapins' first drive of the contest, Tagovailoa found tight end CJ Dippre breaking quick over the middle for a 12-yard pickup on third-and-7, helping to culminate in a field goal that opened the squad's scoring.

Furthermore, many of the short throws Tagovailoa com-

pleted were opened up by soft coverage from Ohio State. With Buckeye cornerback Denzel Burke playing 8 yards off Maryland wide receiver Dontay Demus Jr. on a third-and-4 to open the second half, Tagovailoa connected with him on a quick out route to move the chains.

None of Tagovailoa's throws was more beautiful, though, than the one that helped bring his team back to within a field goal with less than 10 minutes to play. A gorgeous ball up the left sideline fell into the breadbasket of wide receiver Rakim Jarrett, good for a 49-yard gain that gave Maryland first-and-goal at the Ohio State 9-yard line. Four plays later, Tagovailoa tossed a 1-yard touchdown pass to Jeshaun Jones after evading a pair of Ohio State pass rushers on fourth-and-goal.

That was far from the only deep strike he connected on. Five of his 26 completions went for 25 yards or more, including several 50/50 balls that Buckeye corners lost on up the sidelines.

Play Of The Game

For the second game in a row, safety Lathan Ransom recorded a critical punt block. As Ohio State trailed 13-10 in the third quarter, Ransom ran untouched through Maryland's punt protection detail and dived to swat down a ball off the foot of Maryland punter Colton Spangler.

Wide receiver Xavier Johnson scooped up the loose ball to place Ohio State's offense at the Maryland 14-yard line, and Hayden plunged in for an 8-yard touchdown two plays later to set the Buckeyes ahead 17-13.

Ransom's block wasn't just impressive because of its impact, but because he had broken his thumb on Ohio State's first defensive play against the Terrapins, resulting in him wearing a cast on his right hand. Despite whatever pain he may have been in, Ransom sold out to make a game-altering play with his injured appendage.

— Andy Anders

last two games, Ohio State reverted to its old ways against Maryland.

The Buckeyes registered 11 penalties for 97 yards, which both were season-high marks. Ohio State's most unforgiving mistakes came in the form of a trio of delay-of-game penalties, one of which came with the Buckeyes set to attempt a two-point conversion and forced Ohio State to kick a disastrous extra point. As Noah

Ruggles approached the ball, Maryland's Deonte Banks screamed off of the edge and blocked the kick, leading to an 80-yard return by Jakorian Bennett that gave the Terrapins a pair of points.

Day was irate about Ohio State's recurring miscues and noted that both players and coaches would be punished for the penalties.

"They were winding it fast coming off the

sideline," Day said of the delay penalties. "One of them I've got to get in faster, another one that C.J. (Stroud) maybe lost the clock. We had 11? That's too many. I don't know if I have a great answer for that. I know that a couple of those, administratively, we could have done a better job. We'll have to go figure it out and do a little running tomorrow. Coaches run too on those penalties."

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BSB Quotebook: Ohio State 43, Maryland 30

Ohio State head coach Ryan Day on the team's win: "When you're playing in November in the Big Ten, these are challenging week-in and week-out. The No. 1 goal is to win and move on. There's been times this year where we've had style points, if you want to say, and we've won big, but there's going to be games where you don't jump out as fast as you would have liked to."

Maryland head coach Mike Locksley on the game: "What you saw today is us go blow-for-blow with a team that I consider to be one of the best in the country. When I started this week, the question I asked our team was where were we? I saw a team take accountability for how we played the past few weeks."

Ohio State safety Lathan Ransom on blocking a punt with a broken thumb: "We're just doing what we've got to do to win the game, doing what I've got to do for my brothers. I mean, at the end of the day, Tommy (Eichenberg) is playing with two messed up hands. What's my excuse to not go out there and play?"

Ransom on his tackle for loss that set up his blocked punt: "That's the (same type of) play that I hurt my thumb on the first drive. That was a big explosive at the beginning of the game that was on me. Had to get that fixed, make adjustments and

didn't let it happen again."

Ohio State defensive end Zach Harrison on his game-clinching strip sack: "On film, we saw that they're a good team, they've got good players, they've got good offensive linemen and if I just kept rushing, they'd wear out as the game went on. I felt like those last couple plays, I just took advantage of my technique and kept going hard."

Harrison on Ransom's play: "Lathan, he's a special player. I love having him play behind me because I know that I've got time to rush with those guys behind me."

Day on the growth of the defensive line: "I think they take a lot of pride in their production, and that's really the most important thing. Are you making plays or are you not? It's not always seen by the interior guys because they're taking on blocks so the linebackers can run down and make tackles. I think when you see Taron (Vincent) and Ty Hamilton and Mike Hall and those guys, so they don't always get the production that we all see, but when they're knocking down the line of scrimmage, that's what's really important – and boy, is that going to be important next week."

Day on the performance of freshman running back Dallan Hayden: "When you see him hit (the hole), he's running through

contact. You can feel it. He's got really good feet, made some guys miss, even at the end there when it was a four-minute drill and they had everyone in (the box)."

Hayden on his expectations entering his freshman season: "Coming in, I honestly didn't know what to expect – especially since I was a summer enrollee. Usually, with the summer guys, it kind of takes time for us to learn everything. But I feel like this summer, I locked in and learned the playbook. It just helped me, honestly."

Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud on passing game difficulties: "We knew that their (defensive back) corps was pretty good, and we were going to have to attack them not only down the field, but in intermediate situations. So we've just got to be more crisp, just be better. I think at the end of the day, winning, 11-0, that's still pretty good. It's tough playing late in the season."

Day on the team's motivation going into Michigan week coming off a loss last year: "We've been scarred, even though we've been on a 12-game run. Coming off of that game, we were highly motivated this season to get back to where we are right now. There's been a lot of hard work, a lot of blood, sweat and tears, to get back to where we are right now to get the team to this point right here."

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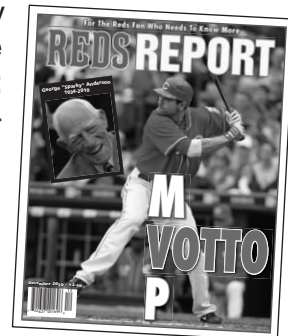
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Hayden Runs Buckeyes Past Pesky Terps

By **CRAIG MERZ**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

With starting running back TreVeyon Henderson ailing again and backup Miyan Williams not dressed for the game because of an injury, No. 2 Ohio State turned to freshman Dallan Hayden, and he did not disappoint.

Hayden rushed for three touchdowns, and his fourth-quarter running squeezed the life out of the clock when Ohio State held on for a 43-30 win against Maryland in College Park, Md., on Nov. 19.

He ran for 146 yards on 27 carries for the Buckeyes (11-0, 8-0 Big Ten), and C.J. Stroud was 18 of 30 for 241 yards and a touchdown. Taulia Tagovailoa was 26 of 36 for 293 yards and two touchdowns for Maryland (6-5, 3-5).

The Terrapins led 13-10 at the half before the Buckeyes went ahead 27-13 entering the fourth quarter only to have Maryland pull to within a field goal at 33-30. But just as in 2018, the last time OSU visited and escaped with a 52-51 overtime win, it wasn't enough to pull off an upset before 41,969 fans at SECU Stadium. The late-afternoon kickoff temperature was 44 degrees under sunny skies.

Stops And Starts

The Buckeyes used six plays to go 75 yards in 1:32 after the opening kickoff to take 7-0 lead on a 31-yard screen pass to Henderson, who would soon be hobbled by a foot injury that had caused him to miss the previous two games. He finished with 11 carries for 19 yards.

Marvin Harrison Jr. on the first play had a 29-yard reception to the Maryland 46, and on a third-and-1 from the 37, Henderson gained 6 yards two plays before the score.

Maryland's first possession resulted in a 31-yard field goal by Chad Ryland at 8:47. The Terrapins had the ball for 4:35 to run nine plays. CJ Dippre had two catches for 37 yards, and a key play was defensive end J.T. Tuimoloua's face-mask penalty on Tagovailoa during a 6-yard sack. The infraction moved the ball to the 17 but on third-and-4 from the



SONNY BROCKWAY

NEXT MAN UP — Ohio State freshman running back Dallan Hayden has been a positive revelation for the Buckeyes this season, helping to fill in during the absences of Miyan Williams and TreVeyon Henderson.

11, Jack Sawyer had a sack of 2 yards to force the field goal.

After a 43-yard punt by Jesse Mirco to the Maryland 43, Octavian Smith Jr. had a catch for 11 yards, Jeshawn Jones had another for 10, and Roman Hemby made a grab and ran it to the 10 for a gain of 27. Hemby ran for 4 yards, Jones' reception went for 2 and Antwain Littleton II rushed for just a yard to set up a 21-yard field goal by Ryland to make it 7-6 at 3:52.

Ohio State extended the lead to 10-6 at 10:02 of the second quarter on a 33-yard field goal by Noah Ruggles. The Buckeyes moved from their 10 to the Maryland 14 before being stopped on a third-and-11 when Stroud couldn't connect with Harrison near the goal

line. During the drive, Julian Fleming had a 25-yard catch, and Emeka Egbuka added a 13-yarder to the Maryland 48. The drive was aided by a personal foul on Tommy Akingbese that placed the ball on the 14.

Maryland took its first lead, 13-10, at the 3:52 mark on a TD pass to Dippre on the end of a 75-yard, 14-play, 6:10 series.

Rakim Jarrett rushed for 12 yards on a first down, but a holding penalty instead moved the Terrapins back 10 yards before Tagovailoa threw his first incompleteness of the game on his 12th throw. He came back with a 34-yard toss to Dontay Demus to the OSU 38. Jarrett had a 9-yard reception, and a pass interference on Lathan Ransom moved the ball to the 13. Six plays later, the Terrapins scored.

Tagovailoa in the first half was 16 of 18 for 170 yards while Stroud was 9 of 18 for 131 yards. The Buckeyes had 13 rushes for 28 yards and seven penalties for 62 yards.

"We didn't quite get the running game going in the first half," Ohio State head coach Ryan Day said.

Wild Ride

The Buckeyes regained the lead, 17-13, in quick order when Ransom, for the second straight game, blocked a punt and Xavier Johnson made the recovery.

Maryland punted from its 39 when Ransom got a piece of it, and Johnson picked it up at the 21 and returned it to the 14. Dallan Hayden ran for 6 yards then scored on an 8-yard rush at 12:13 of the third quarter.

Ruggles extended the lead to 20-13 at 7:52 with a 47-yard field goal. The Buckeyes got into scoring position on a 35-yard catch by Egbuka to the 14. But runs from Hayden and Egbuka netted a yard before Stroud was called for intentional grounding, pushing the ball back to the 29.

Hayden had a 3-yard TD with 16 seconds left in the third quarter to make it 27-13. He

had runs of 5, 4, 17 and 9 yards to start the 11-play drive that began at the 12. Harrison made a 17-yard catch, and a later pass-interference call put the ball at the 17. Cade Stover made a 14-yard reception on the play before the touchdown. The Buckeyes held the ball for 5:08.

The Terps would not go away, and Tagovailoa rallied them to within a possession at 27-21 with 13:53 to play. Tai Felton had a catch of 36 yards and Jacob Copeland's reception of 12 yards put the ball at the OSU 25. A pass interference on Cameron Martinez put the ball at the 10, and Hemby hauled in a 5-yarder prior to Tagovailoa's 5-yard TD run. He then threw to Copeland for the two-point conversion.

The Buckeyes responded on the ensuing kickoff when Johnson had a return of 46 yards to the OSU 47. They needed four plays to score in 1:09 via a 13-yard run by Hayden. Ohio State had looked to also go for a two-point conversion, but after a delay-of-game penalty, the Buckeyes opted for an extra-point attempt that was blocked and returned for two points by Jakorian Bennett for a 33-23 score with 12:36 to play. A 15-yard personal foul on the Terps helped set up the score, as did a 13-yard catch by Egbuka to the 13.

Maryland pulled to within a field goal at 33-30 on a fourth-down, 1-yard catch by Jones with 9:49 left. Jones earlier ran for 16, and Jarrett made a 49-yard catch to the OSU 9. Hemby gained 8 yards on three carries before the TD.

Ohio State turned the ball over on downs at the Maryland 42 with 6:36 remaining when a fourth-and-1 pass to Harrison fell short.

The defense forced a three-and-out, and the Buckeyes regained possession at their 12 after a punt. Ruggles then made a 45-yard field goal with 42 seconds left to make it 36-30. The Buckeyes chewed up 5:12 of the clock.

Hayden ran six times for 41 yards to move the chains, but facing third-and-6 from the Maryland 42, Egbuka had an 8-yard catch that withstood a review. Hayden gained 7 yards on three totes, prompting the field goal.

"I feel like I've always naturally been able to just hit the hole and get downhill and get vertical," Hayden said. "I've never really been like a dancing type of back."

Maryland started from the 16 with 36 seconds remaining. On the first play, Zach Harrison had a sack for 7 yards. Then Harrison got to the QB again for a sack, forcing a fumble by Tagovailoa. Steele Chambers snagged the ball out of the air and ran it in from the 1 for the final score with nine seconds left.

Tagovailoa was shaken up on the play, so after the kickoff, Eric Najarian completed a 25-yard pass to Copeland to the OSU 29 to end the game.

Notes

Egbuka had a game-high six catches for 82 yards. Harrison had five for 68. ... Hayden averaged 5.4 yards on his 27 carries. ... Maryland outgained the Buckeyes by a yard, 402-401. The Terps had 318 passing and 84 rushing. OSU passed for 241 and ran for 160. ... The Buckeyes were penalized 11 times for 97 yards. Maryland was flagged 10 times for 96. ... Tommy Eichenberg led all players with 13 tackles (10 solo).

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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 43, Maryland 30

Nov. 19, 2022 – SECU Stadium, College Park, Md.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
OHIO STATE	7	3	17	16	43
MARYLAND	6	7	0	17	30

First Quarter

OSU – Henderson, 31-yard pass from Stroud (Ruggles kick), 13:28.

UMD – Ryland, 31-yard field goal, 8:47.

UMD – Ryland, 21-yard field goal, 3:53.

Second Quarter

OSU – Ruggles, 33-yard field goal, 10:02.

UMD – Dippre, 1-yard pass from Tagovailoa (Ryland kick), 3:52.

Third Quarter

OSU – Hayden, 8-yard rush (Ruggles kick), 12:13.

OSU – Ruggles, 47-yard field goal, 7:52.

OSU – Hayden, 3-yard rush (Ruggles kick), 0:16.

Fourth Quarter

UMD – Tagovailoa, 5-yard rush (Copeland pass from Tagovailoa), 13:53.

OSU – Hayden, 13-yard rush (Ruggles kick), 12:36.

UMD – Bennett, 80-yard blocked extra point return, 12:36.

UMD – Jones, 1-yard pass from Tagovailoa (Ryland kick), 9:49.

OSU – Ruggles, 45-yard field goal, 0:42.

OSU – Chambers, 1-yard fumble return (Ruggles kick), 0:09.

Att. - 41,969

Weather - Sunny

Team Statistics

	OSU	UMD
First Downs	26	22
Rushing	9	5
Passing	12	13
Penalty	5	4
Rushes-Yards	43-160	31-84
Passing Yards	241	318
Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.)	18-30-0	27-37-0
Offensive Plays	73	68
Total Net Yards	401	402
Third Down Efficiency	8-15	6-14
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	1-1
Punts-Avg.	3-41.0	5-32.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties	11-97	10-97
Time of Possession	30:15	29:45

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) – OSU: Hayden 27-146; Henderson 11-19; Egbuka 1-1; Stroud 4-(-6).

UMD: Hemby 11-39; Jones 1-16; Littleton II 7-12; Tagovailoa 10-12; Jarrett 2-5.

PASSING (Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.-TD) – OSU: Stroud 18-30-0-241-1. **UMD:** Tagovailoa 26-36-0-293-2; Najarian 1-1-0-25-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) – **OSU:** Egbuka 6-82; Harrison Jr. 5-68; Fleming 2-30; Stover 2-20; Hayden 2-10; Henderson 1-31. **UMD:** Demus 5-67; Copeland 4-45; Hemby 4-37; Dippre 4-30; Jarrett 3-65; Jones 3-13; Felton 2-46; Smith Jr. 1-11; Dvches 1-4.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) – OSU: Mirco 3-41.0-45. **UMD:** Spangler 4-40.2-47.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: None. **UMD:** Still 1-1.

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) – **OSU:** X. Johnson 3-80. **UMD:** Copeland 3-59; Smith Jr. 1-22; Arns III 1-5.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES (No.-Yds.) – OSU: Chambers 1-1. **UMD:** None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) – OSU: None. **UMD:** None.

SACKS – **OSU**: Harrison 2-15; Tuimoloau 1-7; Sawyer 1-2; Proctor 1-1. **UMD**: None.

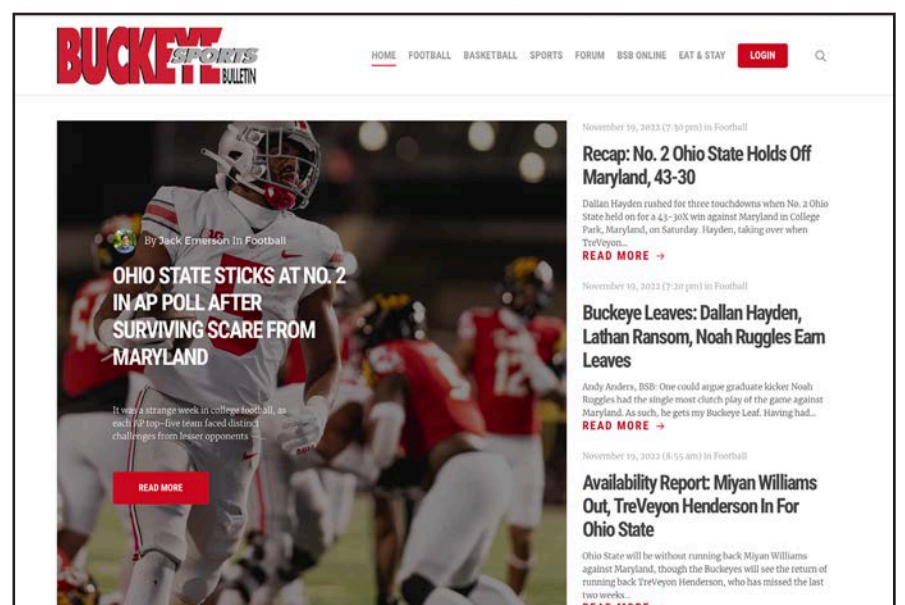
TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) – **OSU**: Harrison 2.5-16; Ransom 1-8; Tuimolalo 1-7; Eichenberg 1-2; Sawyer 1-2; Proctor 1-1; Vincent 0.5-0. **UMD**: Brade 1-2; Einau 1-1; Miller 1-1; Still 1-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Asst.-Tot.) – OSU: Eichenberg 10-3-13; Ransom 6-1-7; Hickman 3-4-7; Harrison 2-3-5; McCalister 4-0-4; Chambers 2-2-4; Sawyer 2-2-4; Burke 2-1-3; Proctor 2-0-2; Hancock 2-0-2; Tuimolou 2-0-2; Gaoteote IV 2-0-2; Hamilton 1-1-2; Vincent 0-2-2; J. Brown 1-0-1; Hicks 1-0-1; Curry 1-0-1; Hall Jr. 0-1-1. **UMD:** Brade 6-2-8; Trader Jr. 5-2-7; Barham 2-4-6; Still 5-0-5; Finau 3-2-5; Chibueze 2-3-5; Banks 3-1-4; Hyppolite II 2-2-4; Bennett 3-0-3; Gotay 3-0-3; Wyatt 1-2-3; Miller 2-0-2; Hazel 1-1-2; Nasili-Kite 1-1-2; Booker Jr. 1-1-2; Cowan 0-2-2; Spraggins 1-0-1; Spangler 1-0-1; Greeley 1-0-1; Gibson 0-1-1; Fuller 0-1-1; McCullough 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME – OSU: Harrison Jr, Egbuka, Henderson, Fleming, Wypler, M. Jones, Stroud, Jackson, Johnson Jr., D. Jones, Stover, Burke, Ransom, Hickman, McCalister, Chambers, C. Brown, Eichenberg, Tuimoloua, Hamilton, Vincent, Harrison, X. Johnson, Hicks, Martinez, J. Brown, Gaoteote IV, Mirco, Sawyer, Rossi, Fielding, J. Johnson, Proctor, Hayden, Hall Jr, Michalski, Vimahi, Leroux, Hancock, Fryar, Christman, Jean-Baptiste, Scott Jr, Ballard, T. Williams, Curry, Arnold, Ruggles.

UMD: Felton, Dippre, Hemby, Tagovailoa, Vranich, Anderson, Jones, Demus, Duncan, Glaze, Lunsford, China-Rose, Barham, Hyppolite II, Trader Jr, Bennett, Brade, Banks, Nasili-Kite, Still, Wyatt, Finau, Jarrett, Miller, Hazel, Smith Jr, McCullough, Copeland, Spraggins, Najarian, Gibson, Nchami, Littleton II, Mosley, Bearsn III, Ryland, Johnson, Fleming, Brownlee, Fuller, Greeley, Gough, Moran, Cowan, Brown, Dyches, Booker Jr, Gotay, Teaque, Chibueze, Fontaine, Spangler, Akingbesote.

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Confident U-M Seeks Repeat In The Game

By **BRADEN MOLES**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Associate Editor

Since the turn of the century, confidence in the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry is something that's largely been reserved for the Buckeyes. That isn't to say the Wolverines don't like their chances in any given year – it wouldn't be much of a feud if they didn't – but Ohio State, which held a 17-3 advantage since 2000 and had won the previous eight games heading into last season's contest, had been able to back up the talk on a year-to-year basis.

That was until last season. After an early-season loss to Oregon that exposed several issues on the team, including questionable play in the trenches, those same problems plagued the Buckeyes when they headed up to Ann Arbor, Mich., for their regular-season finale. Though Ohio State kept things close in the first half – even holding a 10-7 lead early in the second quarter – it was clear the Buckeyes were being outcoached and outplayed by their Big Ten counterparts.

Michigan then exploded for four touchdowns in the second half as Ohio State was unable to keep up on the ground, rushing for just 64 yards on 30 carries (2.1 per attempt) for the game while the Wolverines went for 297 yards on 41 carries, gouging the Buckeyes for 7.2 yards per carry. Hassan Haskins led the way, rushing for 169 yards and a school-record five touchdowns.

It was a 42-27 defeat for Ohio State, the first in the rivalry since 2011, and the scars were immediate for the Buckeyes.

“We work for this game 365 days out of the year, and you come up short, it's a failure and it hurts,” Ohio State head coach Ryan Day said. “We didn't run the ball very well on offense and we hurt ourselves with some penalties, and we didn't stop the run on the other side of the ball.”

While Ohio State was left to sulk, Michigan began a celebration tour that included some not-so-subtle shots at the Buckeyes, whether it be at their head coach or at the program as a whole. The winners write the history, and they began a narrative that questioned Ohio State's toughness and gave the Buckeyes a label that has haunted them ever since: finesse.

“They're a good team,” then-Michigan offensive coordinator Josh Gattis said. “They're a finesse team; they're not a tough team.”

Both teams moved on, with Ohio State going on to win the Rose Bowl and Michigan picking up a victory in the Big Ten Championship Game before a losing date with Georgia in the College Football Playoff. After several months to consider the Wolverines' win over the Buckeyes, the team's representatives – players and coaches – appeared at Big Ten Media Days in July, and Michigan was still happy to flaunt the win.

“In a sense, I was surprised how kind of out of hand I thought it was,” quarterback Cade McNamara said. “I thought the gap was pretty big during that game, and I'm sure Ohio State didn't feel very good about that. I know that the (offensive line) was very confident in themselves going into that game and that was our identity last season was that we're going to be physical. And I do not see that changing.”

McNamara added that the win over Ohio State provided a serious boost for Michigan heading into this season.

“There's less weight on our shoulders as to the stress of, ‘We have to do this.’ In a way it was like anxiety as to why is Coach (Jim) Har-

baugh in the hot seat? Why does he have to face the criticism?” he said. “Because if anyone wants to beat Ohio State, it's Coach Harbaugh, and I can promise you that.”

And through the first 11 games of the season, this undefeated Michigan squad has reasons to feel it can come into Columbus on Nov. 26 and knock off the also undefeated Buckeyes. It's the first 11-0 start for the Wolverines since 2006 – though they're certainly hoping that isn't an omen for this year's outcome in The Game – and they've done so with relative ease, bar a recent win over Illinois.

The Wolverines escaped with a 19-17 win over the Fighting Illini at The Big House on Nov. 19, requiring a game-winning, 35-yard field goal to lift Michigan over Illinois. Many of the Wolverines' problems stemmed from the loss of running back Blake Corum, who exited the game late in the first half after suffering an apparent left knee injury. He appeared briefly in the second half, taking one carry for 5 yards, but he did not play again despite Michigan being locked in a dogfight with Illinois.

Harbaugh did not have an update after the game on his status, and though he said Corum's knee was “structurally good,” he did not commit to Corum playing against Ohio State. The Wolverines should hope, though, that he takes the field. Corum has been one of the nation's best this season, accounting for 1,457 rushing yards and 18 rushing touchdowns while averaging 5.9 yards per attempt.

Even if Corum isn't able to go, the Wolverines have a viable backup in Donovan Edwards, who has 471 yards on 70 attempts this season, good for 6.7 yards per rush. Edwards has had his own struggles with injuries, though, and freshman C.J. Stokes would likely be the next man up.

While Corum and the rushing attack have been the focus for Michigan's offense this season – one that is scoring 39.4 points per game and averaging 452.6 yards per contest – there have also been notable contributions from quarterback J.J. McCarthy, who won the starting job over McNamara earlier this season.

McCarthy – a former five-star prospect in the 2021 recruiting class – has turned in a consistent performance for the Wolverines this season, completing 66.8 percent of his passes and averaging 177.5 passing yards per game. Wide receiver Ronnie Bell (48 receptions, 641 yards) and tight end Luke Schoonmaker (30 receptions, 315 yards) are the team's leading receivers after tight end Erick All – who was second on the team in receiving last season – was lost for the year after undergoing surgery.

The offense is further boosted by an offensive line that is a semifinalist for the Joe Moore Award – an award the program also won last season – which honors an offensive line that shows tough and physical play in the trenches.

The award-winning unit returns three starters from last season and also added graduate transfer Olusegun Oluwatimi at center, who has been named a semifinalist for essentially every offensive line award in the country. While there have been some injuries on the line that have forced starters out for a game or two, the play has remained consistent.

“They've handled it really good,” Harbaugh said. “We are better and deeper because of the experience that some guys have gotten. We feel good about that.”

More questions entering the season centered on Michigan's defense, which lost the production of defensive end Aidan Hutchinson

Get To Know ... Michigan

2022 Record: 11-0.
Team Information: Offensive Formation - Spread; Defensive Formation - 4-3; Starters Returning - Offense 9, Defense 4, Specialists 2.
Head Coach: Jim Harbaugh, 8th year at Michigan, 72-24.
Series History: 118th meeting; Michigan leads 59-52-6.
School Facts: Location – Ann Arbor, Mich.; Enrollment – 44,718; Nickname – Wolverines; Colors – Maize, Blue; Conference – Big Ten (East Division); Stadium – Michigan Stadium (Surface, FieldTurf; Capacity – 107,601).

Top Offensive Players

Rushing	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD
Blake Corum	245	1457	5.9	18
Donovan Edwards	70	471	6.7	4
C.J. Stokes	53	268	5.1	1

Passing	Comp-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD-INT
J.J. McCarthy	165-247	66.8	1952	14-2

Receiving	Rec.	Net	Avg.	TD
Ronnie Bell	48	641	13.4	2
Luke Schoonmaker	30	315	10.5	2
Cornelius Johnson	25	300	12.0	4

Team Offensive Stats

Points Per Game —39.4
Rushing Yards Per Game — 243.8
Passing Yards Per Game — 208.8
Total Offense Avg. Per Game — 452.6

2022 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/Result (ET)
Sept. 3	COLORADO	W, 51-7
Sept. 10	HAWAII	W, 56-10
Sept. 17	CONNECTICUT	W, 59-0
Sept. 24	MARYLAND	W, 34-27
Oct. 1	at Iowa	W, 27-14
Oct. 8	at Indiana	W, 31-10
Oct. 15	PENN STATE	W, 41-17
Oct. 29	MICHIGAN STATE	W, 29-7
Nov. 5	at Rutgers	W, 52-17
Nov. 12	NEBRASKA	W, 34-3
Nov. 19	ILLINOIS	W, 19-17
Nov. 26	at Ohio State	12 p.m.
Dec. 3	Big Ten Championship	8 p.m.

Top Defensive Players

Def. Leaders	Solo	Asst.	Tot.	TFL-Yards	Sacks
Junior Colson	32	41	73	6.0-22	2.0-10
Michael Barrett	25	21	46	3.0-24	2.5-23
Kris Jenkins	23	20	43	3.5-9	2.0-6
Mike Sainristil	25	16	41	4.5-18	2.0-9

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Rod Moore	3	71	23.7	0
Michael Barrett	2	52	26.0	1

Team Defensive Stats

Points Per Game Allowed — 11.7
Rushing Yards Per Game Allowed — 79.5
Passing Yards Per Game Allowed — 161.7
Total Offense Avg. Per Game Allowed — 241.3

Moore and R.J. Moten, who have filled in admirably to help the Michigan secondary limit opponents to just 161.7 passing yards per game.

What the Michigan defense also does well – much as it did last season, perhaps most strongly evidenced by the win over Ohio State – is defend against the run. The Wolverines are allowing just 79.5 rushing yards per game, which ranks second in the country and first in the Big Ten.

Don't forget the leg of kicker Jake Moody, either, who is 25 of 30 on field-goal tries this season and a perfect 47 of 47 on extra points. For his career, he is 65 of 79 on field goals and has yet to miss on 135 extra-point attempts.

“I've been watching Michigan football since I was a kid,” Harbaugh said after Moody hit the game-winner against Illinois. “I'm a pretty decent historian of Michigan football, and I am nominating him for legendary status at the University of Michigan.”

All this to say, while it may not be the same Michigan team that took out eight years of frustration on Ohio State last season, it's a team with new strengths and new weaknesses that is very capable of winning games, evidenced by the unbeaten record entering the final week of the season.

With all eyes set to be on Columbus – ESPN's “College GameDay” and FOX's “Big Noon Kickoff” will both be in attendance with the game broadcast at noon on FOX – to watch the matchup between No. 2 Ohio State and No. 3 Michigan, it may not end up as a game of the century, but it could still be one for the ages, and both teams like their chances going in.

“Now that we got that (win) for (Harbaugh), I think now that we know what that looks like,” McNamara said in July, “we're going to be even more confident going into that game.”



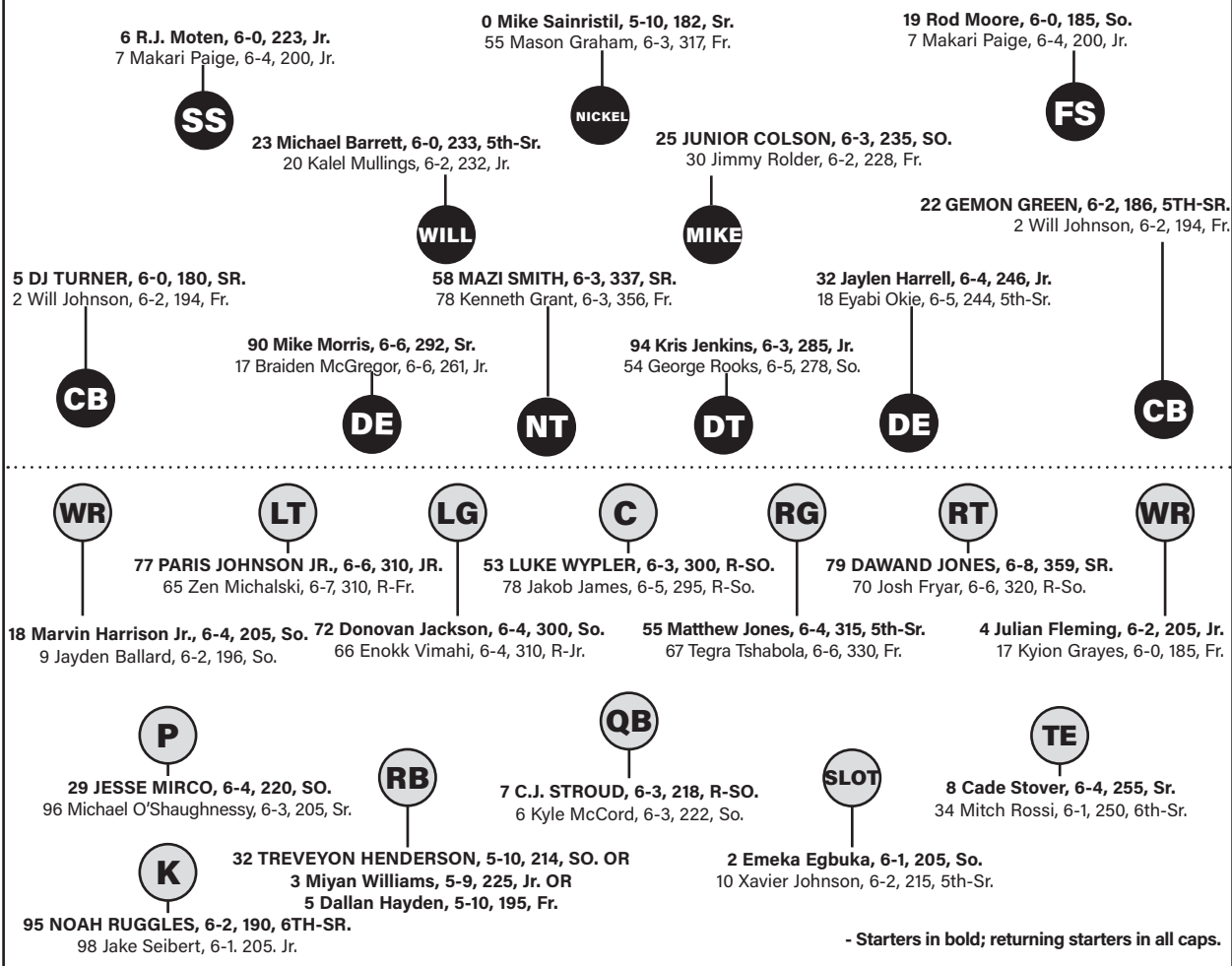
Michigan at Ohio State

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Projected Depth Charts

WHEN OHIO STATE HAS THE BALL...



How We See It

OHIO STATE RUSH OFFENSE vs. MICHIGAN RUSH DEFENSE

The revolving door of running backs stopped at Dallon Hayden when the freshman took over after TreVeyon Henderson came up lame during the 43-30 win against Maryland on Nov. 19. Henderson, who had missed the previous two games with a foot injury, caught a 31-yard touchdown pass on the opening drive but was hampered the rest of the half and finished with 11 carries for 19 yards (1.7 per carry). As a team, the Buckeyes through two quarters gained 28 yards on 13 carries (2.2). Hayden had 143 yards of his 146 yards, 26 of his 27 carries and all three rushing TDs in the second half. For the second straight game he averaged 5.4 yards a carry after powering his way to 102 yards against Indiana. The statuses of Henderson and Miyan Williams, who sat against Maryland because of injury, are unknown, but there is comfort for the Buckeyes knowing that Hayden can handle the load. However, he and the rest of the team have not gone against a defense like Michigan's, which is second nationally against the run. The Wolverines allow 79.5 yards a game and 2.8 per rush while giving up just six scores. Oh, and they're also second in scoring defense (11.7 points per game) to Georgia's 11.1. Ohio State is 20th in rushing offense (203.5). **EDGE: EVEN.**

MICHIGAN RUSH OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE RUSH DEFENSE

The Wolverines may have some issues as well. Heisman Trophy candidate Blake Corum suffered a knee injury in the second quarter of the 19-17 victory over Illinois on Nov. 19. He had 103 yards on 17 carries in the first half and added 5 yards on a single tote in the third quarter before exiting the game for good. He is fifth in the NCAA with an average of 132.5 yards a game. He's produced 1,457 yards (5.9 per carry) with 18 touchdowns. U-M is fourth in rushing offense (243.8) while the Buckeyes against the run are 15th. They are giving up 107.9 yards per game off 3.1 yards per carry with seven TDs allowed. **EDGE: MICHIGAN**

OHIO STATE PASS OFFENSE vs. MICHIGAN PASS DEFENSE

Quarterback C.J. Stroud may wrap up the Heisman or lose it against the vaunted Michigan defense, which is first in total defense at 241.3 yards a game. If the Buckeyes are unable to run with authority, it will be up to his arm to find way to dent a pass defense that has given up just seven touchdowns through the air while making eight interceptions. The Wolverines rank fifth in passing yards allowed (161.7). It is unlikely injured receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba will return, so the focus again will be on Marvin Harrison Jr., who was quiet against Maryland with five catches totaling 68 yards. Emeka Egbuka led the team with six receptions for 82 yards, including a 35-yarder. The throwback to Henderson that produced the first score against Maryland was a nice wrinkle. OSU is tied with Tennessee for the national lead in scoring (46.5) and is 17th in passing yards with 289.2 per game. **EDGE: EVEN**

MICHIGAN PASS OFFENSE vs. OHIO STATE PASS DEFENSE

Obviously, Michigan does its best work on the ground, relieving the pressure on quarterback J.J. McCarthy, who has guided the Wolverines to the ninth-best scoring offense (39.4) despite the passing attack ranking 99th with 208.8 yards per game. McCarthy is completing 66.8 percent of his passes for 1,952 yards with 14 touchdowns and two picks. The OSU pass defense is 11th, yielding 175.5 yards per game with 13 TDs allowed against 10 interceptions. The Buckeyes are ninth in total defense (283.4). The Buckeyes are tied with Michigan in sacks with 31. **EDGE: OHIO STATE**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Buckeyes had an unforgivable blocked extra point that was returned for a score, but Lathan Ransom blocked a punt for a second straight game. Also, Xavier Johnson had a 46-yard kickoff return in crunch time, and Noah Ruggles nailed three field goals. Michigan's Ronnie Bell had a 40-yard punt return to set up a field goal, and Jake Moody was Mr. Clutch again with a 35-yard FG with nine seconds remaining to beat Illinois. **EDGE: EVEN**

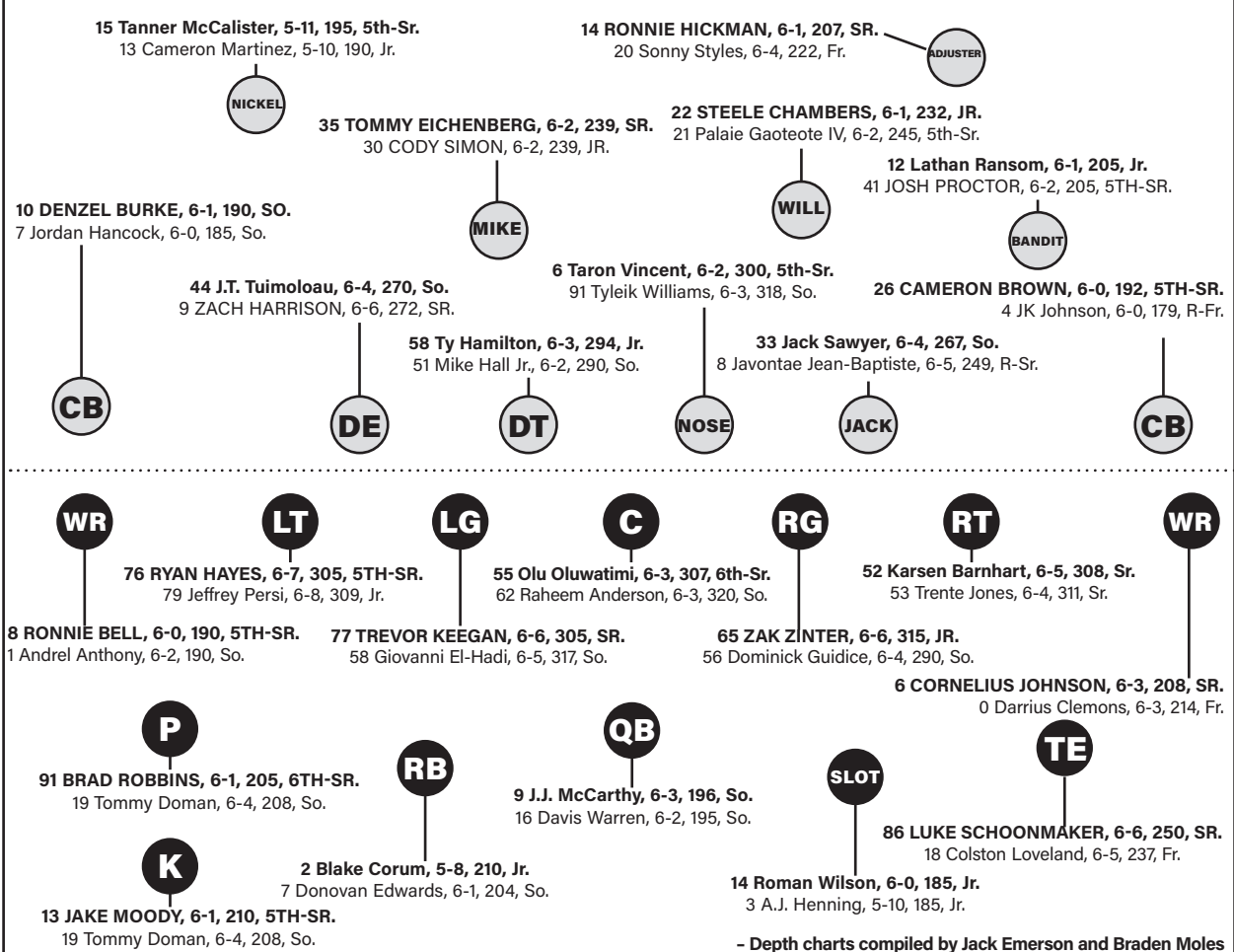
INTANGIBLES

Neither team was impressive in its most recent outing, but that doesn't matter now. The Wolverines are confident they will outmuscle the Buckeyes a second straight season. Ohio State has a very good defense, but Michigan's is great, so if defense wins championships, the Buckeyes could be in trouble. Of note, the Wolverine have not allowed a point in six consecutive fourth quarters. **EDGE: EVEN**

STAFF PREDICTION

It would be nice if both teams have their best players healthy so there are no excuses, but in this rivalry, a win is a win. Take it and gloat for 365 days. Home-field advantage is supposed to be worth a few points. The Buckeyes hope so. **OHIO STATE 42, MICHIGAN 37**

WHEN MICHIGAN HAS THE BALL...



Csuri Knows Rivalry Was Heated Long Ago

To note the passing of World War II veteran, Ohio State All-American and team captain Chuck Csuri on Feb. 27, we are re-printing his *Michigan Memories*, originally published in the Nov. 24, 2012, edition of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*.

By CRAIG MERZ

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Charles Csuri, one of the dwindling number of players from Ohio State's first national championship football team in 1942, doesn't think much of the hype that surrounds the Michigan game nowadays.

Csuri said many contemporary fans think the passion that goes into facing the Buckeyes' biggest rival is a recent phenomenon fueled by incessant coverage through mainstream and social media.

But even at age 90, the All-America tackle and team captain for legendary head coach Paul Brown recalls clashing with the Wolverines.

"It had the same intensity back then," Csuri told BSB. "The difference is simply media participation. What you have is an undercurrent of intensity driven by media. The average person doesn't feel any different today, I think, than what we felt back in the '40s. It's just the media gives you this spin.

"Suddenly it's like, 'My god, it's a life-and-death situation. This is the greatest

thing that's ever happened in the history of the world, in the history of mankind.'"

His use of "life and death" is pointed because Csuri knows as well as anyone the difference between the two.

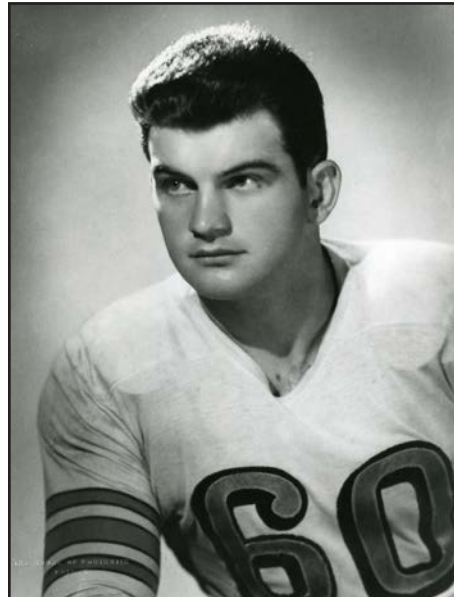
In fact, his recollections of going against Michigan are bracketed by the specter of World War II because the 1942 game, the penultimate one played on Nov. 21 that season, was almost a year after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The Buckeyes took a 21-7 victory over the Wolverines, and coupled with a win against Iowa Pre-Flight the next week and stunning losses by the two teams ahead of them in the polls – Boston College and Georgia Tech – Ohio State won its first national championship.

"It was bizarre," Csuri said. "When we played, we didn't have the media hype about who was No. 1, No. 2. I didn't even know we were in consideration for the national championship that year.

"It came down to the final week of the season. We were No. 3 and the two teams ahead of us lost and we won. Of course, it was very exciting and satisfying, but at the same time we had this whole atmosphere of war hanging over our heads. It was a different time. All we knew was this was the end of the line – that we were going into a war."

Csuri and many of his teammates enlisted and eventually saw combat. He was a corporal in the Army and was awarded a



FILE PHOTO

THE GREATEST GENERATION — Former Ohio State team captain Charles Csuri took a break from playing for Ohio State to enlist in the United States military. Csuri was a corporal in the Army and was awarded a Bronze Star.

Bronze Star.

He returned home a war hero but a reluctant football player in 1946.

"I was not very motivated because I served in combat – I was in the Battle of the Bulge and I saw some nasty stuff," Csuri said. "I came back a very different person, and the whole notion of violence just didn't have the appeal to me.

"The reality was that I didn't want to play college football anymore, but because of the social pressure and I was an All-American and captain and that sort of thing, I felt obligated to play. But I just went through the motions."

The Buckeyes finished 4-3-2 during the 1946 season and absorbed a 58-6 defeat at the hands of eighth-ranked Michigan in the season finale.

"Oh, we got killed," Csuri said. "I think it was motivation (on their part). I don't think we had our act together because I don't think there was that much disparity in talent."

Csuri got his degree and later became known worldwide for being a pioneer in computer graphics and animation. In 1964, he created the first computer art.

Csuri is currently recovering from a recent broken leg that forced him to enter a rehabilitation center.

"All I did was try to get out of my car and I landed on the ground," he said with a hint of disgust. "I've gotten out of my car probably 200,000 times. Why it happened on Oct. 1, I have no idea, but I broke it in multiple places. I'm still waiting to get the green light to put pressure on the leg."

For someone who has been active both physically and mentally his whole life, the inability to get around has been annoying.

"I'm going out of my mind," he said. "I don't know what I'd do if it wasn't for football, especially the weekends. All these games are a pleasant distraction."

He said he already knows his plan for

Csuri vs. Michigan

Year/Class	Location	Result
1941/Fr.	Ann Arbor	T, 20-20
1942/So.	Columbus	W, 21-7
1943/Jr.	Ann Arbor	L, 45-7
1946/Sr.	Columbus	L, 58-6

this year's Michigan game.

"I'll probably be lying on my back, watching and hoping Ohio State does well," he said.

Csuri has something in common with this year's team in that he, too, broke in a new head coach. Brown replaced Francis Schmidt following a 40-0 loss to Michigan in 1940 and introduced some revolutionary ideas.

"Paul Brown brought a more procedural approach to coaching," Csuri said. "He had a system. He had a methodology, playbooks, plans and specific assignments in practices.

"While this seems obvious today, that was a radical notion at the time. He was also extremely organized. He set goals. That's commonplace today. People forget that was not the case in my era."

The Buckeyes went 6-1-1 during that 1941 season with the tie being a 20-20 deadlock at Michigan. OSU's only loss the following season was at Wisconsin in the famous "Bad Water Game," so named because a number of Buckeyes took ill before the game because of some contaminated drinking water ingested on the way to Madison.

Despite the loss to the Badgers, the Buckeyes captured the '42 Big Ten title by beating Michigan in a driving rain before more than 71,000 fans in Ohio Stadium.

Csuri did his part by blocking a punt that helped set up the drive that gave OSU a 7-0 lead.

"That probably was the only punt I blocked in my life," he said. "It was one of those things that you do automatically, and that day it worked."

His play proved to be even more significant when the results the following Saturday catapulted OSU into the top spot and school history.

However, the players did not receive national championship rings until head coach Jim Tressel learned of the omission years later and the school made amends. Also, the Buckeyes wore special uniforms for the 2010 Michigan game that paid homage to the 1942 champions.

There are believed to be only five members of that team still alive, and Csuri said they would all agree there's nothing quite like playing Michigan, although the vitriol between the programs seems to be rising.

"People were more respectful and congenial of each other," he said. "I don't know if it's completely true but it's closer to the concept of sportsmanship. That aspect of respect was true then. It's very different now. You can see it just in the way the players play and how they relate to each other – the body language. It's off the charts.

"In many ways, our time was a little more civilized. But in other ways, like with the racism, it was pretty ugly, too."



White Recalls Intensity Of Michigan Games

To note the passing of Ohio State team captain and All-Big Ten cornerback William White on July 28, we are reprinting his *Michigan Memories*, originally published in the Nov. 23, 1996, edition of *Buckeye Sports Bulletin*.

By **JEFF RAPP**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Many Buckeyes can capsule their college football careers with one quick barometer: Michigan.

In the case of William White, standout defensive back from 1984-87, triumphant battles with the Maize and Blue at the beginning and end of his tenure represent the highest highs.

The lows, and everything else, sit in between.

"In '84, I was part of a great freshman class, and that was just an enjoyable year," recalled White, now a safety for the Kansas City Chiefs. "I got to play all season, and when we (the defense) were off the field, watching (Jim) Lachey and the boys block for Keith (Byars) was a thrill.

"My last year was kind of sentimental for me and Chris (Spielman) and (Tom) Tupa. That Michigan game was special, too."

White, an all-league performer as a senior, and fellow captains Spielman and Eric Kumerow led the '87 defense, which had become a maligned unit by the Michigan game. Breakdowns against Indiana and Wisconsin and a last-play touchdown the week before against Iowa had caused the ouster of head coach Earle Bruce.

Compound that with bitter losses to the Wolves the previous two years, and it's easy to see why the Buckeyes were seething as they took the field at Michigan Stadium.

"What's great about that game in '87 was they were supposed to kill us, just like we were supposed to win in '86," White said. "But in this rivalry it doesn't matter what the records are.

"I remember we were down at halftime and Jamie Morris already had like 100 yards (rush-

White vs. Michigan

Year/Class	Location	Result
1984/Fr.	Columbus	W, 21-6
1985/So.	Ann Arbor	L, 27-17
1986/Jr.	Columbus	L, 26-24
1987/Sr.	Ann Arbor	W, 23-20

ing). Spielman was throwing chairs around."

At game's end, Morris had 130 yards and the Buckeyes, donning "Earle" headbands, rallied for a memorable 23-20 win.

Even with no rewarding bowl trip and an abrupt end to his college career, White walked off the U-M field with a sense of satisfaction. In his last visit ('85) OSU had worked back into the game in the fourth quarter, and then White was burned by young wideout John Kolesar and quarterback Jim Harbaugh for a 77-yard game-clinching TD in a 27-17 UM victory.

"He was supposed to run a curl route and didn't," White said like it happened hours ago. "I was supposed to sit down and time my release, but he went 15 yards and kept going. Sonny (Gordon) blitzed on that play, and if Harbaugh had held that ball another tenth of a second it would have been a sack.

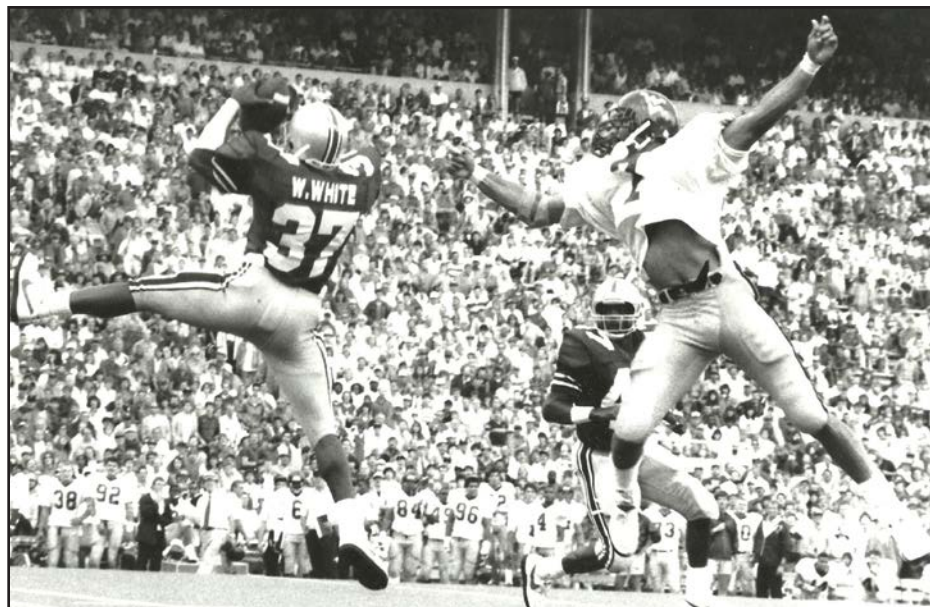
"Believe me, I'm reminded of that play all the time."

The following year, OSU hosted the Wolves with a chance to advance to the Rose Bowl, but again it wasn't meant to be as Harbaugh, Morris and company eked out a 26-24 upset.

"I remember certain things about that game," White said. "Cris (Carter) made an unbelievable catch in the end zone, and when our defense came out, Harbaugh acted like he couldn't hear – we even had a penalty called on us. I guess they were surprised our fans actually made noise as compared to that dead, stale Michigan Stadium."

When OSU kicker Matt Frantz narrowly missed a game-winning field goal, White was in disbelief. It wasn't supposed to happen this way. In his rookie year of 1984, he had recovered an onside kickoff in a rosy 21-6 win over Michigan.

"The thing I remember about '84," White



FILE PHOTO

STRONG BOOKEND — Former Ohio State cornerback William White, who passed away on July 28, won twice in four tries against Michigan, taking home victories in his freshman and senior seasons.

said, "was that year we did all the things you come to OSU to do: We beat Michigan, we were Big Ten champs and we played in the Rose Bowl. After that, you thought it was going to be easy, but we never did all that again."

Still, White looks back with a great fondness and a little regret. He was a standout two-way player at Lima (Ohio) Senior High School who had pared his list of schools to Ohio State and Michigan. A fateful phone call from a former coach ensued.

"My dad talked to Woody (Hayes) and he pretty much made up my mind for me. That was it," White said. "But I probably knew all along I was going to go there anyway."

Looking back now, it's a little bit funny White even considered U-M. Few players have bought into the honor and tradition of being a Buckeye more than White, who has run several summer camps at the school with Carter, his business partner and close friend.

"It's not really a hate when you play Michi-

gan. It's an intense rivalry, a respect," he said. "You don't really root for them to do well, but you want that game to mean something – and it always did.

"It's just smash-mouth, snot-running-out-your-nose football – the way it's supposed to be."

Even with the battles in his past, White still points to the Big Ten finale every year. Last season, OSU not only lost an unbeaten season by falling to the Wolverines, White lost a humiliating bet. Chiefs teammates Trezelle Jenkins and Derrick Walker, a pair of U-M grads, were to wear OSU sweatshirts for a full week had the Buckeyes won. Because they didn't...

"I had to wear (Michigan) shirts, caps, all kinds of stuff. You can imagine my embarrassment," said the ninth-year pro.

But for this year White plans to return the favor: "Once you're a Buckeye, it's ingrained in your blood."

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Herman “Thankful” For Rivalry Despite 0-4 Run

By **JACK EMERSON**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Ohio State has established a significant hold on its rivalry against Michigan in recent years, securing a 17-4 record against the Wolverines since the turn of the century. However, the Buckeyes' dominance in The Game – which had been eight straight up until last season – hasn't always been the case. In the 20 years prior to 2000, Ohio State emerged victorious against Michigan only six times.

Former Ohio State linebacker Judah Herman played for the Buckeyes during that adverse stretch, taking the field from 1988-91 and picking up an 0-4 record in The Game despite some close calls. Although he said that it took some time to get past those difficult losses, Herman emphasized that he was more grateful than anything to have the opportunity to play in the rivalry.

“For years, I was really sour on it, to the point of (during) Michigan week, I would wake up in the middle of the night with cold sweats,” Herman told BSB. “This was like five years after I was done playing, you'd almost have flashbacks and stuff like that. I don't have that stuff anymore. I'm very thankful that I got to play in the rivalry.”

“For probably the first five to 10 years, I was really kind of bitter that we didn't win because you carry that for life. Now I have better perspective. I'm just very thankful for it.”

Herman's experience with The Game began at a young age. As a native of Bainbridge, Ohio, Herman grew up an Ohio State fan and parlayed that love for the program – as well as a dominant high school career at Kenston High School in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, in which he racked up 274 tackles during his junior season – into a playing career for the Buckeyes.

However, during his recruitment, Bo Schembechler and the Michigan Wolverines also set their eyes on the consensus All-American, inviting Herman to campus for a visit during the 1987 version of The Game, a game that came to be remembered for the Buckeyes pulling a 23-20 upset after then-head coach Earle Bruce was dismissed during the previous week. Although Herman made it clear that he was to be a Buckeye following his high school career, he made the trip to The Big House to witness the historic win for the Buckeyes.

“I told them, ‘Yeah, I'll come up and watch the game, but I'm going to Ohio State,’” Herman said with a laugh. “Prior to warmups,

Herman vs. Michigan

Year/Class	Location	Result
1988/Fr.	Columbus	L, 34-31
1989/So.	Ann Arbor	L, 28-18
1990/Jr.	Columbus	L, 16-13
1991/Sr.	Ann Arbor	L, 31-3

there might have been 50 recruits, and one of my teammates from high school, who ended up playing at Minnesota, went to the game. He and I were down watching Ohio State warm up and the other 48 were down watching Michigan warm up.

“It was really cool. My parents were with me, and they took us into the locker room right before the game and Bo was making his pregame speech. That was cool to hear that and get a feel of the rivalry from the other side,” he continued. “My dad has passed now, but that's something that really stood out to him.”

“What a neat day, the way (OSU) won that. We were supposed to meet some Michigan coaches after the game at the basketball arena. I never made it there, and I never heard a peep from Michigan after that game.”

While Herman had already received a taste of the intensity of The Game, his first appearance in the rivalry in 1988 was not for the faint of heart. The Buckeyes stumbled into the season finale with a 4-5-1 record and quickly found themselves facing a 20-0 deficit entering the halftime locker room.

After the Buckeyes were shut out in the game's first half, running back Carlos Snow pounded into the end zone on a 4-yard run early in the third to kick-start a stretch of 24 unanswered points for the Buckeyes. However, Ohio State was unable to hold on and a 41-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Demetrius Brown to wideout John Kolesar with 1:37 remaining lifted the Wolverines to a 34-31 lead. The Buckeyes drove down to Michigan's 39-yard line with 35 seconds remaining, but quarterback Greg Frey was intercepted, and the Wolverines kneeled out the clock.

“My freshman year, that was a struggle,” Herman said. “But that still didn't diminish the importance of the game. We were all in on it.”

“I was really proud that we fought back and took a lead,” he added. “It was a big deal, but it was still really disheartening to lose that game, especially the way we came back to take the lead late.”

In 1989, Herman returned to The Big

House for the first time since his recruitment visit, this time in a scarlet and gray uniform. Although the Buckeyes had already taken a pair of losses on the chin to then-No. 12 USC and No. 18 Illinois, they still carried hopes to claim at least a share of the Big Ten title if they could take down the heavily favored, No. 3 Wolverines.

The 1989 battle with the Wolverines also served as Herman's first start in The Game, and he racked up a pair of solo tackles in the loss. He said that having the opportunity to start and play in the rivalry gave him some added nerves, alongside increased excitement.

“Hell yeah, you're fired up. I'm a second-year at Ohio State and I'm starting in the OSU-Michigan game,” Herman said. “It's huge. You can't sit around and think about that – it's like ‘I've got a job to do, I have to be ready to play.’”

“As far as being amped up and ready to play, it's off the charts. We'd get fired up for all games, but it's at a whole different level.”

From the opening play, Herman recognized the talent of the Michigan offense that afternoon.

“The thing that stands out to me was, I remember Michigan got the ball and they drove down the field,” Herman said. “We had a pretty good defense my sophomore year. Michigan stuffed the ball down our throats on that first drive and I remember coming off of the field saying, ‘Damn, these guys are coming off of the ball.’ It was like I'd never experienced in college football.”

“The cool thing was that we adjusted. We shut them down and got a lot better for the rest of the game.”

“I didn't play in the NFL, and sometimes I'll think back on it, that whole Michigan offense, I think 10 of 11 guys were NFL guys. That's probably the closest I got to NFL football.”

The Wolverines racked up 310 rushing yards that afternoon while getting past the Buckeyes with a 28-18 victory, a score that was slightly deceiving due to a 23-yard touchdown run from Michigan running back Jarrod Bunch that lifted Michigan's lead to 10 with 1:20 remaining.

The series shifted back to Columbus for the 1990 battle between Ohio State and Michigan, and the Buckeyes – this time the front-runner for the Big Ten title – put their 5-1-1 conference record on the line against the Wolverines. Michigan also had plenty to play for because the Wolverines were still in the hunt to secure a share of the conference crown. The Buckeyes entered The Game on a five-game winning streak after collecting a loss to Illinois and a tie with Indiana to open conference play.

The game also served as Herman's final home battle with the Wolverines, but yet again, the Buckeyes fell to the Wolverines in heartbreaking fashion. Ohio State and Michigan found themselves locked in a 13-13 tie, and the Buckeyes faced a crucial third-and-1 from their own 29-yard line with the game clock dwindling. Frey found wide receiver Bobby Olive for a 15-yard gain and a big first-down which would have placed the Buckeyes at their own 44 with a hair over two minutes remaining in the contest. However, a clipping penalty negated the play and forced the Buck-

eyes back into the third-and-short situation.

Ohio State ran back-to-back runs, including a quarterback sneak on fourth-and-1, to no avail, and the Wolverines took over on downs at the Buckeye 29. Michigan went on to run down the clock before kicker J.D. Carlson sent the game-winning 37-yard field goal through the uprights, securing another victory for the Wolverines.

Even with the loss, Herman reflected on the involvement of the crowd in those games and said that there was always a little extra juice in Ohio Stadium when the Maize and Blue came to town.

“That stadium is always loud, but it's a whole different feel. It's just off-the-charts loud,” he said. “It was a difference for the fans. ‘Hey, we're not just going to be here and watch the game – no, we're here to help in this game. We've got a role to play today. We're out for blood.’”

Although Herman had battled through a trio of heartbreakers during his first three appearances in The Game, the final blow came in a 31-3 decision in favor of Michigan at The Big House, a game made famous by Desmond Howard's 93-yard punt return touchdown.

Since his time playing in The Game, Herman has remained deeply enamored with the rivalry while noting that Ohio State's recent string of dominance helped ignite his more appreciative outlook on his experiences against Michigan. Herman said he was in Ohio Stadium in 2016 for Ohio State's double-overtime triumph over the Wolverines, and that was the loudest he had ever heard the ‘Shoe.

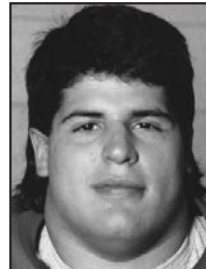
“A big part of that was Ohio State started winning more,” Herman said. “That eased some of the pain that I felt over the years because Ohio State has had an awesome run.”

“It's obviously a big deal. I have all kinds of Brutus blowups in my front yard for The Game if I'm not at it. Ohio State running the table on them for 15-20 years, for the most part, that's probably been the biggest thing to help flip it for me where it's not such a pain point anymore.”

As someone who has experienced the gut-wrenching feeling of losing in The Game, Herman also laid out his thoughts on what the current mind-set in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center may be with the Buckeyes looking to right the wrongs of last season.

“Ryan Day does an awesome job of keeping ex-players involved and reaching out to us and feeling included,” Herman said. “That being said, I'm not in the Woody day-in and day-out to know what's going on behind the scenes, but I can tell you how I've been looking at it. I think back to that Clemson game (in 2020). They had a year to think about that and live that every day about how that ended up. I'm kind of looking at this as almost the exact same deal.”

“That Ohio State team that came out against Clemson was the most focused I've seen a team – they were ready to play. Not only were they ready, but you could also tell they were playing with a purpose that night,” Herman said. “I would expect the same. Ryan Day has probably done that over the last year.”



Judah Herman



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Haubeil Recalls Revenge Tour, Stolen Balls

By **ANDY ANDERS**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

It was the most deafening Blake Haubeil had ever heard the Horseshoe.

For the first time in 14 years, Ohio State entered as an underdog at home against Michigan. It was 2018, and the Buckeyes had narrowly escaped with a 52-51 overtime win at Maryland the week prior and also had suffered a 49-20 bludgeoning at Purdue earlier in the season, landing them just No. 10 in the AP poll. Michigan stood at No. 4 in the same poll, its lone loss a 24-17 defeat on the road against then-No. 12 Notre Dame all the way back in the season opener.

Given that the Wolverines had beaten every other opponent on their so-called "Revenge Tour" – avenging losses to Michigan State, Penn State and Wisconsin from the previous year – Las Vegas placed them as 4.5-point favorites entering Columbus. That's one of the reasons such an uproar arose when freshman wide receiver Chris Olave blocked a punt from Michigan's Will Hart and freshman cornerback Sevyn Banks grabbed the ball out of the air and ran it in for a touchdown, extending the Buckeyes' lead to 34-19 in the third quarter.

"I played a full four years there; that's the loudest I've ever heard the stadium," said Haubeil, who kicked for the Buckeyes from 2017-20. "When we blocked that punt, took it out of the air and took it to the end zone – as a kicker you want to stay really, really even with your emotions and your ups and downs. (Normally) I'm just taking my deep breaths, getting on the field. But I couldn't help but get excited and get that adrenaline going when I jogged out on the field after we took that in for six."

For a placekicker, Haubeil kicked back plenty of memorable experiences from his encounters with Michigan as a player. Whether it be the cancellation of the revenge tour, seeing the team's warmup footballs stolen on the road in 2019 or the disappointment of seeing The Game postponed a year later, there was no shortage of notable moments.

"The rivalry and playing The Team Up North, it's one of the most special traditions you have being a Buckeye and playing football there," Haubeil said. "Both years (I played against Michigan) were awesome."

Haubeil – who handled kickoff duties in 2017 but was not kicking field goals in the Buckeyes' 31-20 win over the Wolverines that season – harkens back to the mood in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center and Ohio State's campus at large the week of his first home Michigan game in 2018. He'd filled in at placekicker that season for an injured Sean Nuernberger and did so admirably, hitting 10 of 13 field goals with a perfect 37-for-37 mark on extra points.

"I was just sitting there in my dorm, and I've never been more excited for a game," Haubeil said. "Obviously everybody is talking about it, they're hyping it up, and then just to get in there and feel the atmosphere, seeing them across the field in pre-game warmups and the tension, it was incredible."

Michigan's revenge tour added to the national narrative around the contest, as did a few words from Wolverine running



SONNY BROCKWAY

BOOTING FOR THE BUCKS — Former Ohio State kicker Blake Haubeil (95) played in a trio of games against Michigan, collecting three pairs of gold pants while hitting a pair of field goals and 16 extra points in those games.

back Karan Higdon, who said prior to the contest that he would guarantee a win over Ohio State just like his head coach Jim Harbaugh had done when he was Michigan's quarterback in 1986. Those weren't things the Buckeyes contemplated within the walls of their locker room, though, according to Haubeil.

"You respect your opponent," said the Buffalo, N.Y., native. "Obviously when it comes to social media, ESPN, the coverage of the rivalry, you all know what they're going through and what their intentions are and what they're saying. But at the end of the day, what we did is focus on ourselves."

Ohio State used a 38-point second half to seal a 62-39 win over Michigan that year, leading as much as 62-32 at one point. The Buckeyes' offense in particular, with leadership from then-redshirt senior wide receiver Terry McLaurin, proved too explosive for the Wolverines, and the Buckeyes finished with 567 yards of total offense.

"We were obviously all thrilled," Haubeil said. "It was a big win. A game where it was a great team effort, the defense really stepped up, made some great plays. Special teams, we were pretty good, and then the offense. You can't say enough about that. Dwayne Haskins, McLaurin, Parris Campbell turning on the jets up the sideline (in the fourth quarter)."

"I'll say this about Terry McLaurin – I'd argue he's the best leader I've ever been around since being at Ohio State. There have been some great ones there, but as far as a guy who, when he says something, you look him in the eyes and you know he means it with his whole heart – I've got to say Terry McLaurin was a big reason why we stepped up there at the end of the year."

The 2019 rendition of the rivalry followed with a 56-27 win for Ohio State at Michigan, though the game itself isn't what stands out most in Haubeil's mind.

Specialists come out to warm up before the rest of the team on game days, and as such Haubeil was practicing extra points in Michigan Stadium about 90 minutes prior to kickoff. With his leg strength, many of his boots were going over the net, and Ohio State personnel were asking the fans to return them.

Rather than throw the footballs back, however, patrons were passing them to the top of the venue and tossing them outside. That wasn't even the weirdest part of what was happening to the team's pigskins in warmups, though, Haubeil recounted.

"We've only got 10 to 12 balls. After I'm done warming up for kickoff and everything, I look at our bag, we've got three, four, five footballs left. Not too much, right? We go in the locker room, we do our prayer, we come out. We don't have any footballs in the bag. I'm like, 'Where did the footballs go? I can't even warm up into the net?' We find out later on, I think their equipment staff stole our footballs."

"If we didn't dislike them enough and respect the rivalry enough as it was, that just added fuel to the fire. I was not a huge fan of that. But obviously we put it on them and gave it to them later that game."

The satisfaction of trouncing the Wolverines in both 2018 and 2019 contrasted heav-

Haubeil vs. Michigan

Year/Class	Location	Result
2017	Ann Arbor	W, 31-20
2018	Columbus	W, 62-39
2019	Ann Arbor	W, 56-27
2020	Columbus	Canceled

ily with the emotions surrounding the 2020 rivalry renewal – or lack thereof.

With an outbreak of COVID-19 sidelining a significant portion of Michigan's roster, the team had to cancel its scheduled contest at Ohio State on Dec. 12, 2020, just four days before the game was set to be played. The Wolverines had posted a mere 2-4 record to that point in their campaign.

"We're all looking forward to that rivalry because that's one of the biggest reasons, if not the biggest reason, you come to Ohio State," Haubeil said. "You hear Coach (Urban) Meyer and Coach (Ryan) Day say it all the time: You come to Ohio State to play in games like this. The No. 1 goal is to beat That Team Up North."

Adding to the frustration of the cancellation was the turmoil Haubeil and his teammates had been through. Because of the pandemic, they had to be quarantined away from their families for months. Players were constantly testing positive or contact tracing to someone who had, making for a volatile depth chart. Haubeil himself missed three games, though not for pandemic-related reasons.

"Really disappointing," he said. "Everybody went through stuff that year personally, as a team. I, personally, had an injury and I remember coming back against Michigan State and we had a huge win up there."

"We knew how important that game was to Buckeye Nation, the fans. Because there is no flying up to The Team Up North on a plane. It's tradition. You go up there on the bus, you see through the heart of Ohio how much fan support you have, how much that game means to everybody else."

While he enjoys a 3-0 record against Michigan (and was 16 of 16 on extra points and made a pair of field-goal attempts against the Wolverines) from his time on Ohio State's roster and a 2-0 record as the team's starting kicker, Haubeil – who still has a few friends on the team such as graduate tight end and fullback Mitch Rossi – is especially excited for The Game this season.

"Boy, am I excited for this year," Haubeil said. "I live up here in Buffalo. I tell people now, 'You don't understand. Not having that game (in Ohio Stadium) for four years, that might be the most electric crowd in the history of the 'Shoe.'"

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Jankowski Remembers Loss As Well As Wins

By **CRAIG MERZ**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Bruce Jankowski played three varsity seasons for Ohio State from 1968-70 when the Buckeyes defeated Michigan twice. His first year on campus, when freshmen were ineligible to play, he watched his older teammates down the rival Wolverines as well in 1967.

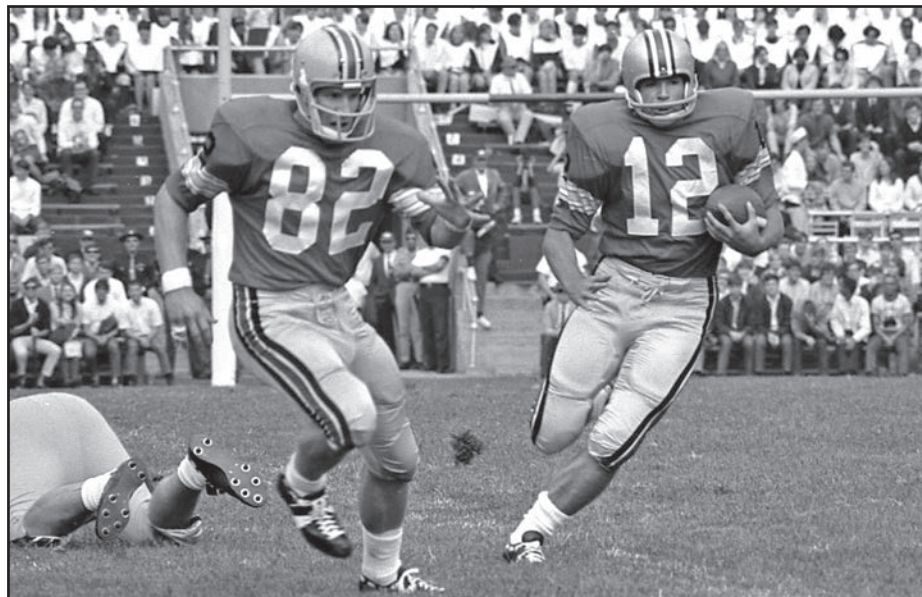
There are many classes that would take three wins in four years over their heated rival, especially during the John Cooper era. But as is the case with many athletes, it's the losses that are remembered as much as the victories.

For Jankowski, a wide receiver/split end and one of the fabled "Super Sophomores" as they were tagged en route to winning the 1968 national championship, losing 24-12 in Ann Arbor in 1969 still resonates.

"I remember what it was like after the game in the locker room, on the plane," Jankowski told BSB by phone from his home in Leawood, Kan. "We were stunned and it was like, 'Holy s-t, what just happened?'"

"On the plane we just sat. Nobody talked or anything. We were just totally, freaking stunned. We had a 22-game winning streak when we lost that day. Yes, we were used to winning. Spoiled, I guess. That happened. It's real."

But one game can't overshadow the three-year stretch for the Buckeyes, who went 27-2 (the other loss was to Stanford in the 1971 Rose Bowl) during Jankowski's three seasons. Members of the national championship team



FILE PHOTO

SUPER SOPHOMORE — Former Ohio State wide receiver/split end Bruce Jankowski (82) was a member of the fabled "Super Sophomores" who went on to lead the Buckeyes to the 1968 national title. He went 2-1 against Michigan during his OSU career.

are still revered nearly 55 years later, and their relationships are as strong as ever.

"The bond I still have today with my teammates in any of the years I was there and with the coaches, we are so close and stay in touch still," Jankowski said. "It's really amazing, really a neat thing."

"Woody said back then these are going to be your best friends in life, and the son of a b—

was right."

Getting There

Jankowski was a running back at Fair Lawn High School in New Jersey and ventured west with another in-state product: future College Football Hall of Fame member Jack Tatum, from Passaic.

"I'll tell you a stupid little story," Jankowski said. "Jack Tatum and I, we were friends back in New Jersey. We didn't play against each other, but as time went on, we had the all-state team in New Jersey. It was Jack Tatum (at) fullback, I was the halfback and Joe Theismann (South River) was the quarterback."

"This was my junior year in high school. We talked about all going to Ohio State, but Theismann wanted to go to Notre Dame. He wasn't as friendly as Jack and I were with each other, but it's funny. That's a big reason I went to Ohio State and the same thing with him (Tatum), we believed we had that opportunity."

Jankowski vs. Michigan

Year/Class	Location	Result
1968/So.	Columbus	W, 50-14
1969/Jr.	Ann Arbor	L, 24-12
1970/Sr.	Columbus	W, 20-0

Jankowski and Tatum chose wisely, although they ended up playing different positions in college.

"You've got Jack Tatum, who's a great running back, John Brockington, Leo Hayden," Jankowski said. "Those are the guys that I was competing with and others. When I showed up, I was thinking, 'Am I in the right place here?'" These guys, they were all basically first-round draft choices eventually in the NFL, those three running backs along with other great ones there.

"We actually had something before we started spring football. They had a draft of the players, and the coaches literally got to pick players and say, 'OK, I like Jack Tatum. He wants to play defense, he's going to play defense,' or, 'Hey, I want Bruce Jankowski. We want him to be our receiver.' Players were picked for positions."

Ohio State beat Michigan 24-14 on the road when Jankowski was a freshman to set up the 1968 season. It took off in the third game when the No. 4-ranked Buckeyes upset No. 1 Purdue, a 13-point favorite, 13-0 in Columbus. The rest of the country took notice of this young team that was growing into a monster for coach Woody Hayes.

Jankowski said the genesis for the play of that sophomore class came the previous year when the freshmen were on the scout team.

"I said, 'Wow, what talent we have.' Then very quickly we started to be put together and then we would emulate the next opponent, the offense or the defense for the varsity," he said. "In doing all that when we ran plays or things like that, we had success. We really had success, and Woody would just go crazy, 'Run that again. Run it until you get it right.'"

"We didn't dominate, I'm not going to say that, but the talent was definitely there."

The win over Purdue led to the regular-sea-

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son finale when the second-ranked Buckeyes faced the No. 4 Wolverines. OSU broke away from a 21-14 halftime lead to score 29 unanswered points, capped by Hayes going for a late two-point conversion which the Buckeyes made for a 50-14 thrashing behind four rushing touchdowns from Jim Otis.

"We're hitting all cylinders, really," Jankowski said. "We just had great, great players on offense and defense. What a combination of talent that we had."

"A lot of these guys were nationally recruited or they had recognition for high school All-Americans. A lot of great athletes – not just good football players, but baseball players, track people, discus throwers that held the national records."

"It was the luck of the draw to put together a lot of talent. I think we had 14 sophomores that started against USC in the Rose Bowl. Go back even when we played Michigan in 1968, we were young. A lot of these guys had starting roles. We were young and very, very focused."

"I'd say throughout the year it was kind of like a blur. We were so young maybe we didn't know how to be cocky. All we wanted to do was please the coach and win games. We were motivated and everybody seemed to really work hard and do the right things, and by the way, we won along the way."

Jankowski said he and many of his classmates didn't really understand at first what the rivalry with Michigan meant.

"I go back to Michigan that year, our sophomore year, and at that point it still was just another game," he said. "Yes, it's Michigan week and there's a little bit more intensity, there's a little more stress on everybody, coaches and players, to prepare for that. It was really a great effort."

"That week as sophomores I think we were learning about the importance of beating Michigan. That's when everything really tightened up. We just tried to perform and do the right things, but that was the beginning of us learning how important it was."

Upended

A year later, the Buckeyes were on the other end of the score when first-year Michigan coach Bo Schembechler ignited the Ten Year War between him and his former boss.

Everything seemed to go wrong for the No. 1 Buckeyes in the 24-12 defeat to the 12th-ranked Wolverines in what was called the "Upset of the Century."

"It was just a weird feeling being there," Jankowski said. "We had a very stressful week of practice. We worked long. We worked hard. Maybe we were worn out a little bit. I don't know."

"But I've never been around an environment quite as intense as that in preparing for that game. We figured it's just another important game. It's an important game but we figured we could win, but I still remember the week of how intense it really was."

While Ohio State was ineligible for a return trip to the Rose Bowl if it had beaten Michigan for the Big Ten title according to the rules at that time, Jankowski said that played no role in the defeat.

"It was a disappointment that we couldn't go (the Rose Bowl), but heck, we still had hopes of an undefeated season," he said. "It's great to be able to go and play in these bowls, but I don't think it was a factor in how we played."

In preparing to talk to BSB for this story, it jogged Jankowski's memory for one particular play in the 1969 loss.

"Barry Pierson was one of their (defensive backs), who was a very good athlete. Really could run. He did returns."

"I didn't play chasing kicks or anything like that, but they put me in for punt returns, not to return, but as one of the guys simply because Barry Pierson had two or three long returns of punts."

"I actually read about this the other day. It was kind of awkward but also kind of interesting. He broke one but I ran him down from behind. He got it to the 3-yard line so I saved a touchdown. I had forgotten about it. I'll take it, I guess."

"I don't remember all the defensive backs, but they had six interceptions. I'm not blaming the quarterbacks. It was just a bad day. We were out-coached, and we were outplayed. I think that's how Woody called it."

Years later, memories from that game came back in a chance encounter with one of the defensive backs.

"I'm not going to say a name, but in Kansas City there was one individual who was a soft-

ball player in the league I played in and all of a sudden, this guy comes up to me and he says, 'I played for Michigan.' He was the starting safety in that game specifically," Jankowski said. "He was a real nice guy. He's a doctor."

Jankowski said he was fortunate to have a senior season to exact revenge on the Wolverines, and Hayes helped fuel the fire.

"I'm sure you probably heard about this or know about it; Woody had this rug with the score. He put it by the facility," Jankowski said. "Every time you entered and exited you had to go over it, and he played the music, the fight song of Michigan, in the sound system."

Jankowski saw it as positive motivation more than a reminder of the loss, and sure enough, the No. 5 Buckeyes bettered No. 4 Michigan 20-9 in Jankowski's last game in Ohio Stadium in a battle of undefeated teams.

He had a 26-yard touchdown catch from Rex Kern just before halftime to give OSU a 10-3 lead. Jankowski maybe should have had two scores.

"Early in the game I caught, you'd call it a

little hitch or a little curl, maybe 10-12 yards, and I got hit from behind and I spun and I kept my hand up and kept my balance so I was never down," he said. "I made it over the goal line, touchdown. Some of the people are calling it a touchdown, but the referee said, 'No, no. He was down.'"

"I remember people in the stadium screaming and yelling. Woody went crazy. People agreed with the instant replay they had at the time that it was a touchdown. It was called back and that was that."

In the big picture, one fewer score doesn't matter when he thinks of his time in Columbus before graduating and playing nine games over two seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs.

"The opportunity I had at Ohio State was just wonderful. I'm very lucky to have the friendships and memories," he said. "I have many other friends in other walks of life, but there's a great bonding with these guys. It was a wonderful experience. Woody stood for all the right things."



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Sanzenbacher Leaves Mark On U-M Rivalry

By **BRADEN MOLES**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Associate Editor

Other than the border that separates Ohio and Michigan, there may not be a more bitter battle line drawn between the rivals than in Toledo.

Located approximately an hour from Ann Arbor, Mich., and a little over two hours from Columbus, The Glass City – despite formally calling Ohio home – serves as a natural geographic battleground between fans of both programs. Look no farther than The Buckeye Wolverine Shop, a famous mom-and-pop shop in Maumee, a suburb of Toledo, that is likely the only store in either Ohio or Michigan that focuses solely on selling apparel of both teams.

Given the relevancy of the rivalry in northwest Ohio, it's no wonder that former Ohio State and NFL wide receiver Dane Sanzenbacher – who was born in Maumee and attended high school at Central Catholic High School in Toledo – has a long history with the historic feud.

"There were just as many Michigan fans as Ohio State fans," Sanzenbacher told BSB of the Toledo area. "My family was a little bit split. It's so part of the culture that I didn't even realize it. One of those things where you're in middle school and the week of the game, (you) wear Ohio State or Michigan to school. It's almost like everybody had to pick one side or the other. There was no other game during the year where that was the thing, so it was cool. It was surreal by the time I actually got to play in it, honestly."

Sanzenbacher – who finished his Ohio State career (2007-10) with 124 receptions for 1,879 yards and 19 touchdowns and remains tied for the single-game receiving touchdown record having hauled in four scores in a win over Eastern Michigan in 2010 – arrived in Columbus after an impressive prep career at Central Catholic. Ranked the No. 13 prospect in Ohio in the 2007 recruiting class, he was named first-team all-state in his junior season, helping

Sanzenbacher vs. Michigan

Year/Class	Location	Result
2007/Fr.	Ann Arbor	W, 14-3
2008/So.	Columbus	W, 42-7
2009/Jr.	Ann Arbor	W, 21-10
2010/Sr.	Columbus	W, 37-7

lead the Fighting Irish to a state championship, and caught 61 passes for 1,079 yards and 11 touchdowns in his senior year.

He was being recruited by several schools – mostly local – including Bowling Green, Miami (Ohio), Iowa, Ohio State and Toledo, but the Buckeyes won out for his services. After committing to play for the Buckeyes and head coach Jim Tressel in July 2006, Sanzenbacher was in attendance later that fall to watch No. 1 Ohio State host No. 2 Michigan in the "Game of the Century."

"It was built up to be the biggest game of the year, and this was pre-playoff," Sanzenbacher said. "The winner is going to the national championship. It hadn't been billed as that (in a while), and then I believe that was the first time in a while that they bumped it to a 3:30 start."

"They still hadn't gotten the cell phone signal thing figured out in and around campus. I remember clearly that once the game started, you couldn't get a hold of anybody. It was everything it was built to be that year."

Watching that game in person – one played in front of 105,708 fans at Ohio Stadium – gave Sanzenbacher an idea of what eventually playing in the rivalry might be like.

"You couldn't believe what you were walking into here, that that was the legacy being laid down," he said. "That was such a good Ohio State team and a really, really good Michigan team, too. The idea of getting to be a part of that – I had never had any questions about (my commitment) once I was committed, that's where I was going. But if it needed any cherry on top, that was that."



FILE PHOTO

BORN AND RAISED — Dane Sanzenbacher, who played wide receiver at Ohio State from 2007-10, experienced the heated nature of the rivalry at a young age, hailing from Toledo, which is known to house a mixture of OSU and U-M fans.

After a fairly quiet freshman season in 2007 for Sanzenbacher – just 10 catches through the first 11 games of the year – Ohio State was headed on the road for the final week of the regular season. It wasn't Sanzenbacher's first time at The Big House, as he recalls attending a Notre Dame-Michigan game as a child, but the experience of taking the field in Ann Arbor was an entirely different one from watching in the stands.

"It's definitely daunting. I was lucky – and I should say we were lucky as a team – we had so many really good veteran players on the team in 2007, guys that had been in the '06 game the year before, guys that had been there, done that," he said. "As a freshman coming in, it was obviously daunting and overwhelming."

"But as a team sport, there's a certain amount of confidence that you bring where it's like, 'OK, these are my guys that are with me. These are the guys that they've been here before, they've done it before, and I have all the confidence in the world in this crew,' so I was lucky."

Michigan took the lead on a field goal with 1:37 remaining in the first quarter, but it was the only points of the game by the Wolverines, and Beanie Wells scored on rushing touchdowns in the second and third quarters to give the Buckeyes a 14-3 win.

It was the fourth consecutive win for Ohio State against Michigan and the first time the Buckeyes had won four straight since 1960-63. The game also featured Sanzenbacher's first career catch against the Wolverines, a 7-yard grab just four plays before Wells' first rushing score.

"I would say it's similar to my first catch in an NFL game," Sanzenbacher said. "On the stat sheet, probably relatively meaningless. But to feel like you are part of this story, like you're in there somewhere – I played a

lot more early in my freshman season, and then towards the end whenever I could and wherever I could help out. It was something. You want to at least have some kind of impact on that game, no matter how small it is, to feel like you were there. You were a part of it. It was special."

Sanzenbacher's next outing against the Wolverines came at Ohio Stadium in 2008, a 42-7 shellacking of Michigan. In addition to the usual festivities of preparing for Michigan – including practice players putting Michigan stickers on their helmets and the band performing Script Ohio for the team – the Buckeyes got to enjoy the usual fare at home.

"It's always built to be the most important game of the year," he said. "Playing in Ohio Stadium had an extra layer of that. For all the now added pageantry, the week-long buildup and now you have everything that is game day – the tunnel of pride with all the former guys back, everything that goes into that – it was that much more special."

Sanzenbacher said the specifics of the game going in weren't particularly memorable – Ohio State had already lost two games headed into the contest and Michigan was just 3-8 on the season – but it was still special being able to play the game in Ohio Stadium and the game was still made to feel important.

"Coach Tressel did a great job of making sure that week was special, and I know they still do," he said. "I know it's still always top of mind throughout the year of, 'This is the big one,' as many schools do with rivalries, but I think Ohio State does it particularly well to make sure it still holds that importance."

Much like in 2008, the win against Michigan the following season wasn't particularly notable. The Buckeyes took an early

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MICHIGAN MEMORIES

first-quarter lead and never relinquished the advantage as the teams combined for just 627 total yards of offense in Ohio State's 21-10 win, then the sixth in a row for the Buckeyes against the Wolverines. That game – in which Sanzenbacher had one catch for 11 yards – set the stage for one of his strongest performances in his four-year career.

Matched up with Oregon in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1, 2010, he led the Buckeyes with a career-high nine receptions resulting in 64 yards in the 26-17 win. He said the preceding win over Michigan – and any win over the Wolverines, really – provides a significant boost going into postseason play.

"It's obviously bigger now that you have a championship game and then a playoff to win a national championship," he said. "At that time, (the bowl game) capped off the season, and we weren't going to play for a national championship. It wasn't even about getting into the playoffs. It was like, 'OK, now we have our bowl game coming up.' So for me, coming off that win as a junior and then going to play Oregon, it was definitely a boost.

"You have to use this momentum to roll it forward because guys (today) have a real shot at being national champs, and that's a different situation than we had in many of the years I was there."

With three straight wins over Michigan to begin his career, it set the stage for his fourth and final matchup against the Wolverines in 2010 at Ohio Stadium. The Buckeyes entered with a 10-1 record while Michigan stumbled into Columbus with just a 7-4 mark in head coach Rich Rodriguez' third and final season at the helm.

After no points were scored in the first quarter, Ohio State exploded for 24 points in the second, with the Buckeyes finding the end zone for the first time on a 7-yard touchdown strike from Terrelle Pryor to Sanzenbacher, who ran a crossing route as Pryor sneaked the ball between a pair of Michigan defenders.

"When I get that question of what's most memorable, that (touchdown) is up there," Sanzenbacher said. "You actually made your mark on this game. You scored here. I had a good senior year in that aspect. I was lucky enough to have more receiving touchdowns than I had in any previous year ... but definitely nice to have that game be a part of the good year.

"That particular play wasn't supposed to go to me, necessarily, or it hadn't all week in practice, so it was just one of those things that worked out. I will obviously always remember that, and as much as anything, you're always glad you have photo evidence of it. I've got plenty of pictures of the Michigan touchdown."

He made two more catches in the game, finishing with three catches for 71 yards and the score – in total, he had seven receptions against Michigan for 138 yards – but the game's biggest play was later in the second quarter. After Michigan running back Michael Shaw made his way into the end zone on a 1-yard rush to make it 10-7 in favor of the Buckeyes, Ohio State running back and return man extraordinaire Jordan Hall took the ensuing kickoff back 85 yards for a touchdown.

Heading into this year's edition of The Game, it remains the most recent kickoff return for a touchdown for Ohio State. Former wide receiver Jalin Marshall returned a

punt 54 yards for a touchdown in 2014, but a return on a kickoff has eluded Ohio State ever since Hall.

"I am surprised that's the last time it's happened," Sanzenbacher said. "That was definitely exciting – I kind of forgot about that ... Ted Ginn's punt return (in 2004) is one that I remember the most. But he was relatively rare. You're not going to get some electrifying special teams player like that all that often. But I am surprised that hasn't happened more.

"I know at least in my years there, there was a huge emphasis that there are many times in that game that special teams plays make a huge difference. Teams are either evenly matched or going back and forth on offense and defense, everybody's done their homework, they're clicking on all cylinders, but a special teams play can really, really change the game."

Ohio State eventually led 24-7 at the break before shutting Michigan out in the second half for the 37-7 win, meaning it was four wins, four celebrations and four pairs of gold pants for Sanzenbacher.

"I didn't realize how much it would mean down the road at the time," he said. "Obviously, we wanted to be 4-0, but the amount of times in the 10 years since being done that it's come up, they're like, 'Oh, did you beat Michigan all four years?' The amount of times that has come up, that question, and being able to answer yes – I didn't fully appreciate how important that game was."

The atmosphere was ramped up even further given that Ohio State was celebrating Senior Day for Sanzenbacher's class, which also included defensive tackle Cameron Heyward and running backs Dan "Boom" Herron and Brandon Saine, among others.

"That was an emotional game just because it was the last one in the stadium, last one (overall), really, outside of the bowl game as a college player," Sanzenbacher said. "You knew that was going to be it. Parents are there. (It was) emotional, but as much for the pageantry as the actual game."

Sanzenbacher's final game at Ohio State came in the Sugar Bowl against Arkansas, where he hauled in three catches for 59 yards and a touchdown in the 31-26 win. But he and the team's success against Michigan in his four seasons were part of a turnaround that, other than a blip in 2011, led to complete dominance, at least up until last year, and he said the rivalry has not missed a beat since.

"Myself and people that I either played with or were very involved in the program or paid attention a lot, there was never a doubt, even in the late 2000s when I was there, that Michigan was going to come back around," he said. "They were still trying to get their footing and all that. But when you have the traditions with these teams, the universities that back the football programs like these two schools do, they were always going to come back to be a team that is really, really competitive, and that rivalry was going to be there.

"Now you don't know what's going to happen here. Now both teams are peaking at the same time, and you couldn't want anything more if you're a fan of either one of those teams."



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Harris Nearly Opted To Be A Wolverine

By JACK EMERSON

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

During his Ohio State career, Raymont Harris racked up career marks of 2,649 rushing yards and 28 total touchdowns. However, if Michigan head coach Bo Schembechler had his way, Harris would have put up those gaudy numbers for the rival Wolverines.

Harris took his first recruiting visit to Michigan and was even committed to the Wolverines at one point in time, but then Ohio State head coach John Cooper continued to recruit the Lorain, Ohio, native and eventually flipped Harris into becoming a Buckeye.

"Lorain, it's one of those weird places that's near-equidistant to Ann Arbor and then down to Columbus," Harris told BSB. "In the mid-to-late '80s, Michigan was pretty much dominating Ohio State. So my very first recruiting trip was to Michigan, and Bo Schembechler was the head coach there, and he put his arm around me and told me that I was going to be the next great running back there, and I was like, 'Sure, yes. I'm coming here.'

"When I went there first, that was the first time I had ever been on a trip, so I was just so mesmerized by the experience that I said yes. When I went down to Columbus weeks later, I just kind of realized that it was more of an atmosphere and environment that – I'll say it like this – John Cooper sold me on the idea of bringing my state university back to prominence vs. going somewhere out of state where they're already established.

"When I got a chance to be around the guys at Ohio State, the guys that he would be recruiting in, I was totally sold," he added. "It wasn't easy to flip the decision. It was tough to tell (then-offensive coordinator) Gary Moeller and Bo Schembechler that I'm not going, but I'm very happy I made that choice."

Luckily for Cooper and the Buckeyes,

Harris vs. Michigan

Year/Class	Location	Result
1989/Fr.	Ann Arbor	L, 28-18
1990/R-Fr.	Columbus	L, 16-13
1991/So.	Ann Arbor	L, 31-3
1992/Jr.	Columbus	T, 13-13
1993/Sr.	Ann Arbor	L, 28-0

Harris blossomed into a star running back in Columbus rather than Ann Arbor. However, Ohio State needed to wait an extra season before Harris could showcase his talents, as he sustained a foot injury during spring practice which led to the decision to redshirt his first season with the program in 1989.

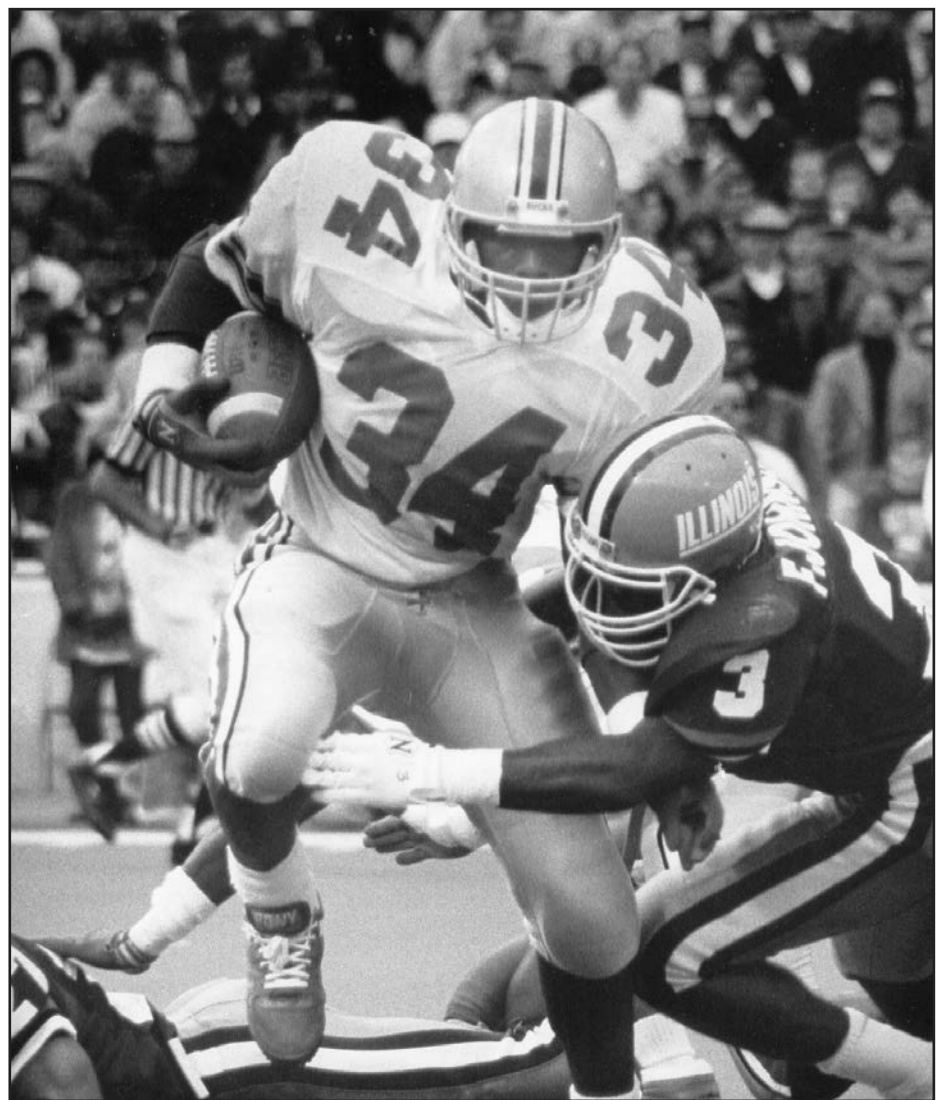
The Buckeyes, without Harris, fell 28-18 at The Big House as Cooper endured his second loss in the rivalry in as many games.

Harris, dubbed the "Quiet Storm" in high school, debuted for the Buckeyes in 1990, playing in 12 games during his redshirt freshman season. However, nothing could have prepared him for the atmosphere surrounding Michigan week.

"It was crazy because you could feel the electricity and the energy just get ratcheted up a few more decibels all throughout the week," Harris said. "All of the conversations would be about The Team Up North. It seemed like there was more energy on campus with the students and professors about The Team Up North. You go to practice, we would have scout teams, so we come in and the helmets are painted or would have stickers or tape covering your helmet, making it a blue-winged helmet.

"So all of this was just out of the ordinary and had this feeling of this is something that is really special."

Harris' redshirt freshman campaign was primarily spent playing in a committee with fellow back Robert Smith, and he had racked up 486 yards entering the rivalry game with Michigan. While Smith entered the game with 156 attempts to Harris' 106, Cooper employed a much more balanced



FILE PHOTO

IN AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE — Former Ohio State running back Raymont Harris (34) initially committed to Michigan before flipping his commitment in favor of his home-state Buckeyes.

approach against the Wolverines, opting to give the ball to Smith eight times, on which he collected 43 yards, while Harris toted nine times for 22 yards.

Ohio State's rushing attack was largely stymied, producing just 127 yards on 36 attempts, collecting only an average of 3.5 yards per carry. The Buckeyes' running game struggles popped up at the most pivotal moment in the game, as Ohio State faced a critical third-and-1 from its own 29-yard line with the game tied at 13 with around two minutes left. The Buckeyes failed to pick up a single yard on third down and, instead of playing the field-position game, opted to keep their drive alive on fourth-and-1 by running a quarterback dive with Greg Frey. Frey was stopped short, and Michigan took over from deep inside Ohio State territory before running out the clock and nailing a game-winning 37-yard field goal to escape Columbus with a win.

The shocking loss started a winless stretch in The Game for Harris as an active player, who noted that during his time playing in the rivalry, he felt Ohio State typically strayed away from what had made them successful prior to the Michigan game each season. He emphasized that while the Buckeyes entered each of his games against the Wolverines with a heightened sense of urgency, it may have also hindered

their mind-set during The Game.

"There definitely was that atmosphere around our team, and unfortunately, I think that kind of trickled down from the coaching staff," Harris said. "There was so much pressure on Coach Cooper and the staff to have success in that game, and for a number of years we did not win. So we started to hear the boos more often. We heard the criticisms and the critiques more often.

"I think the nervousness kind of started on the coaching level but then trickled down to a number of players on the team," he continued. "We would do things kind of out of character. If we were more conservative, we would try to do trick plays. If we were a dynamic team that moved the ball up and down the field, we'd get a little more conservative and try and run the ball and run the clock out.

"We were doing things that just would not really match up with how we had been playing the entire year. Once you get a team into that type of psyche, I think the other team definitely has the advantage."

In 1991, Harris and the Buckeyes returned to The Big House with their sights set on revenge for the previous season's heartbreaking loss. If Schembechler and Moeller had their way, Harris would have trotted out onto the field at Michigan Stadium in a maize and blue uniform with a winged helmet. Instead, Harris emerged



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MICHIGAN MEMORIES

from the visitors' locker room as a Buckeye.

Harris emphasized that his trips to Ann Arbor in 1989, 1991 and 1993 marked some of the more hostile environments he played in during his college career, comparing it to a trip the Buckeyes made to the L.A. Coliseum to play USC during his true freshman season. He also reflected on his experience in the controversial tunnel at Michigan Stadium, noting that things never reached a boiling point but there was plenty of trash talk exchanged.

"When I was a true freshman, we went to USC and played in the Coliseum, and up until that point, that was the most hostile environment I had ever been in," Harris said. "The fans were screaming at you, throwing things, the band was cursing you out. All of that type of stuff."

"But when you got to the Big House, you could feel the electricity and that you were extremely hated as you walked down that tunnel. The way it would always work is both teams, if you don't time it up the right way, you end up being in the tunnel together and it's a lot of trash talking. It was a lot of things that we can't say right now in this interview. Trust me, it was not pleasant."

Ohio State took a 31-3 loss on the chin that year. Desmond Howard stuck a knife in the Buckeyes with a 93-yard punt return with 4:15 remaining in the second quarter – punctuated by him flashing the Heisman pose upon crossing the goal-line – to lift the Wolverines to a 24-3 lead. Harris carried the ball four times for 9 yards in the loss, while the Buckeyes churned out just 109 rushing yards on 52 attempts as a team.

"Desmond Howard went berserk and won the Heisman Trophy on us," Harris said.

Harris and the Buckeyes returned home in 1992, and again, it appeared Ohio State was approaching another defeat entering the fourth quarter. Staring down a 13-3 deficit going into the final frame, the Buckeyes quickly tallied a field goal with 12:16 left to make it a one-score game. Less than eight minutes later, quarterback Kirk Herbstreit connected on a 5-yard touchdown pass to Greg Beatty and kicker Tim Williams hit the game-tying extra point with 4:24 remaining. The teams then traded punts, and with Michigan having one final opportunity to win the game, time expired after an interception of quarterback Todd Collins by Ohio State safety Walter Taylor, resulting in the first draw in The Game since 1973.

Although the Buckeyes had battled their way to a tie in 1992 – one that then-Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee called one of the program's greatest wins – the feeling was unchanged for Harris, who chased the elusive win in The Game for one final time in 1993. This time, OSU entered the contest with a 9-0-1 record and as the fifth-ranked team in the country. Ohio State's offense led the Big Ten in scoring, while Harris' 1,044 yards had helped OSU to emerge as one of the top rushing attacks in the conference.

Harris remained solid against Michigan in the feature running back role, churning out 65 yards on 14 carries, but the Ohio State offense sputtered en route to a 28-0 loss in his final crack at the Wolverines.

Ohio State netted only 212 yards of total offense in the devastating loss. It remains the most recent shutout loss for Ohio State against Michigan and was the first since a 22-0 loss in Columbus in 1976.

"When we went there, we were undefeated and we had one of the most explosive offenses ever at Ohio State, with the most talent probably," Harris said. "And we couldn't even score."

Ohio State's loss in 1993 marked Harris' final opportunity to vanquish the Wolverines, and he finished with an 0-4-1 record in The Game. While Harris went on to enjoy a six-year career in the NFL, he said that his winless record in The Game still weighs on his mind from time to time.

"It was just one of those things, it still haunts me today," Harris said. "I am one of the few guys that will go down in history as having some of the greatest, most talented teams, but we never actually won a pair of gold pants. That's truly unfortunate."

Following his time at Ohio State, Harris spent time with the Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers, Denver Broncos and New England Patriots. Although Harris was no longer in the Ohio State football program, he still felt the impact of the rivalry within the locker rooms at the next level.

"That would still be extremely irritating because it would always be inevitable that each and every team, you're going to have some former Michigan players," Harris said. "So you've got to bet money, and then you lose the money and they're making fun of you. So it dragged on for a really long time."

"Once Coach (Jim) Tressel got there and they started dominating on a regular basis, that's when it became a little easier to move forward from the losses that we had back in the '90s."

Flash forward to present day, and the current Buckeyes, led by head coach Ryan Day, find themselves in a similar situation to what Harris faced on numerous occasions. Ohio State is reeling from a 42-27 loss to the Wolverines at The Big House last season which knocked it out of College Football Playoff contention, as well as the Big Ten championship.

As Harris has experienced the heartbreak of losing that game, as well as the lead-up to it following a loss, he said the Buckeyes will certainly be galvanized by losing when they take the field on Nov. 26.

"It's always like that," Harris said. "You always want to get them. Of course it's a rivalry, and Ohio State has been dominant over the last 20 years. But you lose that game last year, it's impossible for that to not be sticking in the back of their minds for the entire year regardless of the team still having success and you have 'X' amount of players up for national awards – all of that stuff is great. The fact that they lose that game last year, after winning eight games in a row, it sticks with them."

"I'm sure it's in the forefront of their minds, in terms of having a chance to have some payback and revenge for what Michigan did to them last year."

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KOMATSU NOBLELIFT

Preparation For Michigan A Year-Long Endeavor

By **ANDY ANDERS**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

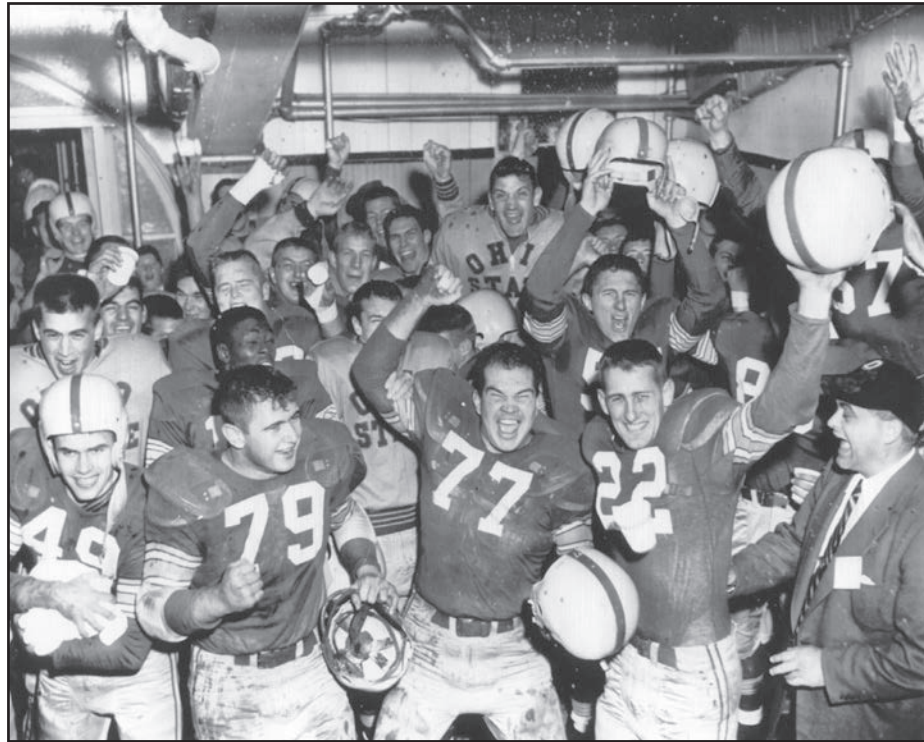
Regardless of the generation, preparing for the Michigan game isn't a one-week ordeal. It's a year-round process.

Whether it be Woody Hayes sneaking Wolverine defensive formations into Monday practices, Jim Tressel setting aside large segments of spring practice to the previous year's defeat in 2001 or today's dedicated workouts for The Game, Ohio State has always kept an eye on Ann Arbor as the calendar turned its pages.

"We always worked 52 weeks, every week, prior to that game," former Ohio State quarterback Rex Kern said. "It was really special. We always knew that, if you wanted to be undefeated, you had to go through those guys the last game of the year and they were the gateway to the Rose Bowl."

Truly, preparation for Michigan can start in the first weeks of winter workouts. In the modern day under head coach Ryan Day, there's specific training sessions dedicated to motivating the team year-round to defeat the Wolverines. When the team works with boxing equipment, Michigan logos are taped to the punching bags.

"It's not like that week comes around and you're like, 'Oh, let's prepare for The Team Up North.' No, it's a year-round process," said former Ohio State kicker Blake Haubeil. "Coach (Mickey) Marotti puts a



FILE PHOTO

YEAR IN THE MAKING — Preparation for The Game is a year-long process for both the Ohio State and Michigan football programs.

huge emphasis on that in the weight room all year. We have days that are literally dedicated to that game and working out for it."

Kern, who started for the Buckeyes from 1968 through 1970, recalled a simi-

lar year-round focus under Hayes. Beating the team donning maize and blue held a paramount importance to Ohio State's longest-tenured head man.

"At the end of some of our practice ses-

sions, we would always have one or two plays that we wanted to really work on especially for those guys," Kern said. "Woody always kept that effervescent, right in front of our faces."

Bill Conley has the unique distinction of serving under four Ohio State coaches — under Hayes as a player then under Earle Bruce, John Cooper and Tressel as a coach. He said Michigan preparation even worked its way into regular practices during other game weeks under Hayes. Monday practices had the Buckeyes implement new schemes against a defense that looked suspiciously like the Wolverines'.

"There's not a day (The Game) is off your mind," Conley said. "Playing under Woody, it was a continuum. Every Monday practice, even though Woody never said it, was a Michigan practice. I don't care who we were playing."

Former wide receiver Bruce Jankowski, who also played for Hayes from 1968 through 1970, echoed Kern and Conley's sentiments and said the team trained every day for Michigan.

"Very much so," Jankowski said. "Every game was important, obviously, but it's all about Michigan at the end."

Hayes' hunger for rivalry superiority grew ahead of the 1970 season.

In 1969, with Ohio State the defending national champions, Michigan derailed the Buckeyes' quest for a title repeat in what has been called "The Upset of the Century."

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Ohio State had won every game that year by at least 27 points prior to losing 24-12 in Ann Arbor.

As such, Hayes had a rug installed at the main entrance of the team's training facility with that score posted on it so his athletes could be reminded every day of offseason training for the 1970 campaign of that defeat. Michigan's fight song played as Ohio State players entered and exited. Kern had his own motivational tactics as well.

"When we got beat in '69, I went back to my fraternity house, the Phi Delta Theta house, and I put a sign on the back of my door, 'Remember November 22nd,' " Kern said. "I saw that every day until we got to play them our senior year. It was really interesting, because I don't think Woody really had to get us up. We were really hyped up well before that game."

The Buckeyes did manage to get revenge in 1970, beating Michigan 20-9 in Ohio Stadium. Kern added that, with students from around campus keeping football players up late at night the week before the game, Hayes had the team sleep in the Fawcett Center from Wednesday through Friday to ensure they were well-rested.

One of those evenings, some players came up to Kern and the team's other captains because they were hungry. Hayes sent one of the team managers out to scrounge up some food, giving him one of the most demanding McDonald's orders Kern has ever heard of.

"Could you imagine being the manager at McDonald's at like 10:30 at night, some guy comes in and says, 'I need to feed the football team. I need 100 Big Macs, 100 french fries and 100 milkshakes. And you've got to make it fast,' " Kern said.

Jim Laughlin, who played linebacker for Hayes from 1976 through 1978 and then a year for Bruce in 1979, didn't feel as much of a focus on Michigan during his off-seasons under Hayes, though he was confident the coaches put in plenty of time behind the scenes. He said the simpler schemes of his day had something to do with that, though.

"Coaches are a lot smarter today," Laughlin said. "There's a lot more to prepare for against everybody. Back in the day when I played, in the '70s, Archie (Griffin) would carry it 30 or 40 times, same with our guys. So you knew they were going to run the ball, Michigan. They didn't pass it that much."

One way the rivalry lived on in the off-season was that the team would compare their lifting numbers to those of Michigan's players during winter and spring workouts, but mostly in a teasing manner in Ohio State's locker room. There wasn't a laser-focus on annihilating everything Wolverine-related, at least yet.

"You'd be working out in the offseason and you'd say, like, '(Michigan running back) Rob Lytle, he's benching 400, what are you doing?' Or something like that," Laughlin said. " '(Running back) Harlan Huckleby, he's squatting 350, 400 pounds, what are you doing?' We'd kid each other about that, but that's about it."

That didn't mean it wasn't in the back of the teams' minds during the season.

"Woody would always say, 'We're obviously going to work on some Michigan stuff,' especially the few weeks before the Michigan game," Laughlin said.

Having played for both Hayes and Bruce, Laughlin noticed a dichotomy between the Hall of Fame coaches in their approaches to the week leading up to The Game. Hayes had an intense concentration and rigid discipline that bled through to the team, while Bruce took a more poised approach.

"With Woody, he tightened up like a drum during Michigan week every year," Laughlin said. "It was really quiet. It was like a church in the locker room and in practice. But Earle was pretty calm about it. He didn't want to make a big deal about it, I guess because we had lost three in-a-row (entering 1979), he didn't want to put any more pressure on us."

Conley coached four seasons under Bruce from 1984 through 1987, and in that time he felt that Hayes' successor actually had adopted much of his philosophy, especially as it pertained to Michigan.

"Earle was just like Woody," Conley said. "Everything was exactly the same."

Cooper took another approach entirely. He and his assistants tried to address the contest as no different than normal in the week leading up to it, and no attention seemed to be paid to the Maize and Blue outside of that.

"Maybe behind the scenes with the coaching staff, I wouldn't be surprised if there was," said former Ohio State linebacker Judah Herman, who played for Cooper from 1988 through 1991. "But as far as dedicated 'Beat Michigan' periods, we didn't do any of that. I've read that they do that a little bit now, or maybe in spring ball they have a Michigan session. But no, we didn't have anything like that back when I played. It was all focused on who we were playing that week."

Former Ohio State running back Raymond Harris (1990-93) corroborated Herman's account and said the staff looked at it like just another game.

"It was more of an approach of, 'We don't want to build them up as being this big, great team. They put their pants on one leg at a time, just like us,' " he said.

Cooper finished with a 2-10-1 mark against the Wolverines, picking up his lone

victories in 1994 and 1998. As the losses against Ohio State's archrival accumulated, Cooper's understanding of The Game's importance increased, Conley said, but he still lost his final two matchups with Michigan.

"He appreciated the Michigan rivalry more and more each year," Conley said. "He took it to heart the last decade he was head coach. We didn't do quite as extravagantly as we did under Earle, but he took it seriously."

Tressel was a different story. He restored the preparation traditions of Hayes and Bruce, dedicating practice periods to the Michigan game every week. During a basketball game on the day of his hiring in 2001, he famously guaranteed Ohio State fans would be proud of their team when it traveled to Ann Arbor, and he spent that entire spring doing a thorough review of the Buckeyes' loss to the Wolverines in 2000.

"We would go over a quarter, first quarter, second quarter, third quarter, once a week and go through it in detail," Conley said. "What was right, what was wrong. He would not let you forget it."

Such a dedicated focus on Michigan paid dividends.

Ohio State entered Michigan Stadium against the No. 11 Wolverines on Nov. 24, 2001, with a mere 6-4 record and pulled a signature 26-20 win out for its new sweater vest-wearing head coach. Every spring afterward, the emphasis was back on Michigan, Conley said.

Tressel also had a tradition where he brought in Bruce to talk about the history of the gold pants Ohio State distributes to its players should the team beat Michigan, and it's a tradition Conley believes was continued by head coach Urban Meyer up until Bruce's passing in 2018.

"It was interesting, because some of those kids didn't grow up in Ohio, they didn't know what the gold pants were all about," Conley said. "So for the young guys,

it was kind of neat, they learned what the tradition was all about. Then for the older guys, it was the way Earle delivered (the speech). You're going to get fired up, now."

Of course, Meyer had his own traditions related to keeping The Game on the minds of his players. Every year, he would state that the team's first goal was to beat the Wolverines. He's the one who started Marotti's Michigan-dedicated workouts. During Michigan week, the song "It's Time For War" by LL Cool J played on a 24-hour loop in the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

Day has carried over many of those traditions and that focus. In fact, it led him to state that this year's team has yet to accomplish anything it set out to do when the season started. That is the three objectives he stated at Big Ten Media Days in July: beat Michigan, win the Big Ten and win the national championship.

"We have an opportunity to go 11-0 this weekend (against Maryland) and still not have reached one of our goals yet," Day said Nov. 12. "It's sobering, but it's the facts. We know that. It's part of that building process week-in and week-out to be playing our best football in November, and that's what we focus on."

Still, Ohio State teams can't look completely ahead and shift their focus off whoever is on the docket during a given week. Despite all his emphasis on The Game throughout the calendar, one of the reasons the Buckeyes are entering that contest 11-0 this season is that they haven't looked ahead to it – rather, they've kept it on the back burner, like Hayes, Bruce and Tressel's programs have done before.

"I think it's something that comes up every week," Day said. "It comes up every year this time of year. So what we try to do is (maintain) competitive excellence, focus. It's something that we talked about early on."

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'The Game' Provides Many Stadium Memories

Throughout the 2022 football season, *Buckeye Sports Bulletin* is publishing stories commemorating the 100th anniversary of Ohio Stadium. This week, BSB looks back at memorable games between Ohio State and archrival Michigan at the Horseshoe.

By MARK REA

BSB Managing Editor Emeritus

Throughout Ohio Stadium's first century, the concrete and steel facility on the banks of the Olentangy River has hosted more than its share of thrilling Saturday afternoons and evenings.

Beginning almost with its inception, the Horseshoe has welcomed nearly every marquee program in the sport from Princeton, Notre Dame and Cornell in the 1920s and 1930s to more modern-day powerhouses such as Oklahoma, Stanford, Florida State, USC and Texas.

Home battles with Big Ten rivals have also provided a multitude of thrills, one of the most recent occurring in 2017 when Ohio State rallied from 11 points down with less than five minutes to play to steal away a 39-38 victory from second-ranked Penn State in front of 109,302 deliriously happy fans.

There are no more anticipated battles, however, than the biennial grudge match against archrival Michigan. The rivalry, more than once described as the greatest in American sports, dates to 1897 when the Wolverines were already a national power, and the Buck-

eyes were still in their infancy and trying to establish a regional foothold with their football program.

As a result, Ohio State had only two ties to show for its first 15 games against Michigan and has been playing catch-up ever since. Despite their recent dominance in the series – 17 victories in the last 20 meetings – the Buckeyes are still below .500 with a 52-59-6 record against the Wolverines.

That mark belies the success OSU has enjoyed at Ohio Stadium, however. Inside the Horseshoe, the Buckeyes enjoy a 27-21-1 advantage heading into this year's version of The Game and haven't lost at home to Michigan since 2000.

From an overflow crowd of 72,500 that attended the stadium dedication game in 1922 to the record 110,045 who watched the Buckeyes win a double-overtime thriller in 2016, more than 4 million fans have filed through the Ohio Stadium turnstiles to watch their favorite team take on those hated rivals from the state up north.

What follows are brief recaps of some of the most memorable and iconic games waged between Ohio State and Michigan in the 100-year history of Ohio Stadium.

Stadium Dedication (1922)

Michigan served as the opponent as Ohio State dedicated its new Ohio Stadium on Oct. 21, 1922. The largest crowd ever to witness a football game in the Midwest was officially announced at 72,500, although there were likely

thousands more inside the Horseshoe. Many fans unable to secure tickets for the sold-out game forced their way through a fence at the south end of the stadium and stood several rows deep at the back of the end zone.

The dedication game festivities included both the Ohio State and Michigan marching bands performing at halftime while more than 30 former OSU team captains were seated together on the sideline. The only disappointment was the final score as the Buckeyes dropped a 19-0 decision, breaking a three-game winning streak in the series.

Future Michigan head coach Harry Kipke was the star for the Wolverines, scoring a touchdown at halftime and keeping the Buckeyes pinned deep in their own territory most of the afternoon with his pinpoint punting.

First Stadium Win (1928)

Ohio State broke a six-year losing streak against Michigan, defeating the Wolverines for the first time in Ohio Stadium by a score of 19-7. Crowds in the Horseshoe during the five home games in 1928 averaged only around 46,450, but an overflow audience of 72,439 filled the stands to watch the Buckeyes beat Michigan in Columbus for only the second time in 11 tries.

Eight minutes into the game, OSU quarterback Alan Holman threw a touchdown pass to All-America end Wes Fesler to give the Buckeyes a 6-0 lead. Michigan recovered an Ohio State fumble in the end zone to take a 7-6 advantage, but OSU regained the lead be-

fore halftime at 12-7 when halfback Byron Eby raced 21 yards for a touchdown.

Holman threw for another touchdown in the fourth quarter, this one for 21 yards to Charles Coffee, to finish the scoring.

Ohio State thoroughly dominated Michigan in the game, enjoying a 157-50 advantage in total yardage and a 13-1 edge in first downs.

Gold Pants Club (1934)

When Francis Schmidt began preparations in the fall of 1934 for his first game against Michigan, the Buckeyes had tasted victory against Michigan only six times in the 30 times the teams had played over the years and were working on back-to-back shutout losses in 1932 and '33.

But Schmidt had already given an indication of how he felt about going against the Wolverines when he met with Columbus newspaper reporters several months earlier. The day the coach was formally hired by the university, he sat through a battery of questions from interviewers until the inevitable was asked.

"Michigan is pretty tough," a reporter offered. "How concerned are you about them?"

"How concerned should I be?" Schmidt replied with a wry smile. "Don't forget they put their trousers on one leg at a time, just the same as anyone else."

No one knew it at the time, but it was the genesis of one of Ohio State's oldest and most cherished traditions – the Gold Pants Club with membership exclusive only to those team members who beat Michigan. The inaugural

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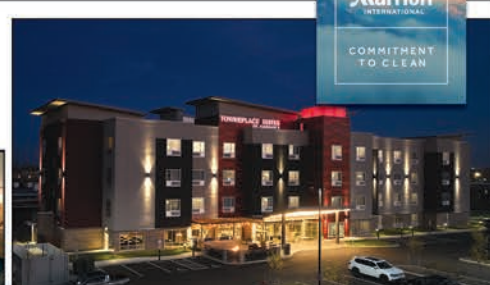
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FILE PHOTO

WINTER WONDERLAND — Ohio State and Michigan played one of their most classic games against one another in 1950 in the infamous “Snow Bowl.” The Wolverines came away with a 9-3 victory as the teams battled through a blizzard at Ohio Stadium.

members of the club were enshrined in 1934 following a 34-0 victory against the Wolverines, the largest margin of victory for the Buckeyes in the series at the time.

In front of an Ohio Stadium crowd of 68,678, Ohio State scored two first-half touchdowns behind a ferocious running attack before a defensive score opened the second half. The Buckeyes then switched to the air in the final minutes to cross the goal line twice more.

After the game, the crowd poured onto the field and tore down the goalposts in triumph. It was believed to be the first time in Ohio Stadium that the posts had come down after a big victory. Not completely satisfied with simply tearing down the posts, several students hoisted them on their shoulders and carried them away as souvenirs.

Seesaw Battle (1944)

Before a homecoming crowd of 71,958 in Ohio Stadium, the third-ranked Buckeyes won an 18-14 classic against the No. 6 Wolverines.

The lead changed hands four times in the back-and-forth contest that started with Ollie Cline’s 1-yard touchdown plunge to give Ohio State a 6-0 lead late in the first quarter. Michigan grabbed its first lead at 7-6 just 22 seconds before halftime on a short TD run by Dick Culligan and the subsequent extra point.

Gordon Appleby recovered a Michigan fumble midway through the third period, setting up a touchdown run by Heisman Trophy winner Les Horvath to give the Buckeyes a

12-7 advantage. But the Wolverines came back with an 83-yard march in the fourth quarter topped by another Culligan TD to regain the lead at 14-12.

Michigan couldn’t hold the advantage, however, and Horvath capped a 14-play, 52-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown at the 3:16 mark of the fourth quarter. OSU defensive halfback Dick Flanagan ended the Wolverines’ hopes for another comeback when he intercepted a pass from Culligan in the waning seconds, preserving the 18-14 victory for the Buckeyes.

Horvath rushed for 106 yards and helped keep Ohio State undefeated for the season, and the Buckeyes were declared the National Civilian Champions for 1944. They finished second to Army in the season’s final poll from The Associated Press.

Snow Bowl (1950)

Saturday, Nov. 25, 1950, was supposed to be a cool, crisp late autumn day in Columbus with no precipitation in the forecast.

Ohio State was preparing to host archrival Michigan, needing a victory to assure itself of a second straight Western Conference championship. The Wolverines had boarded a bus for the trip south from Ann Arbor on the previous afternoon and motored into Columbus with little problem.

But by 10 a.m. on the morning of the game — four hours before the scheduled kickoff — the Ohio Stadium field was already covered with ice and snow. The bottom had dropped out of the thermometer, and 40 mph winds whipped

through the Horseshoe, sending the mercury plummeting to near zero.

“In my opinion, that was a game that should never have been played,” OSU football historian Jack Park told BSB. “Many of the people I have talked to over the years who were actually at that game went home at halftime. Even so, many of the people who drove to the game from outside Columbus couldn’t get to their cars. I’ve been told they couldn’t get them out of the stadium parking lot until the following Tuesday or Wednesday.”

As the snowfall mounted, Columbus officials declared a snow emergency and instructed all citizens to stay home if they could.

The game was delayed 20 minutes past its scheduled 2 p.m. start while grounds crew members and volunteers from the stands tried to remove the \$3,000 protective tarpaulin that had covered the field but was now frozen to it. They were only partially successful, and the game was played with half of the tarp still on the field.

The conditions were so bad to start the game that the opening coin toss was held inside the stadium tower. Nevertheless, the game went on and the Buckeyes took an early 3-0 lead after OSU lineman Bob Momsen blocked a punt and halfback Vic Janowicz kicked a 38-field goal into the icy, swirling wind.

Michigan captain Allen Wahl later blocked a Janowicz punt, and it rolled out of the end zone for a safety to cut the Buckeyes’ advantage to 3-2. Then, with 47 seconds left in the first half, Janowicz attempted another punt, and this one was blocked by Michigan’s Tony Momsen — Bob’s brother — who also recovered the ball in the end zone for a Michigan touchdown.

Officials had to call timeout and use shovels and brooms to determine if the ball had gone over the end line of the end zone, and it took several minutes before they determined the ball had actually been recovered by Michigan in the end zone.

After it had been determined the play was a touchdown, Wolverines kicker Harry Allis booted his extra point through the uprights to give his team a 9-3 lead.

Weather conditions got even worse in the second half. The driving snowstorm was so blinding that players standing on one sideline could not see their opponents on the other

sideline. Grounds crew members with brooms had to sweep snow from the field just to place the ball for each play.

Michigan eventually won a 9-3 decision in a game that featured almost unbelievable statistics. The Wolverines failed to garner a single first down or pass completion, finished with only 27 total yards, and fumbled six times. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes had only three first downs and fumbled four times. They managed 41 total yards — 16 on the ground and a remarkable 25 more through the air.

There were also a Big Ten-record 45 punts, including 24 from Michigan’s Chuck Ortmann, another single-game conference record that still stands. Janowicz punted 21 times, an OSU single-game record that also remains on the books.

Although 82,300 tickets were sold for the game — which would have made for the third-largest crowd in stadium history at that time — the official attendance was counted at 50,503 who braved the elements. Before the game, the few ticket-takers who had been able to man their posts were told to go home and the stadium gates were opened for anyone who wanted to attend the game.

Goal-Line Stand (1954)

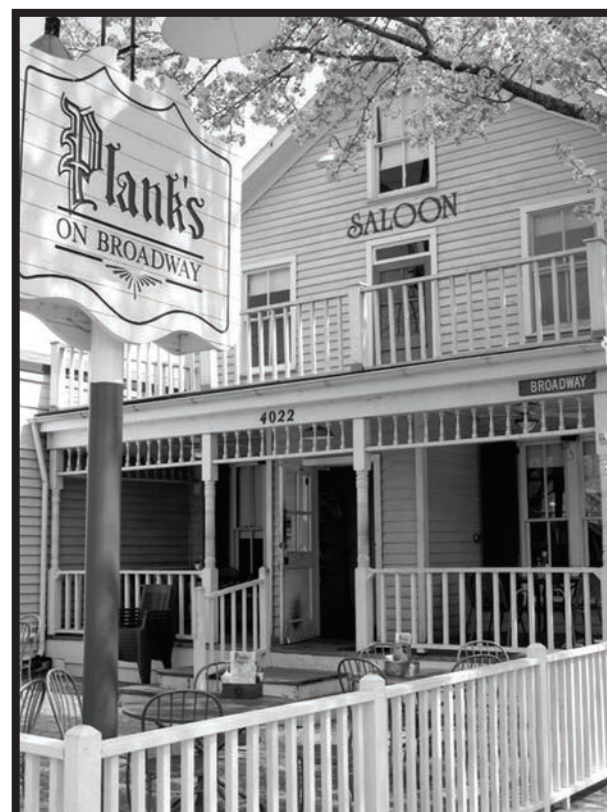
Another Big Ten championship was on the line when the undefeated Buckeyes took on the once-beaten Wolverines.

The teams played to a 7-7 tie after three quarters before Michigan opened fourth-quarter play with a first-and-goal at the OSU 4-yard line. Spearheaded by 6-3, 275-pound lineman Jim Parker clogging the middle, the Buckeyes made one of the classic goal-line stands in school history.

Michigan pounded the ball to the 1-yard line on its first two plays, but the Buckeyes would not budge after that. Parker, along with teammates Jim Reichenbach, Frank “Moose” Machinsky and Hubert Bobo, stopped the Wolverines on third down and again on fourth down inside the 1.

After taking over on downs, the Ohio State offense took the ball and marched more than 99 yards the other way for a go-ahead touchdown. They added one more score to put the

Continued On Page 32



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Hayes, Cooper Help Establish New Traditions

Continued From Page 31

finishing touches on a 21-7 victory, a win that helped propel the team into the Rose Bowl and an eventual national championship.

Lucky Chinstrap (1968)

National championship implications were on the line as the No. 2 Buckeyes hosted the fourth-ranked Wolverines. After spotting the visitors an early 7-0 lead, Ohio State rolled to a 50-14 victory, clinching the Big Ten championship and a Rose Bowl berth against USC and Heisman Trophy winner O.J. Simpson.

On the night before the game, during a huge on-campus pep rally, fullback Jim Otis was approached by a Buckeye fan. The fan said that Bob Ferguson had given him his chinstrap as a souvenir following the 1961 OSU-Michigan game, a contest during which Ferguson had scored four touchdowns against the Wolverines. The fan, who referred to himself only as "Scooter," said he wanted Otis to have the strap for good luck the next day.

Otis carefully taped the chinstrap inside his shoulder pads the next morning and proceeded to rush for 143 yards and four touchdowns against Michigan.

Revenge Is Sweet (1970)

To say Woody Hayes was obsessed with beating Michigan in 1970 would be like saying the Grand Canyon is a hole in the ground. Hayes had a huge rug made with the 1969 score woven into it and had it installed just outside the Buckeyes' locker room. Every day, Ohio State players and coaches had "Michigan 24, Ohio State 12" staring them in the face.

By the time the two teams met Nov. 21, 1970, the Buckeyes were at a fever pitch and responded with a stifling 20-9 victory in front of a record-breaking Ohio Stadium crowd of 87,331.

The teams traded field goals for a 3-3 tie early in the second quarter before OSU quarterback Rex Kern hit split end Bruce Jankowski for a 26-yard touchdown, giving the Buck-

eyes a 10-3 advantage at the half.

Michigan threatened to tie the game on a third-quarter touchdown pass from Don Moorhead to Paul Staroba, but Ohio State defender Tim Anderson blocked the extra point and that was as close as the Wolverines got.

Kicker Fred Schram booted a 27-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter to widen Ohio State's lead to 13-9, and then linebacker Stan White intercepted Moorhead deep in Michigan territory, setting up a 4-yard touchdown run by tailback Leo Hayden.

Hayden rushed for 117 yards in the game, leading the Buckeyes' offensive attack that ground out 329 total yards. The Wolverines committed three turnovers and were limited to 155 yards.

The victory put the finishing touches on a perfect 9-0 regular season for Ohio State and served as the final home game for the "Super Sophs," who finished their careers with an unblemished 16-0 record in Ohio Stadium.

Battlefield Promotion (1974)

Tom Klaban, a Czechoslovakian refugee who had honed his kicking talents using tips from his soccer-playing sister, made all four of his field-goal attempts – three from 40 yards or farther – and propelled Ohio State to a Rose Bowl berth with a 12-10 win against third-ranked Michigan in front of an Ohio Stadium-record crowd of 88,243.

The Buckeyes were limited to 253 yards of offense, nearly half of that coming from tailback Archie Griffin, who rushed for 111 yards on 25 carries. But it was Klaban who was the star of the game, helping his team erase an early 10-0 deficit by converting field goals from 47, 25, 43 and 45 yards.

After the game, Hayes stood in the middle of the postgame locker room celebration, declaring, "This was the greatest kicking game I've ever seen." The coach first awarded Klaban the game ball and then – terming it a "battlefield promotion" – announced he was giving his kicker a full scholarship, something no other Ohio State kicker had ever been awarded to

that point during the Hayes era.

Tunnel Of Pride (1994)

John Cooper was 0-5-1 against the Wolverines but got a little help to secure his first victory in the series – some of it from an unwanted source.

Early in the week, Michigan receiver Walter Smith boasted, "We want to get Cooper fired. That's what I want to do. We want to keep on beating them and beating them until he's not there."

The comments so incensed OSU alumni that several hundred former players lined up on the Ohio Stadium field during pregame festivities to show their support of the program, forming the first-ever "Tunnel of Pride."

In Cooper's six previous games against Michigan, the football always seemed to bounce the Wolverines' way. This time, it was the Buckeyes who got all the breaks.

OSU took a 12-3 halftime lead on a safety, a 4-yard touchdown scramble by quarterback Bobby Hoying and a 26-yard field goal by Josh Jackson.

In the second half, OSU defensive back Marlon Kerner blocked a field goal, and defensive lineman Luke Fickell grabbed a fourth-quarter interception at the Michigan 16-yard line. Five plays later, tailback Eddie George ran into the end zone from 2 yards out to cap the 22-6 victory in front of 93,869, and the monkey was finally off Cooper's back.

Most Satisfying Win (1998)

Cooper had arguably his best team in 1998, but the Buckeyes had suffered an upset loss to Michigan State two weeks earlier to knock them out of the national championship picture. The team desperately wanted to salvage its season with a win over Michigan, and it did so with a convincing 31-16 win that really wasn't that close.

The contest featured more passing yardage than any other game in the series to that time. Joe Germaine threw for 330 yards for Ohio State while Michigan quarterback Tom

Brady completed 31 of 56 attempts for 375 yards but was sacked seven times and picked off twice before a crowd of 94,339.

OSU broke out on top early when Michael Wiley ran 53 yards for a touchdown on his team's second possession of the game. The Buckeyes set up their next two scores with special teams play, forcing a minus-yardage punt on one play and blocking a punt on another. Germaine later hooked up with receiver David Boston for a 43-yard touchdown following an interception by OSU linebacker Jerry Rudzinski.

The Buckeyes completely shut down the Michigan rushing attack, limiting the Wolverines to a net 4 yards on the ground.

Especially gratifying for Ohio State was the fact the victory broke Michigan's Big Ten winning streak at 16 games.

On To The Title (2002)

Before an Ohio Stadium-record crowd of 105,539, the Buckeyes overcame a fourth-quarter deficit to beat Michigan and secure the Big Ten's first-ever spot in the Bowl Championship Series national title game.

Freshman tailback Maurice Clarett energized the crowd when he shook off a shoulder injury to run for 119 yards, breaking the school's single-season rushing record for freshmen in the process.

But it was a 26-yard pass reception in the fourth quarter that could have been Clarett's biggest play. It helped set up a 3-yard touchdown run by sophomore tailback Maurice Hall, giving the Buckeyes a 14-9 lead with 4:55 remaining in the game.

Michigan had two more chances to pull the game out of the fire. QB John Navarre drove his team to the OSU 30-yard line, but he fumbled after a hard sack by defensive tackle Darrion Scott and defensive end Will Smith pounced on the loose football.

Then in the final minute, the Wolverines got the ball back and got all the way to the OSU 24 before safety Will Allen picked off Navarre near the end zone to end the threat.

The victory gave the Buckeyes a share of the Big Ten championship with Iowa, preserved their undefeated season and put them into the BCS championship game against defending national champion Miami (Fla.). Then, on Jan. 3, 2003, at the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., Ohio State defeated the Hurricanes 31-24 in double overtime to capture the school's first consensus national title since 1968.

Clash Of The Titans (2006)

Top-ranked Ohio State claimed a heart-thumping 42-39 victory against No. 2 Michigan, a win that finished off a perfect 2006 regular season for the Buckeyes and propelled them into the Bowl Championship Series national title game.

The Wolverines entered the game with the nation's No. 3 unit in total defense but were gashed for 503 yards by the power-laden Ohio State attack. In addition to being stingy in total yardage, Michigan had all but outlawed the run by its opponents, entering the game as the nation's top-rated defense against the rush, giving up an average of only 29.9 yards per game.

That average was shredded by the Buckeyes, who jumped on Michigan for 187 yards on the ground and an average of 6.4 yards on 29 carries. Antonio Pittman carried most of



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the load, totaling 139 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries.

But while Ohio State was softening up the Wolverines with the run, it was quarterback Troy Smith – on his way to winning the Heisman Trophy – who was the catalyst for the offense. He completed 29 of 41 passes (each career highs) and threw for 316 yards and four touchdowns.

Each of Smith's touchdown throws was to a different receiver with eight Buckeyes catching at least one of his passes. Junior receiver Ted Ginn Jr. had a game-high eight receptions for 104 yards and a score while sophomore Brian Robiskie chipped in with seven catches for 89 yards and a touchdown.

A then Ohio Stadium-record crowd of 105,708 looked on as Michigan drew first blood with a 1-yard touchdown run by Mike Hart early in the first quarter. But the Buckeyes stormed back and held a 28-14 lead at halftime. The Wolverines twice drew within four points in the second half, but Smith's 13-yard touchdown pass to Robiskie with 5:38 to go sealed the victory.

Five In A Row (2008)

Never before in the series that dated to 1897 had Ohio State enjoyed a win streak longer than four games, but a 42-7 pummeling of the Wolverines in front of 105,564 fans gave the Buckeyes a record fifth straight win against their archrivals.

The one-two punch of Chris "Beanie" Wells and Dan "Boom" Herron combined to rush for 214 yards and three touchdowns, while freshman quarterback Terrelle Pryor added 120 yards and a pair of TDs through the air.

Current OSU receivers coach Brian Hartline had a pair of touchdown receptions in the game – a 53-yarder from Pryor in the second quarter and an 18-yarder from senior co-captain Todd Boeckman early in the final period.

Michigan finished its first season under head coach Rich Rodriguez with a 3-9 record, the program's first losing mark since 1967. The nine losses were also the most for the Wolverines in any season during their 129-year history.

Preserving Perfection (2012)

In Urban Meyer's first year as head coach, the Buckeyes closed out only the sixth perfect record in program history with a 26-21 win against Michigan in front of 105,899 fans inside cold and blustery Ohio Stadium. It was a seesaw affair for much of the afternoon with the lead changing hands three times before halftime.

The Wolverines were trying to protect a 14-10 advantage when Braxton Miller connected with Corey "Philly" Brown for a 14-yard touchdown with 1:30 left in the second quarter to push the Buckeyes in front by a 17-14 score. But Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson ripped off a 67-yard scoring run at the 0:40 mark. However, Drew Basil drilled a 52-yard field goal for the Buckeyes as time ran out to leave Michigan with a 21-20 advantage heading into the locker room.

In the second half, the OSU defense held Michigan to just 60 total yards and zero points, and the Buckeyes got a pair of field goals from Drew Basil to secure the victory.

Carlos Hyde rushed for 146 yards and a touchdown for the Buckeyes while Miller threw for 189 yards and a score and added 57 yards rushing. Brown caught eight balls for 95 yards and one touchdown.

Double-OT Thriller (2016)

In a game with College Football Playoff implications on the line, No. 2 Ohio State outlasted No. 3 Michigan by a 30-27 final score in a game that took two overtimes. It was the only overtime game in the series to date and was played before a record Ohio Stadium crowd of 110,045, an attendance mark that still stands.

Curtis Samuel scored the winning touchdown on a 15-yard run in the second overtime, but it was the play just before that on which the game was decided. OSU quarterback J.T. Barrett barely converted a fourth-and-1 play, much to the chagrin of Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh, who vehemently disputed where officials spotted the football following

Barrett's run.

Barrett was the game's leading rusher with 125 yards and a touchdown. The QB also passed for 124 yards but was intercepted once and sacked eight times by a swarming Michigan defense.

The Wolverines had a chance to take command of the game in the third quarter, but QB Wilson Speight fumbled away one possession at the OSU 1-yard line and was later picked off by Ohio State linebacker Jerome Baker inside Michigan territory to set up a touchdown for the Buckeyes.

Urban Finale (2018)

Dwayne Haskins matched a program re-

cord with six touchdown passes as the No. 10 Buckeyes rolled to a 62-39 win against fourth-ranked Michigan. The points were the most ever scored by Ohio State during the series, eclipsing 50-point efforts in 1961 and 1968.

Haskins finished with 396 yards passing, the most for an OSU quarterback against the Wolverines, and threw touchdown passes of 24, 24, 31, 78, 1 and 16 yards. Parris Campbell was on the receiving end of two of those scores, and he finished the game with six receptions for 192 yards.

The game marked the final regular-season game coached at Ohio State by Meyer and gave him a perfect 7-0 record against the Wolverines.

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Assessing RBs After Fletcher's Departure

Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) IMG Academy four-star running back Mark Fletcher (6-1, 225) announced on Nov. 16 that he was decommitting from Ohio State. Fletcher is the No. 261 overall prospect and No. 15 running back in 2023, and he had been committed to the Buckeyes since April. Despite his commitment to Ohio State, he continued taking visits to other schools such as Florida and Miami (Fla.), who are likely among the favorites to land Fletcher now.

RECRUITING OUTLOOK Braden Moles

"First off, I would like to thank The Ohio State University, Coach Tony Alford and Coach Ryan Day for offering me the privilege of playing football at the next level," he said on Twitter. "However, after long conversations discussing the best opportunities for me and my family, I have decided to decommit from The Ohio State University and reopen my recruitment."

Fletcher's decommitment leaves Ohio State without a running back in the 2023 class with the early signing period set to begin on Dec. 19. It presents a challenging situation for Ohio State, which absolutely needs to sign at least one in this class. The pressure is on after seeing

some troubling depth this season due to several injuries, even requiring switching Chip Trayanum – a former running back at Arizona State before he transferred to Ohio State this past offseason – to running back from linebacker, where he had played since arriving on campus.

The Buckeyes signed just one running back in last year's class in freshman Dallen Hayden – who has, for the record, looked solid in his Ohio State debut season – and could face further issues after this season depending on what happens with running back Miyan Williams or any other scholarship backs on the roster.

One potential solution is to flip another big fish who can fill the role of the single back in the class like Fletcher did. This would be the likes of El Campo, Texas, five-star Rueben Owens (5-11, 190), who is committed to Louisville, or Buford, Ga., five-star Justice Haynes (5-11, 200), who is committed to Alabama.

A report from 247Sports indicated that Ohio State has already reached out to Owens to get him on campus for The Game on Nov. 26. Owens did not commit to a visit but did leave the opportunity open, simply saying, "I'll see."

If the flip of a five-star target at this point isn't feasible, Ohio State would likely look to take one or two less-heralded prospects whom the Buckeyes have kept an eye on but never heavily recruited, at least until now. This list could feature

OSU Football 2023 Commitments

Players in the class of 2023 who have issued a verbal commitment to play football at Ohio State.

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Jayden Bonsu	SAF	6-1	210	★★★★	Hillside (N.J.) St. Peter's Prep
Brock Glenn	QB	6-2	195	★★★★	Memphis (Tenn.) Lausanne Collegiate
Malik Hartford	SAF	6-3	175	★★★★	West Chester (Ohio) Lakota West
Cedrick Hawkins	SAF	6-0	175	★★★★	Titusville (Fla.) Cocoa
Brandon Inniss	WR	6-0	190	★★★★★	Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.) American Heritage
Kayin Lee	CB	5-11	185	★★★★	Ellenwood (Ga.) Cedar Grove
Jermaine Mathews	CB	6-0	175	★★★★	Cincinnati Winton Woods
Kayden McDonald	DT	6-3	310	★★★★	Suwanee (Ga.) North Gwinnett
Luke Montgomery	OT	6-5	280	★★★★	Findlay, Ohio
Jason Moore	DE	6-6	255	★★★★	Hyattsville (Md.) DeMatha Catholic
Joshua Padilla	OG	6-4	280	★★★★	Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne
Arvell Reese	LB	6-4	212	★★★★	Cleveland Glenville
Bryson Rodgers	WR	6-1	175	★★★★	Zephyrhills (Fla.) Wiregrass Ranch
Noah Rogers	WR	6-2	195	★★★★	Rolesville, N.C.
Austin Sierveld	OL	6-5	320	★★★★	Middletown (Ohio) Lakota East
Calvin Simpson-Hunt	CB	6-0	175	★★★★	Waxahachie, Texas
Will Smith Jr.	DL	6-3	260	★★★★	Dublin (Ohio) Coffman
Carnell Tate	WR	6-2	185	★★★★	Bradenton (Fla.) IMG Academy
Jelani Thurman	TE	6-5	230	★★★★	Fairburn (Ga.) Langston Hughes
Miles Walker	OT	6-6	285	★★★	Greenwich (Conn.) Brunswick School

Cincinnati Winton Woods three-star Trey Cornist (5-11, 209), a former Georgia Tech commit, or Ironton, Ohio, three-star Jaquez Keyes (6-1, 207), who is committed to Wisconsin.

Another option in that vein is Douglasville (Ga.) South Paulding three-star Jamarion Wilcox (5-9, 195), who was offered just one day after Fletcher's decommitment. Wilcox is the No. 908 overall prospect and No. 61 running back in the class, and he holds additional offers from Cincinnati, Clemson, Indiana, Kansas, NC State and Wake Forest, among others.

Wilcox rushed for 1,534 yards and 23 touchdowns last season for South Paulding, and through 11 games this season, he had 2,059 rushing yards and 29 rushing touchdowns on 229 carries – good for 9.0 yards per attempt.

"The big thing about it, it's kind of close to home," said Sumo Robinson, Wilcox's coach and guardian, to 247Sports.

"Miyan Williams is one of his childhood friends – they grew up and played together in the same area. The way Coach Alford builds a relationship with kids is a big factor, and him being able to talk with Coach Day he liked too."

Whether the answer in the class is Cornist, Keyes, Owens or Wilcox or some combination of the four, Ohio State now has a limited time frame to work with to find a running back in the class.

It could also put an increased emphasis on grabbing a pair of star backs in the 2024 class. Ohio State is already off to a strong start in that regard, having made serious inroads with Cincinnati Moeller four-star Jordan Marshall (5-11, 195) and Tampa (Fla.) Wharton four-star Stacy Gage (5-11, 200), who are each top-150 prospects.

Ohio State Offers DE Mickens Following Visit

Ohio State issued an offer on Nov. 9

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Athens
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OSU Football 2024 Commitments

Players in the class of 2024 who has/have issued a verbal commitment to play football at Ohio State.					
Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Stars	High School
Ian Moore	OL	6-5	295	★★★★	New Palestine, Ind.
Dylan Raiola	QB	6-3	220	★★★★★	Chandler, Ariz.

to Indianapolis Lawrence Central four-star defensive end Joshua Mickens (6-5, 225), a 2023 prospect who is committed to LSU. Just days after offering Mickens, he made a trip to Columbus for the Buckeyes’ win over Indiana on Nov. 12, and he’s set to return for an official visit on Nov. 26.

Mickens is the No. 136 overall prospect and No. 18 edge rusher in the class and has been committed to LSU since July.

“It’s kind of similar to what I’ve said about LSU – that’s Ohio State, they have the brand, they have the name, they have the people to show how good of a program they are,” Mickens told 247Sports. “They have the coaches – Coach (Ryan) Day, Coach (Larry) Johnson, Coach (Kevin) Wilson, Coach (Justin) Frye, they’ve got the players, they have the production. The whole staff, they try to breed greatness, and that’s what I like about them.”

Given Mickens’ status as a top-150 prospect – let alone one who is committed to LSU and holds offers from Iowa,

Michigan, Michigan State, Penn State, Tennessee and USC, among others – it likely has little to do with Ohio State’s pursuit of the other three five-star defensive ends in Tampa (Fla.) Berkeley Prep’s Keon Keeley (6-6, 242), Damon Wilson (6-4, 230) of Venice, Fla., and Bellflower (Calif.) St. John Bosco’s Matayo Uiagalelei (6-5, 264), as it remains unlikely that Ohio State would sign all three.

Giant Visitor List Shaping Up For Michigan Game

For all the pageantry that went into Ohio State’s season opener against Notre Dame in regard to rolling out the red carpet for recruits, it will only be ramped up further when the Buckeyes host Michigan on Nov. 26.

Before getting into the uncommitted prospects expected, several recruits who have already pledged to the Buckeyes will be in attendance. This list includes a trio of offensive linemen in Findlay, Ohio, four-star Luke Montgomery (6-5, 280); Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne four-star

Joshua Padilla (6-4, 280); and Middletown (Ohio) Lakota East four-star Austin Siereveld (6-5, 320).

Also in attendance will be Rolesville, N.C., four-star wide receiver Noah Rogers (6-2, 195); Chandler, Ariz., five-star quarterback Dylan Raiola (6-3, 220); and New Palestine, Ind., four-star offensive lineman Ian Moore (6-5, 295) in 2024; and Atlanta (Ga.) Douglass cornerback Jontae Gilbert (6-1, 175) in 2025, among others.

As for the uncommitted prospects in 2023, Mickens and Wilson are expected, as well as Jacksonville (Fla.) Westside four-star defensive lineman Jordan Hall (6-5, 300), who recently included the Buckeyes among his top six schools.

Moving on to 2024 prospects, the Buckeyes will welcome Philadelphia (Pa.) Roman Catholic four-star wide receiver Tyseer Denmark (5-11, 180), who is announcing his commitment on Nov. 24, with Ohio State considered the heavy favorite.

Ohio State is waiting to see whether several high-profile targets – including Hoschton (Ga.) Mill Creek five-star safety Caleb Downs (6-0, 185), Brockton (Mass.) Thayer Academy five-star offensive tackle Samson Okunlola (6-5, 305) and Owens – make their way out. As previously mentioned, Owens kept the door open for

a potential visit, while reports have said Ohio State has been attempting to get Downs and Okunlola on campus for this game.

Ohio State will also host Buford, Ga., five-star athlete KJ Bolden (6-1, 185); Olney (Md.) Good Counsel four-star linebacker Aaron Chiles (6-3, 210); Buford, Ga., four-star defensive end/tight end KingJoseph Edwards (6-5, 242); Lewis Center (Ohio) Olentangy three-star tight end Gavin Grover (6-6, 220); West Bloomfield, Mich., four-star linebacker Kari Jackson (6-1, 215); Stafford (Va.) Mountain View four-star linebacker Kristopher Jones (6-2, 220); Chandler (Ariz.) Basha four-star athlete Miles Lockhart (5-10, 185); Marshall; Olney (Md.) Good Counsel three-star wide receiver Elijah Moore (6-4, 190); Springfield, Ohio, four-star cornerback Aaron Scott (6-1, 170); Opa Locka (Fla.) Chaminade-Madonna Prep five-star wide receiver Jeremiah Smith (6-3, 185); Nashville (Tenn.) Lipscomb Academy four-star linebacker Edwin Spillman (6-1, 216); and Sunbury (Ohio) Big Walnut four-star Garrett Stover (6-2, 195).

Moving to 2025, Ohio State will host Findlay, Ohio, quarterback Ryan Montgomery (6-3, 200); Buford, Ga., five-star linebacker Jadon Perlotte (6-3, 200); San

Continued On Page 36

A Look Back At Recruiting From The Pages Of BSB

35 Years Ago — 1987

A close number two at linebacker on the Buckeyes’ big board behind Tony Closson of Delphos (Ohio) Jefferson was Judah Herman, also found in Ohio from Kenston High School in Chagrin Falls. Herman, 6-2, 210, had 274 tackles as a junior in 14 games.

“He’s a quick kid. You don’t get that many tackles from being lazy, that’s for sure,” national recruiting expert Tom Lemming said. “He’s also a bright kid, who has good field presence, always aware of his assignments.”

30 Years Ago — 1992

Ohio State did not sign a quarterback in the 1992 recruiting season, but the Buckeyes were making a conscious effort to make sure that didn’t happen again in 1993.

Reports were that the team would like to sign a minimum of three signal callers to scholarships, and OSU was chasing several prospects.

Among them was Tom Hoying of St. Henry, Ohio, was the younger brother of OSU redshirt freshman Bob Hoying. The younger Hoying (6-5, 200, 4.8) put up similar numbers to those of his older brother and was ranked No. 18 among pocket passers by Lemming.

Also ranked among the top 39 pro-style quarterbacks in the country were two other Ohioans – Jim Fox (6-6, 212. 4.9) of Struthers and Pete Jelovic (6-4, 190, 4.8) of Mentor Lake Catholic.

Ohio State was also thinking of going outside the state for a big-time quarterback prospect. Stanley Jackson of Patterson (N.J.) Catholic was considered one of the top five prep QBs in the nation. The previous year Jackson (6-3, 195, 4.5) threw for 1,600 yards and 15 TDs and ran for 600 yards and six touchdowns. Lemming rated him the second-best combination passer-runner in the country.

25 Years Ago — 1997

Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward cornerback DeJuan Groce (5-10, 180, 4.4) may have reversed field and lifted Michigan State over longtime favorite Michigan and the rest of his schools. Groce’s change of heart was related to U-M’s youth in the secondary, apparently.

Judged the nation’s No. 2 cornerback by The National Recruiting Adviser and Ohio’s No. 3 prospect by The Ohio Football Recruiting News, Groce was scheduled to visit Michigan State Nov. 15 and Indiana Dec. 5 and also planned to visit Michigan, Ohio State and one of the following: Pittsburgh, Nebraska, Syracuse or Wisconsin.

“I talk to (OSU assistant Mike) Jacobs a lot,” Groce said. “I’m keeping everything open right now.”

20 Years Ago — 2002

Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary defensive tackle Sian Cotton was in the process of setting up official visits.

Cotton (6-4, 295, 4.8) was considered Ohio’s 11th-best prospect by Rivals.com and No. 10 by Ohio’s Future Stars.

His team wrapped up a 7-4 season with an opening-round playoff loss. On the year, Cotton had 70 tackles and 13½ sacks.

“I think I had a pretty good year,” Cotton told BSB. “I was double-teamed and triple-teamed on just about every play. My stats don’t reflect that. I just look at it that I was able to get the linebackers open. I think I played pretty well this year.”

He listed four schools he wanted to visit – Clemson, Florida, Pittsburgh and OSU.

15 Years Ago — 2007

It is fair to say that things did not necessarily go according to plan for Andrew Sweat during his senior season of high school.

After becoming the ninth verbal member of OSU’s class of 2008, the four-star linebacker prospect from Washington (Pa.) Trinity set his sights on going out and having a productive senior season.

Though he was somewhat successful, the 6-2, 233-pound Sweat played the majority of the year while battling a shoulder injury that made it tough to initiate contact. The Hillers lost in the second round of the playoffs.

“I think it went pretty good,” he said of the season. “I was a little bit banged up for most of the year, but I think it went pretty well. Obviously it ended before we wanted it to, but overall I think it went pretty well.”

10 Years Ago — 2012

Michigan head coach Brady Hoke had made it clear to his verbal commitments that visiting other programs after pledging to the Wolverines wouldn’t be tolerated. Hoke had become known for removing players from his recruiting classes if they pursued visits after issuing a commitment to his program.

That didn’t stop Massillon (Ohio) Washington cornerback Gareon Conley from taking visits despite the fact that the four-star prospect had been committed to Michigan since March.

“My situation with Michigan hasn’t really changed,” Conley told BuckeyeSports.com recruiting analyst Bill Greene. “I read on the Internet that they pulled my scholarship, but I’ve never been told that by any of the Michigan coaches at all.

“I have talked to both Coach Hoke and Coach (Greg) Mattison, but it’s just normal conversation, not like we are mad at each other or anything like that. Coach Hoke never really brought anything up about me taking other visits, but I did speak to Coach Mattison about it”

The two programs Conley spoke to Mattison about visiting were Ohio State and Oregon. The Buckeyes had offered the cornerback a scholarship, and Oregon indicated to him that they would issue him a scholarship if he took an official visit.

Five Years Ago — 2017

Ohio State had recently hosted 2020 Scottsdale (Ariz.) Chaparral quarterback Jack Miller. Accompanying Miller on the visit was Chaparral’s offensive coordinator, Tim Kohner. Miller’s father, Jack Sr., had recently undergone open heart surgery and couldn’t make the trip, according to Scout.com recruiting analyst Blair Angulo.

Nevertheless, Miller, who already had an Ohio State offer in hand and camped with the Buckeyes that past summer, came away impressed with his latest stay in Columbus.

“Watching that game added to the overall trip, and it’s definitely somewhere he could envision himself playing, especially in that system,” Kohner said of Miller. “The offense would be right up his alley. He’s operating a no-huddle, hurry-up style now in high school, and from what we saw, they’re moving away from having the quarterback run a lot to pick up yards. They’re having J.T. Barrett be more of a passer. Jack can use his legs more to get out of trouble rather than run right away.”

Along with Ohio State, the 6-4, 210-pound quarterback had garnered offers from Arizona, Arizona State, Florida State, North Carolina, Ole Miss, Texas A&M and others.

One Year Ago — 2021

Ohio State remained in the running for 2023 four-star offensive lineman Luke Montgomery (6-5, 260) of Findlay, Ohio, who released a top six Nov. 18 featuring Clemson, Michigan, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Penn State and the Buckeyes.

Montgomery was rated the No. 59 prospect in his class, the sixth-best offensive tackle and the third-best recruit in Ohio, behind only Mentor four-star Brenan Vernon, who was committed to Notre Dame, and Pickerington Central five-star Sonny Styles, who committed to Ohio State Nov. 13.

While Montgomery listed six teams, experts indicated his decision would come down to Ohio State and Notre Dame. He’d have one more chance to see the Buckeyes in person that season, as he told 247Sports that he would be in attendance when Ohio State visited Michigan Nov. 27.

“Spring, hopefully,” Montgomery told 247Sports recruiting analyst Steve Wiltfong of a decision timeline. “I want to be done before my senior year and go out there and have fun. I’m going to enroll early, that’s for sure. Possibly sooner than the spring, but I wouldn’t count on it. I might take officials, I might not. I’m not really sure yet.”

Several Targets Decommit From Schools

Continued From Page 35

Juan Capistrano (Calif.) Hills four-star linebacker Weston Port (6-1, 215); Evans, Ga., five-star offensive tackle Mason Short (6-7, 280); and Calhoun, Ga., tight end Emarée Winston (6-3, 230).

This list was compiled using reports from other outlets as well as recruits themselves, and it could always change once Buckeye Sports Bulletin has gone to press. For the latest information, be sure to check BuckeyeSports.com.

Carter Decommits From Memphis

It was mostly a formality at this point, but Smyrna, Tenn., four-star linebacker Arion Carter (6-1, 210) announced his decommitment from Memphis on Nov. 16.

Carter has been a fast riser in 2023, earning offers in recent weeks from Alabama, Florida, LSU, Michigan, Ohio State and Tennessee, among others. He had been committed to Memphis since July, but it was assumed that wouldn't last long once offers started rolling in.

Rated the No. 316 overall prospect and No. 24 linebacker in his class, he's taken recent official visits to Michigan (Oct. 15), Ohio State (Nov. 12) and Auburn (Nov. 19) and has visits planned to Tennessee (Dec. 2) and Alabama (Dec. 9).

"I like the culture they have there," Carter told 247Sports of Ohio State. "They are close and have a great support system, on and off the field."

He plays at both linebacker and running back for Smyrna, racking up 1,184 rushing yards and 19 touchdowns while accounting for 92 tackles (six for loss) and three sacks on defense.

Harris Decommits From Georgia

Miami Gulliver Prep four-star cornerback Daniel Harris (6-2, 175) announced on Nov. 14 that he was decommitting from Georgia, where he had been part of the Bulldogs' 2023 class since July.

"After countless hours of discussing the best possible opportunities for me at the next level, I have decided to decommit from the University of Georgia and open up my recruitment," he said in a statement.

Harris is the No. 154 overall prospect and No. 18 cornerback in the class. He made an official visit to Columbus over the summer and told On3 Sports that Michigan, Ohio State and Penn State have been heavily recruiting him.

He was first offered by the Buckeyes in February, and he included Ohio State among his top 10 schools back in April, along with Cincinnati, Georgia, Jackson

State, Miami (Fla.), Michigan, Penn State, Syracuse, Tennessee and Texas A&M.

Shortly following Harris' decommitment, 247Sports recruiting analysts Andrew Ivins and Steve Wiltfong put in predictions for Harris to end up at Penn State.

While Ohio State has not put much focus on cornerback recruiting of late in the 2023 class – work in the secondary has mostly been put toward Downs, who is committed to Alabama – the Buckeyes do technically have a spot open after Tampa (Fla.) Wharton four-star cornerback Dijon Johnson (6-1, 190) left the class in July and later committed to Florida.

OSU Among Top Schools For Several Prospects

Since Buckeye Sports Bulletin last went to press, several targets in upcoming classes have included Ohio State among their list of top schools.

Hannibal, Mo., four-star running back Aneayas Williams (5-10, 195) included the Buckeyes among his top 10 schools along with Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Notre Dame, Ole Miss, Penn State and Tennessee. He is the No. 186 overall prospect in the class, though the Fighting Irish are viewed as the favorite to land his services.

Another 2024 prospect to include Ohio State among his finalists was Upper Marlboro (Md.) Charles Herbert Flowers four-star cornerback Braydon Lee (6-1, 163), who had the Buckeyes along with Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Penn State, Pittsburgh, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Lee is the No. 114 overall prospect and No. 10 cornerback in the class. He visited Ohio State this past March after being offered in January and said he was blown away at everything from the coaches to the facilities.

"It was just amazing," he told 247Sports. "I love the fact they have a great tradition of winning and a great tradition of putting excellent (defensive backs) in the NFL. Something that also stuck with me from my visit was how much weight an OSU degree holds and how far in life you can go with that."

Watkins Decommits From Texas A&M

While it may seem early for there to be this much drama with a 2025 prospect, it's just more evidence of the fact that recruiting never stops. Fort Myers (Fla.) IMG Academy five-star wide receiver Winston Watkins Jr. (5-10, 172) announced on Nov. 18 that he was decommitting from Texas A&M.

Watkins – the No. 13 overall prospect and No. 4 wide receiver in 2025, as well as the cousin of former Clemson and current Green Bay Packers wide receiver Sammy Watkins – had been committed to the Aggies since Dec. 20, 2021, which would have been shortly after the conclusion of his freshman season.

Several factors contributed to Watkins' decommitment, including wanting to hear from other schools as well as the on-field performance of the Aggies, who were just 4-7 through the first 11 games of this season under head coach Jimbo Fisher.

Watkins holds offers from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Miami (Fla.), Penn State, Tennessee and Texas, as well as the Buckeyes, where he camped this past summer. He told On3 Sports that he is planning to take his recruiting slow but is focusing on Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Ohio State and Tennessee.

"I want to see who's in front of me class-wise and see if I will be able to get on the field," he said. "Get taught and get to be able to be at my best level of play ... Just relationship-wise, seeing if they're re-

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ASK AN ANALYST

With Garrick Hodge of Eleven Warriors

What do you make of Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) American Heritage four-star running back Mark Fletcher's (6-1, 225) decommitment from Ohio State?

"It's pretty unfortunate for OSU that Mark Fletcher decided to go in a different direction. Fletcher definitely resembled the bruising style of running back that could give lots of linebackers and defensive backs fits trying to tackle him, and that's why they were so high on him in the first place.

"(It's especially disappointing) considering NIL may have had a factor in this recruitment, but the good news is, at least the Buckeyes were preparing for it."

Where might the Buckeyes go now to find a running back in this class with just a month to go until the early signing period?

"Well, they've already extended an offer to Douglassville (Ga.) South Paulding three-star running back Jamarion Wilcox (5-9, 195), who rushed for more than 2,000 yards in his senior season. That's a guy that Tony Alford has had his eye on for some time, and it wouldn't be ter-

ribly surprising to see him end up in the class.

"If they go with Wilcox, another similar caliber player OSU could land is Cincinnati Winton Woods three-star running back Trey Cornist (5-11, 209), who is a teammate of OSU commit and four-star cornerback Jermaine Mathews (6-0, 175).

"They'll still take a swing at landing some premier talent, though, as they'll still make attempts at flipping Buford, Ga., five-star running back Justice Haynes (5-11, 200) or El Campo, Texas, five-star running back Rueben Owens (5-11, 190)."

The visitor list for the Michigan game will obviously change between now and then, but what are some important visits you already have your eye on?

"It's definitely going to be a who's who cast of characters.

"Though I don't think his visit has been entirely confirmed yet, the biggest one I have my eye on is Brockton (Mass.) Thayer Academy five-star offensive tackle Samson Okunlola (6-5, 305). If he shows up on campus, OSU

has a chance of landing him, which would be a huge feather in the cap of first-year offensive line coach Justin Frye."

Smyrna, Tenn., four-star linebacker Arion Carter (6-1, 210) made his official visit the weekend of Nov. 12. What did he have to say about his visit, and where do you view Ohio State among the schools he is considering?

"I probably wouldn't say the Buckeyes are the favorite to land Arion Carter at this point – I'd probably give that nod to Alabama – but after speaking with him after his official visit, I think Ohio State at least has a puncher's chance here.

"He won't decide until Dec. 15, and OSU is trying to get him back on campus for the Michigan game as well. Carter is the lone prep linebacker OSU is targeting that remains in the 2023 class, so Jim Knowles sealing the deal would be a massive get for the Buckeyes."

ally going to be able to get me (ready) for (the) NFL because that's the main goal."

Day Highlights Talent In DMV

In preparation for Ohio State's trip to Maryland on Nov. 19, Day was asked about the talent that exists within the DMV – the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia – and said there's a reason Ohio State continues to recruit the area.

"I think you've seen us do well there," he said. "There's a lot of good talent in that area. A lot of good high school football programs. You guys all know some of the guys who have come from that area and continue to, so we continue to recruit there. I think there's very, very high-end talent there.

"(For) a lot of guys, it's an easy trip to Ohio State. They see Ohio State is a great place to go. Not too far away, but close enough that your family can come to games and be a part of their college experience. Larry Johnson really has recruited that area for us for the last four years. I don't know how it would compare numbers wise to some of the other places we recruit, but we consider it a very high priority."

Some of the notable prospects who have come out of that area in recent years include defensive end Chase Young, who is from DeMatha Catholic in Hyattsville, Md. The Buckeyes have a current commitment from that school in four-star defensive lineman Jason Moore (6-6, 255), a 2023 prospect.

Quarterback Dwayne Haskins also hailed from the area, attending The Bullis School in Potomac, Md. Running back TreVeyon Henderson also calls the DMV home, hailing from Hopewell, Va.

OHSAA Playoffs Near The End

We're into the final weeks of the Ohio High School Athletic Association playoffs. The final four teams have been set in each of the state's seven divisions. Even with the tournament having whittled the competition down to 28 teams, several still have Ohio State connections in the form of commitments or targets.

Division I, Region 2: No. 8 Olentangy (8-6) vs. No. 2 Springfield (12-1): Facing an overmatched Olentangy squad, Springfield picked up a comfortable 35-7 victory to move on to the state semifinals.

The Wildcats put a touchdown on the board in each of the first three quarters and scored a pair of insurance touchdowns in the fourth for the 35-7 final. Quarterback Bryce Schondelmyer led the way, finishing 28 of 31 for 333 yards and two touchdowns. The defense – led by Scott – did not allow Olentangy to score until the final frame.

Springfield will take on Cincinnati Moeller on Nov. 25, with the winner set to take on either Lakewood St. Edward or Gahanna Lincoln on Dec. 3.

Division I, Region 4: No. 3 Lakota West (13-1) vs. No. 1 Moeller (13-1): The undefeated season for Lakota West came to an end as the Firebirds suffered a 38-

20 loss to Moeller in the regional final.

The Crusaders were led by Marshall, an Ohio State target in 2024, who finished with 166 yards and two touchdowns on the ground. Moeller was up 24-13 at the half before outscoring Lakota West 14-7 in the second half.

"They whupped us," Lakota West coach Tom Bolden told The Cincinnati Enquirer. "They whupped us up front. Hats off to their (offensive line). Obviously, we know Jordan. He's a whole different beast. Even with him not in there, they whupped us. You've got to tip your hat to them."

With the season over for Lakota West and four-star safety Malik Hartford (6-3, 175), his focus now shifts to Ohio State, where he has been committed since April.

Division IV, Region 14: No. 6 Van Wert (12-2) vs. No. 1 Glenville (13-0): Despite some extenuating elements in the form of snow, Glenville was able to continue its undefeated season and knock off Van Wert, 42-33.

The Tarblooders – led by quarterback Deonte Rucker and four-star tight end Damarion Witten (6-4, 215) on offense and four-star cornerback Bryce West (5-11, 177) on defense – trailed 21-20 at the half but scored two touchdowns in the third quarter to go up 34-27 entering the final frame.

In that fourth quarter, Van Wert scored with just two minutes to go, but a two-point conversion that would have put it ahead 35-34 failed, and Glenville scored on the next possession and added a two-

point conversion for the 42-33 final.

Glenville will play Jefferson Area on Nov. 26, with the winner playing either Steubenville or Cincinnati Wyoming on Dec. 3.

Other Notes And Tidbits

* Following Fletcher's decommitment from Ohio State, five-star wide receiver Brandon Inniss (6-0, 190) – a teammate of Fletcher's at Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) American Heritage – reaffirmed his commitment to the Buckeyes, tweeting out "Buckeye fans, there is nothing to worry about! Trust me!" and adding that he would be in attendance for The Game on Nov. 26.

* Michigan picked up a commitment on Nov. 18 from Cumming (Ga.) South Forsyth three-star offensive lineman Nathan Efobi (6-4, 282), who is the No. 462 overall prospect in 2023. The Wolverines' class ranks No. 21 in the country and third in the Big Ten behind Penn State and Ohio State, according to the 247Sports composite rankings, with just three top-200 commitments.

* As Buckeye Sports Bulletin went to press, Ohio State held the No. 6 recruiting class in 2023, according to the 247Sports composite rankings. The Buckeyes trailed No. 5 Texas, No. 4 LSU, No. 3 Notre Dame, No. 2 Georgia and No. 1 Alabama.

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Michigan Dealing With Several Injuries

Michigan's Heisman Trophy candidate left its contest against Illinois early on Nov. 19.

Running back Blake Corum went down with an apparent knee injury in the waning minutes of the first half and walked back to the Wolverines' locker room under his own power. He re-entered for a couple of plays at the beginning of the second

BIG TEN NOTES Andy Anders

half but soon left and did not return. His status for The Game is unclear, according to Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh.

"Nothing right now," Harbaugh said when asked after the game about any updates regarding Corum's injury. "Got cleared to go back in, we'll see where it is tomorrow, how it feels tomorrow. Structurally good, which is great news."

Corum took part in a volunteer event in Ypsilanti, Mich., on Nov. 20 and told reporters, "My knee is good. I'll be fine. I'll be back," though it remains unclear if he'll play against the Buckeyes.

Corum has rushed for 1,457 yards and 18 touchdowns this season for Michigan, picking up 5.9 yards per carry. Second-year Donovan Edwards, Corum's backup who has gained 471 yards on the ground this year, didn't play against Illinois, and his status is unclear against Ohio State.

That wasn't the only bad injury news the Wolverines received since BSB last went to press. Should second-year quarterback J.J. McCarthy be unavailable for some reason, Michigan could be in real trouble under center.

McCarthy's backup, graduate Cade McNamara, is out for the season after getting knee surgery on Nov. 14. That leaves third-year quarterback Davis Warren, unranked in the 247Sports composite, as the Wolverines' No. 2 signal caller.

"(McNamara) underwent the surgery, and it seems that it was successful," Harbaugh said. "We're supporting him in all rehab from here and very happy it was a successful surgery."

In 14 games as the Wolverines' starter in 2021, McNamara completed 64.2 percent of his throws for 2,576 yards, 15 touchdowns and six interceptions. McCarthy usurped him as the team's starter in

2022 after a competition that dragged out through the first three weeks of the regular season.

Another position of great concern depth wise for the Wolverines is tight end. Starter Erick All is out for the year after receiving season-ending knee surgery in October, and backup Luke Schoonmaker, who has 315 receiving yards in nine games this year, hasn't played since Nov. 5 and his status remains up in the air for Michigan's matchup with Ohio State.

Biff Poggi Hired By Charlotte

In other news related to Michigan, one of the coaches on Harbaugh's staff will be departing for a head coaching gig following the 2022 season.

Wolverines associate head coach Biff Poggi accepted the lead position for Charlotte's football program on Nov. 15. He joined the Wolverines' staff for the 2021 campaign from St. Frances Academy in Baltimore, Corum's alma mater.

"Joining the Charlotte 49ers is an incredible opportunity," Poggi said. "We can build a championship program at Charlotte, and I can't wait to get started."

Poggi first joined Michigan's coaching staff for one season in 2016 before returning to Baltimore to coach at St. Frances. Prior to that, he spent 19 years as the head coach at Gilman High School in Baltimore, where he won 13 state championships. He's also had one-year coaching stints at The Citadel, Temple and Brown.

The 49ers fired former head coach Will Healy on Oct. 23 after a 1-7 start to his 2022 campaign. Charlotte hasn't had a winning season since going 7-6 in 2019, Healy's first year as head coach. A loss that year in the Bahamas Bowl marked the lone bowl appearance in school history for the 49ers, who have only been competing at the FBS level since 2015.

Big Ten West Race Gains (Some) Clarity

What was a four-way tie atop the Big Ten West with two games remaining in the college football regular season is down to a two-way tie, and unlike last week, there is now a team that controls its own destiny.

With a victory over Minnesota improving its conference record to 5-3 and a tight Illinois loss to No. 3 Michigan that dropped the Fighting Illini's Big Ten mark to 4-4, Iowa is now a win against Nebraska away from a Big Ten Championship Game appearance.

Purdue is tied with the Hawkeyes atop the divisional standings with its own 5-3 conference mark, but Iowa owns a head-to-head advantage over the Boilermakers via a 24-3 win on Nov. 5. Should the Cornhuskers manage an upset, Purdue could make the title game with a win over Indiana in its own regular-season finale.

Should both Iowa and Purdue fall, it will create what will likely be a four-way tie of teams with 5-4 Big Ten records between the two schools, the winner of next week's Wisconsin-Minnesota game and Illinois, should it beat one-win Northwestern.

Sparing the full rundown of Big Ten tiebreakers, in the case of a four-way tie where either Minnesota or Wisconsin joins the Hawkeyes, Boilermakers and Fighting Illini, Illinois would be the Big Ten West representative thanks to wins over Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

If Iowa, Purdue and Illinois all lose in the final week of the season, regardless of what else happens to the rest of the division, Iowa would make it to Indianapolis as the division's representative.

To summarize: Iowa is in with a win or losses from both Purdue and Illinois, Purdue is in with a win and Iowa loss, Illinois is in with a win and losses from both Iowa and Purdue.

Penn State Hit With Injury Bug

Penn State got hit with a double whammy in terms of injuries to key contributors in the passing area Nov. 19, with the team's No. 1 receiver Parker Washington and No. 1 cornerback Joey Porter Jr. both missing the team's contest at Rutgers with injuries.

Washington has 46 receptions for 611 yards, both team highs, and two touchdowns. Following the Nittany Lions' win over the Scarlet Knights, Penn State head coach James Franklin said he wants to wait until he has more information on the injury to make a determination on Washington's status for next week.

"Parker, not having him for this game, that's a big loss," Franklin said. "A good percentage of our passing game has gone through him, not just this year but last year. He's a leader for us as well. So I thought those other guys (at wide receiver) did a nice job."

Porter is one of the top draft prospects in college football for the 2023 class, ranked No. 1 at cornerback by three of ESPN's top four draft analysts. He has recorded 11 pass breakups thus far this year. Porter previously missed the Nittany Lions' game at Maryland on Nov. 12 while recovering from appendicitis.

"As you know, we don't report injuries, but we've had a lot of moving parts," Franklin said. "The coaches have handled it the right way, not allowed it to become an excuse. The players have handled it the right way, and I also think we have some depth. We have some young, talented players who have been able to come in and step in and allow that to not be an issue for us."

BIG

2022 Standings

East Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Michigan	8	0	1.000	11	0	1.000
Ohio State	8	0	1.000	11	0	1.000
Penn State	6	2	0.750	9	2	0.818
Maryland	3	5	0.375	6	5	0.545
Michigan State	3	5	0.375	5	6	0.455
Indiana	2	6	0.250	4	7	0.364
Rutgers	1	7	0.125	4	7	0.364

West Division

	Conf.			All		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Purdue	5	3	0.625	7	4	0.636
Iowa	4	3	0.571	6	4	0.600
Minnesota	4	3	0.571	7	3	0.700
Illinois	4	4	0.500	7	4	0.636
Wisconsin	4	4	0.500	6	5	0.545
Nebraska	2	6	0.250	3	8	0.273
Northwestern	1	7	0.125	1	10	0.091

Nov. 19 Games

Michigan 19, Illinois 17
Indiana 39, Michigan State 31 (2OT)
Purdue 17, Northwestern 9
Wisconsin 15, Nebraska 14
Ohio State 43, Maryland 30
Penn State 55, Rutgers 10
Iowa 13, Minnesota 10

Nov. 25 Game

Nebraska at Iowa, 4 p.m.

Nov. 26 Games

Michigan at **Ohio State**, noon
Rutgers at Maryland, noon
Illinois at Northwestern, 3:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Wisconsin, 3:30 p.m.
Purdue at Indiana, 3:30 p.m.
Michigan State at Penn State, 4 p.m.

MSU Basketball Records Upset

Michigan State's men's basketball team recorded the biggest win yet for a Big Ten team on the young season, knocking off No. 4 Kentucky 86-77 in double overtime at the State Farm Champions Classic in Indianapolis on Nov. 15.

The Spartans and Wildcats stayed engaged in a battle throughout the second half, neither side gaining a lead of more than five points throughout the final 20 minutes of regulation. That trend continued through the first overtime, in which both sides recorded nine points to send it to a second extra period tied at 71.

There, finally, MSU pulled away. Down 76-73 with 4:00 to play, the Spartans closed on a 13-1 run that included seven points from junior center Mady Sissoko. Michigan State went 6 for 6 from the free-throw line in the final two minutes to ice the victory.

Michigan State entered the season unranked, but it certainly hasn't played like it. Prior to its win over Kentucky, MSU came within one point of upsetting No. 2 Gonzaga on Nov. 11. It has since recorded a win against another basketball blue blood in Villanova.



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Ohio State Uses Time Off For Growth

After playing two games in four days to open the season, the Ohio State men's basketball team saw its early-season schedule grind to a near halt, getting six days off before its 65-43 win over Eastern Illinois on Nov. 16.

COURT REPORT Jack Emerson

While the Buckeyes picked up some early momentum in the form of a pair of blow-out wins over Robert Morris and Charleston Southern, Ohio State was forced to wait nearly a week before hitting the hardwood again. With the time off, senior guard Tanner Holden said the Buckeyes spent a significant amount of time looking inward and improving in necessary areas.

"We've really just been working on ourselves," Holden said. "With such a new group, film has been great. We've been able to break down things coaches are telling us, and key points that we've needed to work on. Overall, we're just working on us."

Head coach Chris Holtmann echoed this sentiment.

"As is the case, most always, particularly earlier in the year, self-scouting becomes really important," Holtmann said during the break. "You're trying to evaluate those areas where you need to improve, and you need to get better, and you're really focusing, especially when you're two, three days out from a game. If you don't clean those up, then eventually you're going to see those surface again."

"For us, that's been a significant part of these last three or four days."

When it comes to areas of improvement, Holden immediately pointed to key areas on both sides of the floor that have popped up. In the Buckeyes' first three games, Ohio State has shown defensive lapses at times – most notably during the second half against Charleston Southern when Ohio State outscored the Buccaneers only 36-34. While defensive miscues have popped up, the Buckeyes have also developed a bit of a turnover problem, registering 14 in each of the first two contests.

"Offensively, (we've worked on) finding great shots and getting the system down even more," Holden said. "Defensively, just sticking to our principals. The coaches are reiterating all the things they've taught over the summer. That's definitely a big thing that we're locking in on because we definitely need to improve defensively. We have a lot of talent on the offensive side, but if we can't get stops, it's going to be really hard to win games."

However, several of those issues popped up against Eastern Illinois, as the Buckeyes played a sluggish first half while turning the ball over a season-high 17 times. Ohio State did see marginal defensive improvements, though, with the Panthers shooting just 25.0 percent (16 of 64).

Ohio State's first real test of the season came in the form of the Maui Invitational, with the Buckeyes opening the tournament with a matchup against No. 17 San Diego State on Nov. 21. The tournament also featured potential games against No. 9 Arkansas, No. 10 Creighton, No. 14 Arizona, No. 23 Texas Tech, Cincinnati and Louisville.

Even with the difficult stretch of games that awaited Ohio State in Maui, Holden said

the Buckeyes remained locked in on the Panthers, as well as themselves. He reached into his own experiences as a mid-major player, spending the first three seasons of his career with Wright State, to make it clear that teams cannot overlook opponents, regardless of the conference they play in.

"You can't overlook games, especially just looking through all the schedules that we've played so far. There are top-15 teams getting knocked off by mid-major schools," Holden said. "Overall, you can't overlook anybody."

Holden Passes 1,500 Career Points

As Ohio State began to pour it on Eastern Illinois during the second half of the tilt between the teams, Holden crossed a career milestone.

With the Buckeyes holding a 14-point lead midway through the second half, Holden prowled along the perimeter before finding a soft spot in the Panther defense and cutting to the middle of the paint. Freshman guard Roddy Gayle Jr. then found the cutting Holden, who rose up for a layup through contact, finishing the basket and drawing a foul. With that layup, Holden passed 1,500 career points, with the bulk of those points obviously coming from his three seasons with Wright State.

Prior to reaching the milestone, Holden downplayed the significance of the accomplishment before heaping praise upon his teammates and coaches.

"At the end of the day, it's just a number," Holden said. "But it's cool to accomplish things. I wouldn't be able to do it without the teammates that I've had at Wright State and now here. Overall, the coaches that I've had have really put me in the best positions to be successful. I couldn't have done it without them believing in me to give me a scholarship, whether that be at Wright State or Ohio State."

As a Raider, Holden notched 1,481 points in three seasons, boasting an average of 16.1 points per game during his time with Wright State. Through three games with the Buckeyes, Holden has amassed 22 total points, good for an average of 7.3 points per contest. Although Holden downplayed the milestone, Gayle made sure to give his teammate some props.

"Don't let him do that," Gayle said. "1,500 points is very impressive."

Holtmann Touches On Pedon Securing First Victory

While Holtmann has jumped out to a 3-0 start in his sixth season at the helm of the Ohio State program, he also saw encouraging developments within his coaching tree.

Ryan Pedon, who served as an assistant coach for Holtmann during his stints at Butler and Ohio State, scored the first win of his head coaching career on Nov. 10, leading Illinois State to a 54-49 victory over Eastern Illinois. Pedon's squad also earned another road win on Nov. 12, taking down Northwestern State 69-67.

Holtmann said that he was proud of his protégé and close friend picking up the first pair of wins of his coaching career.

"I've talked to Ryan often and talked to him right after win No. 1," Holtmann said. "It was a great moment. I'm really proud of Ryan. He got back-to-back road wins and had some travel issues getting to his next game against Northwestern State – who just beat TCU (on Nov. 14) – so he's got back-to-back really good wins."

Ohio State Starts Slow In Win Over Eastern Illinois

Ohio State's offense started in the same fashion as its previous two games, with a bucket from forward Zed Key. However, the Buckeyes soon found that offense was hard to come by during their 65-43 win over Eastern Illinois on Nov. 16 at Value City Arena in front of 8,350 fans.

The Buckeyes (3-0) and Panthers (0-4) slogged through the early stages of the contest, shooting a combined 1-for-13 during the game's first 5:12 of play. Ohio State gained some separation, however, utilizing a 17-3 run to pull ahead 21-5 with 9:15 remaining in the first half. But the Panthers came storming back with a 15-5 run of their own to close the frame and trail only 26-20 heading into the locker room.

"They came in here and played hard," Ohio State guard Isaac Likekele said of OSU's first-half struggles. "Eastern Illinois is a talented team. For it to be a three-point game in the first half, that's not a surprise because they are Division I athletes and they're a very talented squad."

"It's just teaching us how to be prepared for these moments later in the season," he added. "We'll just learn from this situation."

Freshman forward Brice Sensabaugh kept the Ohio State offense afloat during a first half for the Buckeyes in which they shot 31.0 percent from the field (9 for 29) while turning the ball over seven times. Sensabaugh scored 13 of his game-high 20 points during the opening frame, fueled by a trio of first-half threes.

The Buckeyes survived the first half on the back of their defense, which held the Panthers to 8-of-32 shooting in the frame (25.0 percent). Ohio State held up its defensive intensity into the second half, holding Eastern Illinois to just 23 points – while the Panthers shot 8 of 32, again – to run away with the 65-43 win.

"Our defense was something that carried us," Sensabaugh said. "We were able to force tough shots. Obviously, our offense didn't play the way we wanted to, so keeping their offense down is something that's going to be important for us, and I think that's something we did."

The Panthers brought Ohio State's second-half lead to as few as three points, 26-23, but the Buckeyes utilized a 9-0 run to push the lead back to 12 with 15:45 to go in regulation. From there, Ohio State cruised to the victory, never leading by less than 10 points and outscoring Eastern Illinois 30-20 during the game's final 15 minutes.

Ohio State head coach Chris Holtmann said his team's second-half offensive surge was a result of the Buckeyes playing more through the paint rather than settling for jumpers.

"It was obviously a big emphasis, I

Ohio State 65, East. Illinois 43

Nov. 16, 2022
Value City Arena, Columbus, Ohio

	1	2	F
East. Illinois (0-4)	20	23	43
Ohio State (3-0)	26	39	65

East. Illinois	Total	FG	FT	Reb.			
	Min	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.
Malone	25	0-6	4-6	1-2	0	4	4
Ellington	17	3-5	1-2	2-2	0	4	7
Rose	30	6-16	2-3	0-6	1	1	17
Hodges	35	4-12	0-2	0-7	3	2	8
Donaldson	20	0-5	0-0	0-2	0	0	0
Thomas	10	1-4	0-0	0-0	0	3	2
Lane	7	1-2	0-0	0-3	0	0	3
Carlesimo	14	0-3	0-0	0-1	2	0	0
Haffner	10	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Rufino Bolis	3	1-1	0-0	1-0	0	1	2
Bizimana	8	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	3	0
Luers	11	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Hamlin	9	0-5	0-2	2-0	0	1	0
Totals	200	16-64	7-15	9-28	6	19	43

Percentages: FG: 25.0%. FT: 46.7%. **Three-point field goals:** 4-20 (Rose 3-7, Lane 1-2, Malone 0-3, Hodges 0-3, Carlesimo 0-2, Haffner 0-2, Luers 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 37. **Blocked shots:** 0. **Turnovers:** 13 (Malone 4, Ellington 2, Hodges, Donaldson, Thomas, Rufino Bolis, Bizimana, Luers, Hamlin). **Steals:** 8 (Malone 3, Rose 3, Hodges 2).

Ohio State	Total	FG	FT	Reb.			
	Min	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF	Pts.
Sueing	24	2-10	2-2	1-3	1	1	6
Key	25	4-6	1-5	4-10	1	2	10
Thornton	23	2-6	0-0	0-7	3	3	5
McNeil	29	0-2	0-0	0-2	1	1	0
Likekele	29	2-5	0-0	2-8	3	1	4
Holden	15	2-4	3-5	1-2	1	1	8
Gayle	19	3-7	0-0	1-1	3	3	8
Sensabaugh	17	6-14	5-6	1-3	0	0	20
Okpara	15	2-2	0-0	0-3	1	2	4
Etzler	4	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Totals	200	23-57	11-18	10-42	14	15	65

Percentages: FG: 40.4%. FT: 61.1%. **Three-point field goals:** 8-28 (Sensabaugh 3-7, Gayle 2-3, Key 1-3, Thornton 1-4, Holden 1-2, Sueing 0-5, McNeil 0-2, Likekele 0-1, Etzler 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 52. **Blocked shots:** 6 (Okpara 2, Sueing, Key, Likekele, Gayle). **Turnovers:** 17 (Sueing 5, Thornton 3, Likekele 3, Okpara 2, Key, McNeil, Gayle, Sensabaugh). **Steals:** 4 (Gayle 2, Likekele, Holden). **Officials:** Green, Walton, Wells. **Attendance:** 8,350.

think just in general, playing with more pace, more cutting, more movement and playing through the paint. I thought we needed to do that," he said. "We did not do a good job of that in the first half."

Key registered his third double-double of the season by scoring 10 points and a game-high 14 rebounds, helping lead Ohio State's 52-37 advantage on the boards. He tallied four offensive rebounds while helping the Buckeyes collect 13 second-chance points. Likekele added to Ohio State's rebound total with 10 boards.

Although Eastern Illinois shot just 25.0 percent from the field on the night, graduate guard Yaakema Rose Jr. produced a solid outing for the Panthers with a team-high 17 points which came on 6-of-16 shooting.

"Obviously there is a lot to clean up," Holtmann said. "A lot to get better on, a lot to improve on as we move forward."

— Jack Emerson

Versatile Thierry Playing With Confidence

Ohio State forward Cotie McMahon received most of the attention in the Buckeyes' season opener considering head coach Kevin McGuff opted to start the true freshman against a top-five Tennessee squad, but she wasn't the only Buckeye earning her first career start.

DOUBLE DRIBBLE Braden Moles

Sophomore guard Taylor Thierry also trotted onto the floor as one of the starting five, continuing an accelerated development that began taking off midway through last season. After mostly playing in mop-up capacity for the Buckeyes, she began seeing the floor more consistently, largely coinciding with Ohio State's need for more athleticism on defense.

While her scoring left plenty to be desired, she was an efficient rebounder for the Buckeyes and was extremely active on defense. In Ohio State's 61-55 win at Michigan State on Feb. 27 to help clinch a share of the Big Ten regular-season title, she finished with seven points and led the Buckeyes with 11 rebounds and six steals.

Thierry's rise last season, combined with the work done over the offseason, made the staff feel comfortable enough to give her the start over established veterans on the team such as guards Rikki Harris and Madison Greene, who both came off the bench in the 87-75 win over the Volunteers. In that first start against Tennessee, Thierry finished with 10 points and was 5 of 5 from the field while adding four rebounds and two assists, though she did foul out of the contest.

"She had some drives and finishes against Tennessee that through and over

their size and athleticism, I'm not sure anybody not named Taylor or Cotie could have made," McGuff said.

Thierry followed it up with another 10-point outing against Boston College on Nov. 13, though it came on 5-of-10 shooting in the 82-64 win. She also pulled down five rebounds and added three steals. While showing a continued acumen on defense, Thierry said she spent time this offseason trying to improve her offensive game.

"Last year, I will say I was not as confident in shooting, and so I wouldn't ever really shoot the ball unless I was wide open," she said. "It's just getting reps in, outside of practice, and gaining more confidence in that area so I can improve when it comes to games."

Thierry said she's happy with where she's at now compared to where she was at this point last season, and another step she's taking is to worry less about mistakes – good advice to heed. For all the good Thierry has shown on the court, she's turned the ball over five times and has picked up 11 fouls through four games, and she is just 5 of 11 at the free-throw line, though it appears to be a team issue as Ohio State is shooting just 69.0 percent (58 of 84) from the stripe.

"I've definitely learned that reflecting on a bad play, bad fouls, it affects my next play," she said. "So I try to get over it now and just move past it and move on to the next play. I don't want to let something like that affect the next play and make another mistake."

Thierry has been a major beneficiary of Ohio State's press, stealing the ball **X times** through four games, and she said it's a fun style of defense to play.

"It's a lot of fun, especially with teammates who are also good defensively and they help you out in (those) areas, too," she said. "It's definitely been a lot of fun for me. I especially love getting steals. I

love causing turnovers and getting hyped with my teammates, and it benefits us as a team."

Playing fast and being active off the ball has tapped into Thierry's athleticism, and while she's already made strides early in this season, it should continue to pay dividends for Ohio State as the year progresses.

"In a game like (Tennessee), or in general, we need her athleticism," McGuff said. "She can make plays that other people can't, and so I've been really happy with her so far. I still think she's got room to grow and develop and get better."

Pair Of Buckeyes On Wooden Watch List

On Nov. 15, Ohio State guards Jacy Sheldon and Taylor Mikesell were named to the watch list for the John R. Wooden Award, given annually to the top player in the country.

The Splash Sisters have once again led the way for Ohio State this season, with Sheldon averaging 14.5 points on 44.2 percent shooting and Mikesell scoring 17.0 per game.

"They're great kids and great players," McGuff said. "It's great to see them get that recognition and certainly good for our program."

Ohio State was one of several teams that had two players named to the 50-person watch list, including Indiana (Grace Berger and Mackenzie Holmes), Iowa (Caitlin Clark and Monika Czinano), Iowa State, Louisville, LSU, NC State, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Stanford and Texas. South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia Tech each had three players named to the list.

Other Big Ten players on the list included Maryland's Diamond Miller and Michigan's Leigha Brown. A midseason poll will be released in January with a late-season poll to follow in February, with a list of 15 finalists to be announced later that month. The winner will be announced in April.

Mikesell and Sheldon had previously been named to the watch list for the Naismith Trophy earlier this month.

WNBA Mock Draft Has Sheldon At No. 8

A WNBA mock draft released by ESPN on Nov. 11 had Sheldon as a lottery pick, going to the Seattle Storm at No. 8. Her stock was rising coming into the season and has only risen further following an 11-steal performance against Boston College, tying an Ohio State record previously set by Lisa Cline in 1988.

"Any guard in the same conference as Iowa's Caitlin Clark is likely to be overshadowed," wrote ESPN's M.A. Voepel. "But keep an eye on Sheldon. She has a fun fearlessness in her drives to the basket and her opportunistic defense. Doing these things gets a lot harder in the WNBA. But last season, she averaged 19.7 points per game while shooting 50.4 percent from the field and recorded almost two steals per game."

Mikesell – who considered entering the WNBA draft last season but decided to re-

2022-23 OSU Women's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent
Oct. 31	Notre Dame College (Exh.) W, 108-33
Nov. 8	Tennessee W, 87-75
Nov. 13	at Boston College W, 82-64
Nov. 17	at Ohio W, 86-56
Nov. 20	McNeese State W, 99-43
Nov. 23	Wright State
Nov. 27	North Alabama
Nov. 30	at Louisville*
Dec. 4	at Rutgers
Dec. 8	New Hampshire
Dec. 11	Michigan State
Dec. 16	UAlbany
Dec. 20	at South Florida ^
Dec. 21	at Arkansas/Oregon ^
Dec. 28	at Northwestern
Dec. 31	Michigan
Jan. 5	at Minnesota
Jan. 8	Illinois
Jan. 14	at Nebraska
Jan. 19	Northwestern
Jan. 23	Iowa
Jan. 26	at Indiana
Jan. 29	Purdue
Feb. 1	at Wisconsin
Feb. 5	at Maryland
Feb. 8	Minnesota
Feb. 13	Indiana
Feb. 16	at Penn State
Feb. 20	at Michigan
Feb. 24	Maryland
^ - San Diego Invitational	
* - Big Ten/ACC Challenge	

turn for her fifth season – was not among the first 12 picks in the mock draft. South Carolina forward Aliyah Boston is widely considered to be the top pick in the upcoming draft on April 10, 2023, with the first pick held by the Indiana Fever.

Mikulášiková Named To Big Ten Honor Roll

Ohio State forward Rebeka Mikulášiková was named to the Big Ten's weekly honor roll for the first time in her career on Nov. 14.

The recognition came after Mikulášiková's strong pair of starts to begin the season. In the Buckeyes' win over Tennessee, she finished with 17 points and a team-high nine rebounds while shooting 42.9 percent from the field.

Against Boston College, she led the Buckeyes with a career-high 23 points on 69.2 percent shooting (9 of 13) from the field and added a team-high 10 rebounds for her fourth career double-double. She was also 3 of 4 from deep and tied a previous career high with three assists in the 82-64 win.

While Mikulášiková rarely played in excess of 20 minutes last season, she's averaging 26.5 minutes per game this season for Ohio State.

"More than anything, she's got a lot of confidence right now," McGuff said. "She's worked incredibly hard and then she's grown since she's been here and her confidence is in a good place, which is really important."



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Ohio Bobcats No Match For Ohio State

By **BRADEN MOLES**

Buckeye Sports Bulletin Associate Editor

No. 8 Ohio State moved to 4-0 on the season since Buckeye Sports Bulletin last went to press, heading on the road to take down Ohio and returning home to blow out McNeese State, the first contest in a three-game homestand for the Buckeyes.

Ohio State left Value City Arena for the first time this season on Nov. 17, returning home to Columbus with an 86-56 win over the Bobcats (0-3).

While it was a down shooting night for the Buckeyes, who connected on just 38.0 percent (30 of 79) of their attempts from the field, they still forced 33 turnovers by the Bobcats that resulted in 41 points.

"I thought we got good shots, we just didn't make them," Ohio State head coach Kevin McGuff said. "I told them I'm not a coach that scrutinizes every shot, but I do think that if people are going to take the amount of shots that they take, they have to take the responsibility to step up and make them, especially when it's people who are capable."

McGuff could have referenced any number of players, but it was likely aimed at the guard combination of Taylor Mikesell and Jacy Sheldon, who combined to shoot just 11 of 33 from the field and 2 of 11 from deep, with each knocking down one triple.

Those shooting struggles were apparent early, as Ohio State took an 11-3 lead midway through the first quarter despite making just four of its first 12 shot attempts. The Bobcats did not fare much better, though, with just two made baskets through the first six minutes of play. Ohio guard Caitlyn Kroll later hit a three-pointer to make it 11-8, but the Buckeyes closed the quarter on a 7-0 run.

The Bobcats got in better sync on offense in the second quarter, shooting 41.7 percent from the field, but still committed 10 turnovers fueled by five steals from Ohio State.

"We just weren't real efficient on offense," McGuff said. "To our kids' credit, any missed shots didn't affect the effort on defense in our full-court pressure, so I was proud of that. But we've just got to be a little more efficient on offense."

The Buckeyes led 43-22 heading into the locker room, but the deficit would have been worse if not for the effort of Ohio guard Yaya Felder, who had eight points in the second frame – the rest of her team had just six points – and finished with a game-high 21 points on 9-of-18 shooting from the field.

Ohio State kept defensive pressure on in the second half and finally got things going on the offensive end, adding 25 points in the third quarter after which the Buckeyes led 68-35. Sheldon led the way with eight points in the frame on 3-of-6 shooting.

"That's the backbone of our game," Sheldon said. "Our good defense leads to offense. Having an emphasis on that

every night, no matter who we're playing, is important for us and just flying around out there. They always asked about our press, and it's kind of sporadic, but it works. We all know how each other plays and we play off each other, so that definitely helped us out."

Leading by 33 points going into the final quarter, it was mostly a sleepy affair at that point, and the Bobcats outscored the Buckeyes 21-18 in the final 10 minutes.. Ohio State shot just 33.3 percent from the field during the quarter (5 of 15) while Ohio shot 46.7 percent (7 of 15).

Nearly the whole roster got in on the action, with 11 players scoring in the contest, led by Sheldon's 16 points on 6-of-19 shooting. Guard Taylor Thierry pulled down a team-high eight rebounds while forward Rebeka Mikulášiková (11 points) and guards Mikesell (14 points) and Madison Greene (10 points) each finished in double digits in the game played before 4,285 in the Convocation Center.

Thierry's Career Day Leads OSU Past McNeese State

Ohio State returned home on Nov. 20 with a drubbing of visiting McNeese State, 99-43.

The Buckeyes were led by a career-high 15 points on 6-of-8 shooting by Thierry, a sophomore who also added five rebounds and a pair of assists and two steals.

Ohio State wasted no time getting the scoring started against the Cowgirls, opening the game on a 26-2 run and finishing the first quarter up 35-8. The Buckeyes shot 56.0 percent from the field in the opening frame while forcing 16 turnovers by McNeese State (1-4), continuing a troubling trend for opposing teams with Ohio State's full-court press.

Mikesell and Mikulášiková led the way in the second quarter with seven points each while transfer forward Ebony Walker got her first significant action as a Buckeye. She added a pair of baskets and a free throw during the quarter and ended the game with seven points on 3-of-9 shooting while adding six rebounds, four assists, and three steals in 21:42 of action, her most through four games this season.

The Buckeyes eventually led 60-23 going into the break and continued piling on in the second half, eventually working to their fourth win of the season. All 14 scholarship members of the team appeared and 11 got points on the board. Transfer forward Karla Vreš made her Ohio State debut, picking up a steal in 2:46 on the court.

"We wanted to get some different people in the game and some different rotations, and so it was nice to play a lot of people," McGuff said. "There were mostly positive things coming out of this game. We played hard from the beginning and forced a lot of turnovers, which allowed us to get out to a big lead."

Ohio State 86, Ohio 56

Nov. 17, 2022
Convocation Center, Athens, Ohio

	1	2	3	4	F
Ohio State	18	25	25	18	86
Ohio	8	14	13	21	56

Ohio State	Total	FT	Reb.			
	Min	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF Pts.
Mikulasikova	31	5-9	1-2	0-7	1	2 11
McMahon	19	2-8	1-2	0-3	1	1 5
Thierry	18	2-6	3-5	7-1	3	3 7
Sheldon	26	6-19	3-3	3-3	4	2 16
Mikesell	23	5-14	3-3	0-2	2	1 14
Harris	22	2-7	1-2	1-4	3	1 6
Greene	25	3-6	3-4	1-2	2	2 10
Shumate	21	1-3	0-0	2-1	2	1 3
Walker	8	1-2	4-4	1-0	0	4 6
Bristow	4	2-3	0-0	1-2	0	1 5
Henderson	1	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0 3
Perry	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0 0
Costner	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0 0
Totals	200	30-79	20-26	19-25	18	18 86

Percentages: FG: 38.0%. FT: 76.9%. **Three-point field goals:** 6-26 (Bristow 1-1, Greene 1-1, Harris 1-6, Mikesell 1-8, Sheldon 1-3, Shumate 1-2, Mikulasikova 0-2, McMahon 0-1, Perry 0-1, Thierry 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 3. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Shumate 2, McMahon). **Turnovers:** 12 (McMahon 3, Mikulasikova 3, Greene 2, Harris 2, Sheldon, Team). **Steals:** 18 (McMahon 3, Mikesell 3, Sheldon 3, Thierry 3, Greene 2, Mikulasikova 2, Henderson, Shumate).

Ohio	Total	FT	Reb.			
	Min	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF Pts.
Pope	30	4-10	0-0	1-5	3	1 9
Garnett	22	1-2	0-0	0-6	0	3 2
Felder	31	9-18	2-3	0-1	4	3 21
Kroll	28	2-6	1-2	0-9	1	3 6
Dennis	33	0-3	2-2	0-3	2	3 2
McClure	22	2-7	2-2	0-1	0	3 7
Hale	15	0-1	0-0	0-2	2	1 0
Johnson	4	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1 0
Lafier	9	0-0	3-4	1-1	0	2 3
Austin	5	2-3	0-0	0-2	0	1 6
Totals	200	20-50	10-13	3-32	12	21 56

Percentages: FG: 40.0%. FT: 76.9%. **Three-point field goals:** 6-25 (Austin 2-3, Kroll 1-3, McClure 1-4, Felder 1-5, Pope 1-6, Dennis 0-3, Garnett 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 5 (Garnett 2, Kroll 2, Pope). **Turnovers:** 33 (Felder 6, Pope 6, McClure 5, Garnett 4, Kroll 4, Team 3, Hale 2, Austin, Johnson Lafier). **Steals:** 7 (Felder 2, Austin, Dennis, Hale, Kroll, Pope). **Officials:** Klein, Pethel, Gearhart. **Attendance:** 4,285.

As McGuff alluded to, the biggest factor in stopping McNeese State offensively – beyond the Cowgirls shooting just 36.2 percent from the field (17 of 47) for the game – was the 38 turnovers forced by Ohio State. Through four games this season, Ohio State's opponents were averaging 34.0 turnovers per game, and the Buckeyes were turning that into an average of 39.2 points off turnovers per contest.

Even in a poor offensive outing from McNeese State in front of 3,351 fans at Value City Arena, the Cowgirls still had a

Ohio State 99, McNeese State 43

Nov. 20, 2022
Value City Arena, Columbus, Ohio

	1	2	3	4	F
McNeese State	8	15	11	9	43
Ohio State	35	25	18	21	99

McNeese	Total	FT	Reb.			
	Min	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF Pts.
Tanks	19	2-6	0-0	2-6	1	3 4
Stubblefield	12	1-3	1-2	1-2	1	1 3
Yespes	18	2-6	0-0	1-1	0	4 5
Rosini	16	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2 2
Kulinska	25	2-7	0-0	2-1	1	0 5
Chamberlin	22	6-11	0-0	1-2	0	3 16
Falkowska	16	1-1	0-0	0-3	0	0 2
Watts	22	1-7	0-0	0-2	1	2 3
Ga.-Wener	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0 0
Hansen	25	1-3	0-0	0-2	2	1 3
Grace Wener	9	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0 0
Hermoso	10	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	0 0
Totals	200	17-47	1-2	9-24	7	16 43

Percentages: FG: 36.2%. FT: 44.4%. **Three-point field goals:** 8-18 (Chamberlin 4-6, Hansen 1-2, Kulinska 1-3, Watts 1-2, Yespes 1-2, Hermoso 0-2, Stubblefield 0-1). **Team rebounds:** 6. **Blocked shots:** 1 (Tanks). **Turnovers:** 38 (Chamberlin 5, Hansen 5, Rosini 5, Yespes 4, Stubblefield 3, Watts 3, Falkowska 2, Hermoso 2, Kulinska 2, Tanks 2, Team 2, Gabrielle Wener 2, Grace Wener). **Steals:** 3 (Hansen, Kulinska, Watts).

Ohio State	Total	FT	Reb.			
	Min	M-A	M-A	O-D	A	PF Pts.
Mikulasikova	16	6-10	1-1	1-1	1	1 14
McMahon	20	1-4	0-0	2-1	3	1 2
Thierry	16	6-8	2-2	3-2	2	0 15
Sheldon	14	6-7	1-1	0-1	2	1 14
Mikesell	19	5-10	0-0	0-3	4	1 13
Greene	26	3-6	0-0	0-3	6	0 8
Harris	20	3-8	3-3	2-1	1	2 11
Walker	22	3-9	1-2	3-3	4	1 7
Shumate	13	2-8	0-0	0-0	0	1 4
Bristow	18	3-5	1-1	4-4	2	1 7
Perry	6	1-3	2-3	1-0	0	1 4
Henderson	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0 0
Costner	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0 0
Vres	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1 0
Totals	200	25-60	12-16	7-26	15	11 99

Percentages: FG: 50.0%. FT: 84.6%. **Three-point field goals:** 10-29 (Mikesell 3-8, Greene 2-4, Harris 2-6, Mikulasikova 1-2, Sheldon 1-2, Thierry 1-1, McMahon 0-1, Shumate 0-5). **Team rebounds:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Shumate 2, McMahon). **Turnovers:** 12 (Sheldon 3, Bristow 2, Walker 2, Greene, McMahon, Mikesell, Mikulasikova, Team). **Steals:** 25 (Sheldon 5, Greene 4, McMahon 3, Walker 3, Bristow 2, Mikulasikova 2, Perry 2, Thierry 2, Mikesell, Vres). **Officials:** Hallead, March, Reynolds. **Attendance:** 3,351.

standout in guard Kaili Chamberlin, who led all scorers with 16 points on 6-of-11 shooting and was 4 of 6 from deep. McNeese State finished 8 of 18 from beyond the arc (44.4 percent) while Ohio State was 10 of 29 (34.5 percent).

The Buckeyes were scheduled to stay home for their next two games, taking on Wright State on Nov. 23 and hosting North Alabama on Nov. 27.

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Rookie Burnside Makes Good First Impression

Davis Burnside isn't heralded like fellow freshman forward Stephen Halliday, a fourth-round pick in the 2022 NHL draft by the Ottawa Senators, but he has quickly made his mark at Ohio State.

IN THE CREASE Craig Merz

In fact, the undrafted Burnside needed just 3:52 into the opening game at Mercyhurst on Oct. 1 to score the first goal of the season for the Buckeyes. He picked off a pass and scored on the backhand for an unassisted goal in the eventual 4-2 win.

For a rookie trying to establish himself, it was huge to promptly get into the scoring column.

"It felt good," Burnside said. "Obviously, it was pretty early in the game so it kind of relieved the pressure a little bit. I had a lot of nerves going into the game just not really knowing what to expect, so it felt good and then we got the win. Just to be a part of that and help out the team felt really good."

As a side note, Oct. 1 was the earliest Ohio State had ever opened the season, giving Burnside the distinction of the earliest (calendar) goal in program history. The previous earliest season opener was Oct. 2, 1999, vs. Wayne State (a 6-0 win). But Burnside (6-0, 176) wasn't done adding to his young legacy.

On Oct. 29 vs. Minnesota, he became the

fourth Buckeye to score two shorthanded goals in a game, joining Ohio State Hall of Fame member Paul Pooley (Feb. 14, 1981, at Bowling Green), former NHL player Dave Steckel (Nov. 29, 2003, at Bowling Green) and Kenny Bernard (Nov. 9, 2006, vs. Western Michigan).

Burnside is the first Ohio State player with more than one shorthanded goal in a season since Mason Jobst had two in 2018.

"Davis has just got a tremendous work ethic," said Ohio State coach Steve Rohlik. "He's not the biggest guy, not the strongest guy. But I love his compete factor for a young kid coming in who can skate and get around the rink like that. And he's involved. He gets his nose dirty and he's got a good skill set."

His goal in the series opener against Notre Dame on Nov. 18 was an example of that. After finishing check, Burnside skated out of the corner to the front of the net, held his position and tipped a shot by Scooter Brickey for a 1-0 lead. Through 14 games as of Nov. 19, Burnside was tied with Jake Wise for the team lead in goals with six and had one assist.

He is from Scottsdale, Ariz., but grew up in Chicago. His father, Brad, was an All-America golfer at Elon University who played professionally. and his grandfather was an Olympic speed skater.

"My dad played hockey when he was younger and loved it," Burnside said. "He always said he wanted to play hockey but golf just kind of took over, so golf and hockey were the two sports I played when I was little and I fell in love with hockey."

Burnside played five seasons of junior hockey in the United States Hockey League prior to Ohio State.

"I wanted to go somewhere in the Big Ten," he said. "Ohio State was one of the first schools I visited, and I fell in love with the campus, coaches, the rink, everything. I mean, you can't really beat Ohio State. They've got everything to help you as a player and academically as well."

Burnside describes himself as a "200-foot player." In hockey vernacular, that's a player who commits to offense and defense for the length of the ice.

"I'm responsible on both ends of the ice and play with a lot of energy," he said. "I'm a player that – I'm never perfect at one thing. I just want to get better at everything. I won't put up 50 points in the year, but I'll hopefully put up a decent amount of points and be good defensively and play an overall game."

Nearly two months into his college career, Burnside is adjusting to a higher level of play than his previous stops.

"You heard here it's just faster, stronger and that's obviously true," he said. "You have less time with the puck. You need quicker decision making."

Rohlik sees a bright future for Burnside. "The best thing is you know his best hockey is ahead of him," the coach said. "We've been very pleased, and when he adds 15 to 20 pounds and more muscle, he can be a pretty dangerous player."

"For us as a development program, that's what we pride ourselves on – be it in the strength and conditioning area, be it on the ice or off the ice areas – and he's a prime example of that. Four years from now you might look at him and go, 'Wow, you know, that's a different prospect and he's where he needs to be as far as getting ready for the next level.'"

Taking Charge

Coming off being swept at Michigan State Nov. 10-11 to extend a losing streak to three games, senior forward Tate Singleton said he needed to step up.

"I've got to (step up) more as an older guy and being here four years," he said during a

media session on Nov. 16. "I think I've got to show all the leadership that I have and just bring energy. I'm an energy player, and when I'm playing that way, I feel like a lot of guys kind of hop on that and thrive off my energy. So I think I myself need to do better for that for sure."

It's one thing to say, and it's another to do. Singleton did both in the first Notre Dame game, earning two assists and scoring the go-ahead goal in the 5-2 comeback win.

He finished a 2-on-1 with Burnside at 12:57 in the third period to give the Buckeyes a 3-2 lead after they trailed 2-1 early in the second period. Earlier, Dominic Vidoli tied with a shorthanded goal, the sixth for the Buckeyes to lead the nation.

After Singleton's goal, Wise made it 4-2 with a power-play goal at 14:13, and Patrick Guzzo scored into an empty net at 18:04 before a season-high crowd of 6,019 at Value City Arena.

On the last goal, Singleton was without a stick when he made a sliding block of a shot to send the Buckeyes the other way down the ice.

"I thought I brought energy tonight and a lot of guys built off it," Singleton said. "It's hard to win in college hockey, and to get a win like that was pretty nice."

In the second game on Nov. 19, the Buckeyes (8-5-1, 4-4-0-0 Big Ten) did everything but score, losing 1-0 to No. 20 Notre Dame (6-6-2, 3-4-1-1) in front of 4,381 fans.

OSU led in shots, 37-18, including 19-3 in the third period, but could not get one by Irish goaltender Ryan Bischof.

Up Next

The Buckeyes play at Long Island University on Nov. 25 and 26 and go to Penn State on Dec. 2 and 3.

For a complete recap of the Notre Dame series, go to the BuckeyeSports.com website, free to all Buckeye Sports Bulletin subscribers.

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Columbus Has Restaurants For Every Taste

Whether you're hosting the big game-watch party, joining up with friends to watch on a big screen or looking for good eats before or after the game, Columbus has something for everyone. Buckeye Sports Bulletin once again offers its suggestions as to where fans can eat on game day or any day.

- An all-occasion steak tavern that glows with sizzle and warmth, **The Avenue** serves fine steaks and tavern fare in Grandview's historic Bank Block neighborhood and in Historic Dublin. The Avenue – a Cameron Mitchell restaurant – features incomparable appetizers such as shrimp dejonghe and oysters Rockefeller followed by mouth-watering entrées including veal Milanese with mozzarella, arugula and linguine; Atlantic salmon with spinach, fennel and chardonnay butter sauce; or a selection of USDA prime steaks and chops. The Avenue also features a wide array of beverages, including local favorites such as classically inspired cocktails and a carefully selected collection of Old and New World wines.

Visit the Grandview location at 1307 Grandview Ave. (614-485-9447) or The Avenue in Dublin at 94 N. High St. (614-591-9000). For reservations, call or go online at theavenuesteaktavern.com.

- Cap City Fine Diner & Bar**, created by Cameron Mitchell Restaurants, offers a dining experience you won't soon forget. You can expect a menu that will satisfy the most discriminating palate. Try the week-end brunch from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for classic eggs Benedict, French toast, torta, eggs on hash, spinach quiche, smoked salmon and bagel, four-egg omelet, breakfast burrito or the "diner" steak and eggs special with your favorite drink. Or meet up with friends for Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. for specially priced appetizers and drink specials in the bar. Choose from a variety of fresh salads and selections such as balsamic chicken or pecan-crusted pork chops, or try one of the delicious diner sandwiches or desserts. There are three locations, at 1299 Olentangy River Road (614-291-3663), minutes from Ohio Stadium; 1301 Stoneridge Drive in Gahanna (614-478-9999); or 6644 Riverside Drive in Dublin (614-889-7865). For reservations, call or visit <https://capcityfinediner.com>.

- The Chocolate Café** at 1855 Northwest Blvd. has the cure for your cravings with a delicious menu of treats. Their decadent lobster bisque is served daily along with an amazing array of specialty sandwiches including apple-bacon-cheddar panini, Greek pita and Cajun chicken panini. Among their specialty grilled cheeses are the triple bacon grilled cheese or the pesto tomato grilled cheese, and they also feature a variety of salads and soups of the day. Or stop by for brunch, served daily from 9 a.m. to noon and featuring bananas Foster waffles, omelets, and breakfast sandwiches.

You'll want to save room for dessert because the Chocolate Café has an extensive dessert menu including real hot chocolate, chocolate dipped strawberries, hand-dipped Buckeyes, assorted ice cream flavors, fondue and over 50 assorted candies. Visit them online for details at www.chocolatecafecolumbus.com or call (614) 485-2233. Don't forget Chocolate Café's newest location at 730 S.

High St. (614-947-0032).

- Hometown favorite **City Barbeque** has been feeding Buckeye fans since 1999. Load up your tailgate party with their award-winning brisket, competition-quality St. Louis-cut ribs, Texas smoked sausage and classic pulled pork. There's a full roster of made-from-scratch classic sides, from collards and corn pudding to mac & cheese and potato salad. City Barbeque makes game day simple for groups of all sizes – just pick the Party Pack that fits your crowd. Check out citybbq.com or download the city bbq app for \$5 off your first order.

Of the eight City Barbeque joints in Columbus, the original Upper Arlington location is closest to Ohio Stadium: 2111 W. Henderson Road, (614) 538-8890. Visit their website for other convenient locations.

- Cancel those airline tickets to Mexico and head for **Cuco's Taqueria** at 2162 W. Henderson Road instead. If you are in the mood for some authentic Mexican cuisine, you will love their extensive menu, from starters such as fresh ceviche or queso fundido with melted Chihuahua cheese and chorizo to main entrées like carnitas and steak ranchero. Try their signature tacos, and choose from a variety of soups and salads. Don't miss the fajitas platter, the enchiladas or tamales either. Stop by for breakfast too.

Cuco's Taqueria has a full bar with an extensive selection of margaritas, so stop by for Happy Hour from 4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit them online at www.cucostaqueria.com or call (614) 538-8701.

- Part of Cameron Mitchell Restaurants' Short North Collection, **Del Mar** offers the best of Southern California-inspired dishes and cocktails. The restaurant team is fanatical about freshness and uses only the best fare from the farm, garden, and sea.

Del Mar is open Sunday-Thursday from 4-9 p.m. and Friday from 4-11 p.m. The restaurant is also open for Saturday brunch from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and dinner from 3-11 p.m., as well as Sunday for brunch from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and dinner from 3-9 p.m. Del Mar is located at 705 N. High St. in the Short North Arts District (614-300-9500). For reservations, call or visit <https://delmar-columbus.com>.

- Treat yourself to authentic Mexican fare at **Don Tequila Mexican Grill and Cantina**. Try the chimichangas – stuffed with your choice of beef, pork, lobster, shrimp or chicken – or the El Potosino – a combination of grilled chicken fillet and grilled shrimp with pico de gallo, steamed vegetables and shredded cheese. Or why not try the flaming cheese fajitas, with grilled strips of chicken, steak, onions, zucchini, mushrooms, poblano peppers and tomatoes, served on a skillet covered with flaming melted cheese and garnished with fajita salad. Don Tequila serves all of your traditional favorites, from tacos to burritos to enchiladas.

Don Tequila has four locations: 9762 Sawmill Parkway in Powell (614-932-9100); 6211 Cleveland Ave. on the North Side (614-523-2604); 3140 Kingsdale Center in Upper Arlington (614-273-1305); or 5637 Woerner Temple Road in Dublin (614-761-2200).

- El Segundo** is a Mexican Street food-inspired restaurant, where the chefs offer fresh, responsibly sourced and local

ingredients. At El Segundo, they make their own tortillas, sauces and signature ingredients from scratch. The food is all about sharing life and good times with family and friends.

El Segundo is open for dinner nightly, with Happy Hour Monday-Friday from 4-6 p.m. and Sunday from 8 p.m.-close. El Segundo is located in the Short North Arts District, just a short distance from campus at 698 N. High St. (614) 965-6660. For reservations, call or visit <https://elsegundocolumbus.com>.

- Stop in and try the tasty Mexican menu items at **El Vaquero**, within walking distance of Ohio Stadium and the hotels on Olentangy River Road north of OSU. Choose from a variety of fresh, authentic cuisine selections such as the queso fundido with grilled shrimp, onions, mushrooms and melted cheese. Try one of the many salads or order a bowl of Sopa Azteca and have a frosty, crafted margarita from the bar. El

Vaquero offers Happy Hour from 4-8 p.m. daily. Sample the fresh guacamole and bring the family for a great time. A kids menu is available too. No game tickets, no problem. Watch on the big-screen projector. Come celebrate another Buckeye victory at 3230 Olentangy River Road or call (614) 261-0900 for information.

- The Guild House** is an artisan eatery featuring creative American cuisine available for breakfast and dinner daily. The chefs at The Guild House collaborate to create seasonal offerings that are regionally and globally inspired, all with artistic technique in an energetic and inviting space. Located in the Short North Arts District (624 North High St., 614-280-9780), The Guild House offers Happy Hour Monday thru Friday from 4-6 p.m. in the bar with half-price featured wines, cocktails and selected items from their chef-inspired menu. For reservations,

Continued On Page 44

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Plenty Of Eatery Options For Buckeye Fans

Continued From Page 43

call or visit <https://theguildhousecolumbus.com>.

- **Hank's Texas BBQ** is Clintonville's smoking new place for delicious barbecue. Hank's specializes in real Texas-style barbecue, cooked low and slow over a wood fire, and is easy to find at 2941 North High Street in Columbus. Starters include fried green tomatoes, poutine, pickle chips or mouth-watering hot honey chicken. Then move on to the main courses, including USDA prime brisket, ribs, pulled pork, smoked chicken and smoked sausage. Or try one of the delectable sandwiches such as smoked portobello or Hank's Way with smoked brisket topped with pickled vegetables and Hank's white barbecue sauce. Treat yourself to corn cakes Steve's way, topped with pulled pork, house-made cole slaw and Hank's white barbecue sauce. Sides include vinegar slaw, house-cut fries, collard greens and corn spoon bread. Still hungry? Ask for the banana cream pie. Bring the whole crowd for barbecue and trivia at 8 p.m. every Wednesday. Hank's is available for catering and has a kid's menu too. Open Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday and Sat 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Call (614) 972-6020 for details or visit online at www.hankstexasstylebbq.com.

- The menu at **Hudson 29** is nothing short of an expansion and redefinition of

American cuisine, taking it to new heights through simple preparations that allow the flavors of the expertly sourced ingredients to shine through. You'll savor this simplicity throughout the menu, a familiar and hearty collection of starters, prime steaks, roasted chicken and knife-and-fork sandwiches.

The bar has been raised in similar fashion. The focus is on wine, with an artfully composed list of 100 bottles. Cocktails crafted with house-made mixers and fresh-squeezed juices and an ever-changing list of craft beers round out the selection. Hudson 29 serves lunch and dinner daily with weekend brunch. Enjoy Happy Hour at Hudson 29 Monday through Sunday featuring special prices on appetizers, handcrafted cocktails, wines by the glass, draft beers and ales. There are two locations, at 1600 W. Lane Ave. (614-487-0622) minutes from Ohio Stadium, and 260 Market St. in New Albany (614-859-2900). For reservations, call or visit <https://hudson29.com>.

- For a simply incomparable total dining experience, head to **Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse** at 89 East Nationwide Blvd. Located in the downtown Arena District, one block south of the Convention Center, Ruby's entered the Columbus culinary scene in 2017 and was quickly recognized by readers' polls and critical acclaim as not just one of the best steakhouses in Columbus, but in the entire country. One stop will tell you why. Try the U.S.D.A. Prime steaks, an extraordinary

selection of premium Japanese A5 Wagyu, the macaroni and cheese that Food Network named one of its Most Magnificent Sides, and an extensive menu of sushi and raw bar specialties. The impeccable service, precise attention to detail, and a wine list Wine Spectator has recognized as among the best in the state are just some of the reasons your visit will be a memorable one.

Be sure to take advantage of their limited-time, 20% Off gift card promotions Thanksgiving Day through Cyber Monday.

Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse serves dinner Monday-Thursday 4:30-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 4:30-10pm, and Sunday 4:30-8:30pm. Reservations are recommended but not required. Call (614) 686-7800 or visit www.JeffRuby.com/Columbus.

- With a retractable roof and a fire pit, **Lincoln Social** is a cool rooftop oasis and the ideal spot for guests to sip, savor and surround themselves with the cityscape. Enjoy the sweeping city views with a cocktail in hand at Lincoln Social, part of Cameron Mitchell Restaurants' Short North Collection. Located on the ninth floor above Del Mar SoCal Kitchen, Lincoln Social is an energetic gathering place complete with a flower wall to grab the perfect Instagram picture. Guests are invited to elevate their evening Tuesday-Thursday from 4-11 p.m., Friday from 4 p.m.-12 a.m., Saturday from 2 p.m.-12 a.m., and Sunday from 2-9 p.m. Lincoln Social is located at 711 N. High St. in the Short North Arts District (614-300-9494).

- **Los Guachos** is the place to head when in the mood for authentic Mexican food. And they just opened their fourth brick-and-mortar restaurant in Whitehall, located at 1121 S. Hamilton Road, in addition to their other three locations: 7370 Sawmill Road, 5221 Godown Road and 1376 Cherry Bottom Road. Los Guachos has been named one of America's best taco spots by Yahoo and voted one of the best taco spots by the Food Network. Also, it was recognized by Every Day with Rachel Ray and Maxim Magazine as having some of the best tacos in the

country, among other mentions within the Columbus press.

Visit them for tasty Mexican dishes including their famous Gringas, Juanas and original Tacos al Pastor. Open Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-midnight and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-1 a.m. at their Columbus and Dublin locations and every day from 11a.m.-11 p.m. in Gahanna and Whitehall. Call ahead for carry-out at (614) 538-0211 (Godown Road), (614) 471-4717 (Gahanna), (614) 852-3000 (Whitehall) or (614) 726-9185 (Sawmill Road). Stop by online at losguachos.com.

- Try a longtime Buckeye fan favorite at **Minelli's Pizza and Next Door Tavern** at 1189 N. Wilson Road. Enjoy Minelli's thin-crust pizza, Italian specialties from manicotti to chicken parmesan, subs, sandwiches and salads while catching the Buckeye action on one of 14 large-screen TVs at the Next Door Tavern. Test your Buckeye knowledge with the collection of Ohio State photos, and don't miss any of the game with the Big Ten Network and NFL Sunday Ticket.

Take the family to dine at the old-fashioned pizzeria or meet your friends next door at the Tavern and enjoy your favorite beverages with great food from Minelli's. Quench your Buckeye fever at the Tavern's seven-hour Happy Hour. Too good to be true? Call them at (614) 279-3344 and find out.

- You're sure to find something for everyone at **Paul's Fifth Avenue**, a Grandview tradition for over 50 years. Open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week, Paul's features an eclectic mix of cuisine. Enjoy all your favorites at breakfast, including eggs made-to-order, omelets, waffles, pancakes and home fries. Be sure to try Paul's famous Callahans, your choice of toppings on a bed of home fries.

At lunch, try one of the traditional sandwiches such as the Reuben or a burger made from fresh-ground short rib and beef round paired with Paul's famous Italian wedding soup. Or treat yourself to one of the traditional Italian favorites including Mama Panzera's lasagna and chicken or veal parmesan. With ample parking and located at 1565 W. Fifth Ave. in Grandview just five minutes from campus, Paul's is a convenient option for dining before the game. Phone (614) 481-8848 or visit www.paulsonline.com.

- **The Pearl** is a cozy tavern that showcases made-from-scratch food, classically inspired cocktails and an exclusive selection of ales, lagers and stouts. Start off with the creamy clam chowder with chorizo dust. For raw bar aficionados, The Pearl offers oysters and clams on the half shell, or try the N'Awlins baked oysters or the Shellfish Tower featuring oysters, clams, peel 'n' eat shrimp and Louie dressed colossal crab. Entrées include classics such as Southern fried chicken with a cinnamon sticky bun and cider-braised greens, Great Lakes fish 'n' chips or the braised short rib with horseradish mashed potatoes.

The Pearl's brunch stands out from the bunch and is served every Saturday and Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. Or hook up with friends for Happy Hour weekdays from 4-6 p.m. The Pearl is located at 641 N. High St. in the Short North Arts District, just a short distance from campus, (614) 227-0151 and

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WHERE TO EAT

in Dublin at 88 N. High St. (614) 695-6255. For reservations, call or visit <https://the-pearlcolumnbus.com>.

- Buckeye fans have been enjoying **Plank's Cafe and Pizzeria** at 743 Parsons Ave. since 1939. Plank's is known for its pizza, subs, daily specials and more. The pizza is half price every Monday from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. There are multiple TVs to watch your favorite game, and members of the Plank family are there to make sure you enjoy your experience. Plank's features private party rooms for groups of 40-80 people and also offers delivery. There is plenty of free parking and free WiFi is available. For delivery, to order ahead or for more information, call (614) 443-6251.

- One great option for affordable family dining in Grove City, just south of Columbus, is **Plank's On Broadway**, which features a wide variety of sandwiches and entrées in addition to the ever-popular pizza. Favorites include burgers, grilled chicken salad and, of course, good cold beer. Patrons can enjoy a large works pizza for four for about \$20 or a burger, fries and a beer for about \$12. Stop by Tuesdays for half-price pizza night, or enjoy the all-you-can-eat fish fry on Wednesdays.

Plank's is located at 4022 Broadway, off I-270 west of I-71. For more information, call (614) 875-7800.

- For great food and atmosphere, try **Press Grill** at 741 N. High St. in the Short North (614-298-1014) and **Press Pub on 5th** (614-817-1198) in Grandview at 1505 W. 5th Ave. Their large menu includes the shrimp Po Boy, the pesto chicken sandwich with bacon, fontina and portobello mushrooms, and the famous Press Burger with fried egg. Choose a craft beer from the well-stocked bar and sample the daily specials: Mondays, Nathan's all-beef hot dogs, two for \$6; Wednesdays, \$2.50 beef tacos; and Sundays, New York strip steak. And don't miss Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixin's every Thursday night for only \$15. Visit www.presscolumbus.com to find out more.

- Bring your appetite to **The Red Brick Tap and Grill** located at 292 East Gates St. in Columbus. Whatever your mood they have it with a variety of burgers, dogs, gyros, pizza, calzones and salads. Start off with the saganaki, a tableside flambe of Greek goat cheese, or the fried calamari with jalapeno jelly. Then treat yourself to the pan-seared salmon or spanakopita. Peruse the amazing list of bottled and draft beers (more than two dozen rotating taps) and wine selections. Ask about the daily specials, and visit their site for special events at www.theredbrick-tapandgrill.com. Call today at (614) 444-2742.

- Make **Roosters** your headquarters to watch the Buckeyes while enjoying great wings and good times – before, during and after the games. Locally owned and operated, Roosters is open seven days a week with multiple area locations. Voted best wait staff and best wings by 614 Magazine, Roosters invites you to come watch the game in a casual atmosphere while enjoying the selection of wings, burgers, pizza, salads and a ton of appetizers. If you're watching the game at home, call Roosters for catering or carryout.

Look for the Roosters Food Truck at Ohio State home games in the Fanfest area between St. John Arena and the Ice Rink. Roosters is the Official Wing Sponsor of

Ohio State Athletics. Visit www.rooster-swings.com for locations and hours.

- **Rusty Bucket** is a casual American restaurant and tavern, a gathering place where people come to share laughter, smiles and great conversation over food that makes everyone happy. Satisfying and familiar, the menu is classic American fare, thoughtfully prepared from scratch by their executive chef. Cocktails are considered a craft, made-to-order by highly-skilled bartenders. From barrel to glass, no shortcuts are taken with the carefully selected beer list. The perfect draft is guaranteed. Stop by for lunch, meet family and friends for dinner, or stop in before or after the game. Great food, great drinks, great people – the Bucket Life.

Online reservations, private dining, carryout and delivery are available. Visit one of the 10 Columbus locations or view menus at www.MyRustyBucket.com.

- A longtime central Ohio destination restaurant remains the anchor of historic downtown Canal Winchester as **Shade on the Canal** (19 S. High St.) continues to be a gathering place for locals and visitors alike. And the Shade brand has expanded with Shade on State Street in Athens (994 E. State St.) and Shade on 30th Street (850 S. 30th St.) in Heath.

Shade's, as it is popularly known, offers the best in casual dining and sports pub atmosphere with a friendly staff, flat-screen TVs, upbeat music and walls lined with local black and white photos. You'll find great food including award-winning pizza, great wings, fresh cut salads, sandwiches, tasty appetizers, homemade soups and more. Are you planning a special event? Check out Shade's historic Pine Room at the Canal Winchester location. For information or carry-out orders call the Canal Winchester location at (614) 837-9873, the Athens location at (740) 566-1009 or the Heath location at (740) 788-9287.

- Can't get the family to agree on what's for dinner tonight? Or maybe you stayed out late celebrating the Buckeyes' latest win and you're looking for hot, made-to-order food? It's a popular belief that you can't get great-tasting food at a convenience store, but at **Sheetz**, they like to turn such conventions on their heads. Sheetz offers an extensive menu from appetizers to burgers to subs and sandwiches, all made to order 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The touch-screen kiosks at Sheetz make it easy to customize your order, or order ahead online or on the Sheetz app and they'll have your order waiting for you. With meal deals including Fryz (yes, this is how Sheetz spells things) and a drink for as little as \$3.99, you can't go wrong.

Get your day started right with fresh breakfast burritos, egg sandwiches and Cinnabon Cinnapocketz. For lunch or dinner, try the Big Mozz burger with mozzarella cheese sticks, provolone and marinara with a side of cheesy bacon tater bombs. Or how about a Bahama Mama with kraut or a Totz platter with your choice of toppings from nacho cheese to steak? And you're sure to be a hit at the game-watch party with a Big Appz Bucket of Wisconsin cheese bites, Jalapeno Popperz or boneless chicken bitez.

With over a dozen Sheetz stores in the Columbus area, you're never far away from made-to-order food 24 hours a day. Visit orders.sheetz.com to find the location nearest you or place an online order.

BUCKEYE SCOREBOARD

2022 FOOTBALL

Sept. 3 NOTRE DAME, W 21-10; **10** ARKANSAS STATE, W 45-12; **17** TOLEDO, W, 77-21.; **24** WISCONSIN, W 52-21.

Oct. 1 RUTGERS, W 49-10; **8** at Michigan State, W 49-20; **22** IOWA, W 54-10; **29** at Penn State, W 44-31.

Nov. 5 at Northwestern, W 21-7 **12** INDIANA, W 56-14 **19** at Maryland, W 43-30; **26** MICHIGAN.

2023 FOOTBALL

Sept. 2 at Indiana; **9** YOUNGSTOWN STATE; **16** WESTERN KENTUCKY; **23** at Notre Dame.

Oct. 7 MARYLAND; **14** at Purdue; **21** PENN STATE; **28** at Wisconsin.

Nov. 4 at Rutgers; **11** MICHIGAN STATE; **18** MINNESOTA; **25** at Michigan.

CROSS COUNTRY

Sept. 2 Mike Baumer Cross Country Classic at Dayton, OH Men: 1/15; Women: 1/13; **9** Big Ten Preview at Michigan, Men 5/6; Women 2/6; **23** Roy Griak Invitational at Minneapolis, Minn. Men: 13/17; Women 5/20; **30** Lakefront Invitational at Chicago, Ill. Men 2/7; Women: 2/11.

Oct. 15 Arturo Barrios Invitational at College Station, Texas; **28** Big Ten Championships at Ann Arbor, Mich. Men: 8/12; Women 4/14.

Nov. 11 NCAA Regional Championships at Terre Haute, Ind. Men: 13/29; W 2/31; **19** NCAA Championships at Stillwater, Okla.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY (8-5-1, 4-4-0)

Oct. 1 at Mercyhurst, W 4-2; **2** at Mercyhurst, W 4-1; **7** WISCONSIN, W 3-1; **8** WISCONSIN, W 4-3; **14-15** at UConn, T 0-0; L 1-6; **20-21** BENTLEY, W 9-2; W 3-1; **28-29** MINNESOTA, W 6-4, L 4-2.

Nov. 10-11 at Michigan State, L 2-4, L 3-4; **18-19** NOTRE DAME, W 5-2, L 1-0; **25-26** at Long Island University.

Dec. 2-3 at Penn State; **16-17** at Bowling Green.

Jan. 6-7 MICHIGAN STATE; **13-14** at Michigan; **20-21** at Wisconsin.

Feb. 3-4 PENN STATE; **10-11** at Notre Dame; **16** MICHIGAN **18** at FirstEnergy Stadium, Cleveland, vs. Michigan; **24-25** at Minnesota.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY (12-1-1, 10-1-1)

Sept. 30 at Minnesota State, W 2-1.

Oct. 1 at Minnesota State, W 5-4; **7** ST. CLOUD STATE, W 5-2; **8** ST. CLOUD STATE, W 6-2; **15-16** at Bemidji State, W 4-0; W 5-2; **21-22** MINNESOTA DULUTH, W 3-2 OT; W 3-2 **28-29** MINNESOTA, L 4-2, T 4-4 (SOW).

Nov. 5 at St. Thomas, W 4-0; **6** at St. Thomas, W 6-0 **18** BEMIDJI STATE, W 5-0; **19** BEMIDJI STATE, W 7-1; **22-23** COLGATE.

Dec. 2-3 at Minnesota Duluth; **17-18** at Cornell; **30-31** at Lindenwood.

Jan. 13-14 WISCONSIN; **20-21** at St. Cloud State; **27-28** MINNESOTA STATE.

Feb. 3-4 at Minnesota; **10-11** ST. THOMAS; **17-18** at Wisconsin.

MEN'S SOCCER (10-3-5, 4-2-2)

Aug. 25 SOUTH CAROLINA, T 1-1; **28** CAL POLY, W 3-0.

Sept. 1 Bowling Green, W 1-0. **5** WRIGHT STATE, W 2-0; **9** BUTLER, W 2-0; **13** Akron, T 3-3.; **18** INDIANA, W 2-1; **21** Cleveland State, T 0-0; **25** Maryland, L 1-0; **30** RUTGERS, T 2-2.

Oct. 5 NORTHERN KENTUCKY, W 3-2; **11** Michigan, W 3-1; **16** NORTHWESTERN, W 2-1; **21** Penn State, T 1-1; **25** MICHIGAN STATE, W 2-1; **30** Wisconsin, L 3-2.;

Nov. 4 Big Ten Tournament, Michigan State, W 1-0; **9** Big Ten Tournament at Rutgers, L 1-2; **17** NCAA Tournament, Wake Forest, W 3-0; **20** NCAA Tournament, UNC Greensboro, T 1-1, PKS L, 5-6.

WOMEN'S SOCCER (11-5-3, 5-3-2)

Aug. 18 Kansas, W 1-0; **21** Missouri, W 2-1; **26** BYU, L 2-0.

Sept. 1 Dayton, W 4-0; **4** TEXAS A&M, T 0-0; **8** Brown, W 3-2; **11** KENT STATE, W 2-1; **18** Rutgers, L 2-0; **22** Michigan, T 0-0; **25** IOWA, W 2-0; **29** Indiana, W 4-0.

Oct. 2 PENN STATE, W 3-0; **8** Nebraska, T 2-2; **13** MARYLAND, W 7-0; **16** Illinois, W 6-1; **20** MICHIGAN STATE, L 0-1; **23** NORTHWESTERN, L 0-2; **30** Big Ten quarterfinals at Nebraska, L 4-0.

Nov. 11 NCAA Tournament, Bucknell, W 1-0 (2 OT); **18** at Arkansas, L 5-2.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL (19-6, 15-2)

Aug. 26 TEXAS, L 3-0; **27** L 3-1.

Sept. 3 San Diego, L 3-0; **4** Louisville, W 3-1; **9**, BYU, W 3-0; **11** Georgia Tech, W 3-1; **17** Tennessee, W 3-0; **18** Pittsburgh, L 3-0; **23** Iowa, W 3-0; **24** Nebraska, L 3-2; **28** Michigan, W 3-1.

Oct. 1 Indiana, W 3-1; **7** PENN STATE, W 3-2; **9** NORTHWESTERN, W, 3-1; **12** Minnesota, W 3-0; **15** RUTGERS, W 3-0; **19** ILLINOIS, W 3-0; **21** IOWA, W 3-1; **26** MICHIGAN, W 3-0; **29** Penn State, W 3-2.

Nov. 4 Northwestern, W 3-0; **5** Michigan State, W 3-0; **10** Purdue, W 3-1.; **13** NEBRASKA, W 3-1.; **18** Maryland, L 3-1.; **20** INDIANA, L 3-2; **25** MINNESOTA, 6 p.m; **26** WISCONSIN, 7 p.m.

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OSU-Michigan Set For Heavyweight Bout

The prelims are out of the way. Now it's time for the heavyweight championship.

Ohio State has dispatched the Zora Follies and Oscar Bonavenas and Chuck Wepners – hell, even a Rudie Lubbers – and now awaits Joe Frazier, which takes the form of the Michigan Wolverines.

THE FACTS MAN Mike Wachsman

The tale of the tape has the Buckeyes ahead in most areas, including efficiency and overall team strength. But one facet that Michigan may have mastered and holds the upper hand in is toughness. U-M slugged its way through all comers on the heels of a stifling defense but showed enough resolve to pick itself up off the mat and throw a winning combination in a 19-17 victory over Illinois in the lead-up to the Buckeyes. That they did it without top weapon Blake Corum was impressive, though it should be noted that the Illini are not exactly an offensive juggernaut.

The Buckeyes again did the usual sleepwalk routine for the first half, getting on the board early then losing interest. A somnambulant second quarter included a myriad of penalties – including a pair of delay-of-game calls – a lack of push up front and general malaise. Ryan Day chalked it up to simply not executing, but this has become a running theme for Ohio State in recent weeks. When the stakes don't seem high, the Buckeyes tend to coast.

That's not going to work against Michigan.

It took a tough, hard-nosed neophyte in Dallan Hayden to shake things up, and when it was over the Buckeyes had a victory – maybe not as satisfying as they had hoped, but a win just the same. And given the chaotic nature of college football in November, that should be a blessing.

“When you're playing in November in the Big Ten, these are challenges,” Day said. “The goal is to win and move on. There are going to be games when you don't jump out as quick as you'd like to. What was most important is we came together and said it would be a four-quarter battle. We buckled down in the third quarter and got it going.”

On a day when the Wolverines and unbeaten TCU needed walk-off field goals to win, and when top dawg Georgia slogged its way to a 16-6 win over Kentucky, the Buckeyes joined those top teams in creating drama where there probably shouldn't have been any.

Day once again decided it was a good idea to take the running game east to west, when it's been proven week after week that north to south has paid more dividends. TreVeyon Henderson doesn't look healthy, but he's also showing an alarming trend of cutting away from the hole and into tacklers. The offensive line opens holes on a part-time basis, leaving backs scrambling to do whatever they can to avoid lost yardage.

Even the formerly unflappable C.J. Stroud has been strangely off-kilter. After posting quarterback ratings of 78.4 or above in each of the first six contests, Stroud has fallen below that number in three of the last five games. Even if we give him a pass for the poor showing in the elements against Northwestern, it doesn't explain why he had such difficulty against the Terps. Yes, Maryland has some good individual talent in the secondary but was a team ranked in the bottom four of the conference against the pass. Stroud made a couple of throws that were nearly picked off and was off

target on ones he normally can make in his sleep.

And what is his issue with finding the play clock? The delay penalties were largely on him, though Day said that the coaches have to do a better job of getting plays in faster. That sounds like a coach sticking up for his guy, which is admirable. That's something that can probably be fixed.

What's more troubling is the lack of “Wow” throws from Stroud in recent weeks. His accuracy, formerly uncanny, has been below 70.0 percent in four of the last five games, a lot of that due to him making poor decisions. The coaching staff isn't helping him out much as it insists on running only intermediate and deep routes to the sideline, rather than quick slants or in cutting routes that would give playmakers a chance to actually make plays.

It's a curious situation, to be sure. But it's also not the end the world.

The defense has – despite a few big plays from Maryland – been wondrous and has held up nicely against the run. That's why there should be optimism going into the game with Michigan.

The Wolverines are tough and physical, with an offensive line that could be the best in college football. But they are also one-dimensional. When Corum left the game, the U-M offense ground to a halt. Only on the final drive did it create something positive, and that should be cause for alarm for Jim Harbaugh.

Quarterback J.J. McCarthy has been hyped to the moon, yet with more passing his numbers have declined. The coaches haven't trusted him to throw deep, so it's controlled, easy passes – almost an extension of the ground game. That's all fine and good when you have a talent advantage but is unlikely to work when the teams are even.

Ohio State needs to commit to stopping the run – whether it's Corum or Donovan Edwards or C.J. Stokes or even McCarthy – and make the Maize and Blue win through the air. It's what the Illini did, and it limited the Wolverines to just 4.2 yards per carry and one rushing score.

Whatever the plan, the Buckeyes need to come out from the opening bell and throw punches until a knockout is scored, or until a unanimous decision – via the scoreboard – is reached.

This final opponent is not a tomato can, not one who will just roll over and let the Buckeyes do their thing. Hell, this foe has the upper hand and the belt, which is something the Scarlet and Gray want back.

“Living with how things went last year has not been easy, hasn't been good,” Day said. “We're looking forward to the preparation and our guys have been focused on it. The week is officially here.”

Day wasn't certain whether his team was guilty of looking past Maryland or if it was just lack of execution, but he knows the Buckeyes weren't as sharp as they wanted to be.

The time for look ahead is over, though, as The Game has arrived. The sting of last year's 42-27 defeat and the physical way Michigan beat up on the Buckeyes has stuck in the craw of each and every member of the team. It has driven Ohio State to its current 11-0 mark, and now the Buckeyes are just one step away from realizing two of its goals for 2022 – beating its hated rival and playing for the Big Ten championship.

There have been whispers that Ohio State under Day has lacked the toughness and grit that it had under Urban Meyer. There was never a question of whether the Buckeyes welcomed a fight when Meyer was on the sideline, but now it appears that there are times when Ohio State would rather finesse its way out of a brawl than to take one on.

If it wants to beat Michigan, that expectation will have to change. Day thinks it already has.

“I think we're experienced. I think we've been scarred,” he said. “Coming off that game we were highly motivated this season to be where we are now. Now all the chips go in. It's time to go to work.”

“This is what you play for, what you work for,” Day said. “We practice it every day, focus it on it every day. We live it every day. Now it's time to go out and show whether that preparation and drive is good enough to beat what we expect to be a very motivated and physical football team.”

And A Child Shall Lead Them

After some flashes from Henderson, which included a nifty catch-and-run touchdown in the first quarter, the Buckeyes' ground game became stagnant. That theme has been all too common this season, and when Henderson left the game in the third quarter with what appeared to be a reaggravation of his foot injury, it looked like the Buckeyes could be in panic mode.

But there was no fear in the eyes of Hayden, who had already amassed a pair of 100-yard games – though he wasn't in the spotlight the way he was against Maryland, in a tight game with everything to lose.

Hayden was instrumental in the victory, rolling up 146 yards and three touchdowns on 27 carries. He ran through contact, showed elusiveness in the hole and had a burst that was lacking from Henderson for much of the contest.

“We were scrambling a bit (with our running game) and went with Dallan,” Day said. “He ran hard and ran well, running through contact. We didn't get the running game going in the first half, made the change. He got us into a rhythm. He almost broke a couple. For a young player with so much on the line today, this was big. This should build confidence going forward. He is seeing it. When you see him hit it, he's running through contact. He has really good feet. We had to run to eat the clock, there were a couple of guys in the hole that he made miss. He got us back on schedule.”

Hayden had seven runs of 8 yards or more and really embodied the physical style Day wants to see from his offense.

“He's a tough runner,” Day said. “He gets his shoulders in there and isn't afraid to take on defenders. He really got us going in our ground game in the second half.”

Hayden has 503 yards and five touchdowns in 2022, a year where it was expected he would watch and learn. But an injury to Evan Pryor forced him into the rotation, and injuries to Henderson and Miyan Williams have put him under the microscope.

It's safe to say that he has passed his biggest test to date.

Guns Blazing In Second Half

After a sluggish first-half performance that had the Buckeyes trailing 13-10 at intermission, it was imperative to get the machine rolling in the second half.

The catalyst for the second straight week was Lathan Ransom, who stretched out to block a Colton Spangler punt and set the Buckeyes up at the Terrapins 14-yard line. Hayden punched it in two plays later to put Ohio State on top 17-13, and it never trailed again.

“That play by Lathan really turned the game around,” Day said. “We talked about how important it was to play well in the third quarter, and he really was the spark. His production has been amazing the last few games – he's been producing at a high level.”

The Buckeyes scored on all but one series in the second half after punting three times in the opening 30 minutes. Ohio State is the top third-quarter scoring team in college football, pushing its total to 139 points after a 17-point

burst against Maryland. USC is second with 126 points in the third frame.

Ohio State was also much better converting on third down, having success on 4 of 7 in the second half. The Buckeyes were 8 of 15 for the game.

Day is happy that his team is still standing after taking a few haymakers.

“This is the Maryland team we expected,” he said. “They have talent. Taulia (Tagovailoa) really played well and did a lot of things we knew he could do. They have some athletes, and we did some things that played into them hitting some big plays on us.”

Rivalry Week Is Upon Us

While OSU-Michigan is the biggest game on the docket, it isn't the only traditional showdown or game with big time stakes.

USC continues its push toward a College Football Playoff berth with a showdown against suddenly vital Notre Dame. The Irish, seen as a fake good win for the Buckeyes after struggling midseason, have turned it on and sport an 8-3 record.

There's the always exciting Iron Bowl, though this year a bit less so as Alabama is out of the CFP discussion and Auburn is circling the drain and waiting to hire a new coach.

The Apple Cup (Washington-Washington State), The Civil War (Oregon-Oregon State), The Egg Bowl (Ole Miss-Mississippi State), Florida-Florida State and a host of other biggies dot the Thanksgiving Week schedule, and most will be big to fans of their respective teams. But on a national scale they aren't as large as they have been in the past.

And to me, that's a good thing.

The expansionists would cry that these fan bases would still have “playoff hope” going into the final weekend of the season, and they wouldn't be wrong. But creating false hope when almost none of these squads have a chance to win the whole thing seems a bit shortsighted.

The CFP has always been about the worthiest teams. Having two or three losses on your schedule does not make you worthy of contending for a title, at least in my book.

The playoff should be reserved for those who have actually accomplished it on the field against a representative schedule. In an expanded playoff, OSU-UM wouldn't be as big because the loser would still be guaranteed a spot. The loser on Saturday will be sweating it out and hoping that the surrounding dominoes fall properly so it can sneak into the field of four. Same with USC, and maybe even Clemson. Teams with one loss right now have zero margin for error, and those with unblemished marks still have to finish the job.

The regular season is the playoff, and teams are eliminated each and every week. And that's what makes it the best regular season in all of sports.

Dandy Dozen

- Georgia (11-0)
- Ohio State (11-0)
- TCU (11-0)
- Michigan (11-0)
- USC (10-1)
- LSU (9-2)
- Oregon (9-2)
- Clemson (10-1)
- Penn State (9-2)
- Tennessee (9-2)
- Alabama (9-2)
- Kansas State (8-3)

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Save a piece of pumpkin pie for yours truly.

Who Will Lead Bucks Back To Victory In ‘The Game’?

This is not a trivia question. It is purely subjective so there is no right or wrong answer.

Who do you consider the most underrated player on the Ohio State football team? Think about it, and I will come back to it in a bit.

I always look forward to the Ohio State-Michigan game, but ever since the debacle last season, I have been waiting for the return matchup on Nov. 26 even more so. Judging upon the way I have felt, having to repeat the word “manhandled” for nearly 365 days, I can only imagine what it has been like for the players and coaches.

That is why I am very optimistic about the Buckeyes’ chances in the return match this season. From the outside looking in, it seems like the coaching staff has worked very hard to manage the preparation and the revenge factor from the moment the final gun sounded after the 42-27 defeat last year. In fact, Ohio State’s coaching staff is one of the reasons I give the Buckeyes the edge. I honestly believe Ryan Day is a better coach – not just with X’s and O’s, but with the way he runs the whole program – than Jim Harbaugh (whom anyone who has read this column through the years knows I have disliked since 1986). And the addition of Jim Knowles has been outstanding, and he is just the man to help avoid a repeat of last year’s defensive failures in The Game, joining Larry Johnson, another great assistant coach who has his defensive line playing at a high – and physical – level.

On offense, I don’t think that Harbaugh is the offensive mind that Day is, nor does the Michigan coach have the support and experience of a coach like Kevin Wilson. And Brian Hartline appears to be one of the real up-and-comers in the coaching field. He will have his outstanding receivers ready.

In this limited space, I can’t look at each and every player on the Buckeye team so let me just consider a couple of them. They all happen to be on offense. The defense has been molded into a cohesive unit by Knowles and, with Johnson’s unit looking to surely be physical in the trenches, I am not that worried about the stop troops. Even if they seemed to have an off day against Maryland, they rose to the occasion when necessary – as they have all season – and they will be ready for the Wolverines.

The first person I wanted to mention was running back Dallan Hayden.

The coaches have seemed so worried about getting either Miyan Williams or TreVeyon Henderson back to health for The Game that they’ve kind of ignored Hayden. I think the freshman proved he is ready for the bright lights of the Michigan game with his performance against Maryland. He was productive, and his straight-ahead running style seemed to help bring the offense line, the darlings of Buckeye Nation before the off week, back to life. All Hayden needs to do is concentrate on holding on to the ball (he hasn’t shown a propensity for losing it) and he could join a list of other Ohio State freshman running backs through the years who have shone in the last game of the regular season.

I immediately thought of Carlos Snow. Snow sparked the Buckeyes with a 70-yard TD reception in 1987, helping Ohio State to its famous 23-20 upset win in Ann Arbor in Earle Bruce’s final game as Buckeye coach. He added 67 yards on 21 carries with a long of 30.

Freshman Maurice Clarett helped get Ohio State into the national championship game in 2002 with 119 yards on 20 carries against the Maize and Blue, along with a pivotal 26-yard reception to set up the winning touchdown in a 14-9 victory in Columbus.

J.K. Dobbins carried 15 times for 101 yards and a TD in a 31-20 victory in 2017.

And if you want to go into the way-back ma-

THE VIEW FROM 15TH & HIGH Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

chine, as a freshman Archie Griffin carried 17 times for a game-high 75 yards with a score and a long of 30 in a 14-11 win in 1972.

Will Hayden join these illustrious Buckeyes by making his mark as a freshman in The Game? I hope the coaches give him a chance.

I also look for big things from quarterback C.J. Stroud. I have noted that I don’t think he has played nearly as well since the off week as he did previous to that. I have gotten some pushback on that notion, with people telling me that any drop in numbers is because of the weather or better competition. I think he has been one of the best quarterbacks in the country in recent weeks, but not the amazing player he was in the early going.

There is an easy way to fix my perception and grab hold of the Heisman race, where I think he has faltered of late, and that is to play well in the biggest game of the Buckeye season. That’s where Buckeyes at any position make their mark. This is surely the last regular-season game of Stroud’s Buckeye career, and I don’t think he wants to go down as a Buckeye quarterback who never beat That Team Up North.

And finally, there is tight end Cade Stover. This is really just my way of working my weekly tight end watch into this column. Stover had a 14-yard reception among his two catches to set up a Hayden touchdown at the end of the third quarter against Maryland, making the score 27-13.

Please, please please, Ryan Day/Kevin Wilson/C.J. Stroud. You have gone this far using Stover and the tight end this season. Don’t stop now because that will give the Wolverine defense one more thing to worry about.

I’m ready for The Game. I know the team is ready.

Are you?

Michigan Memories

It’s no secret that my two favorite issues of Buckeye Sports Bulletin each year are the Interview Issue and this, the Michigan Memories issue. In these issues, everyone has a story to tell. The Michigan Memories issue is our equivalent of The Game, and once again the staff has risen to the occasion.

It has become a tradition that if we did a Michigan Memory with a Buckeye who passed away during the year, we honor that Buckeye by reprinting their memories. This year we lost two significant Buckeyes in William White and Chuck Csuri.

White does a fine job of summing up the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry, at least the way I see it.

“It’s not really a hate when you play Michigan,” White said. “It’s an intense rivalry, a respect. You don’t really root for them to do well, but you want that game to mean something – and it always did.

“It’s just smash-mouth, snot-running-out-your-nose football – the way it’s supposed to be.”

Yes, that’s the way it’s supposed to be, and this year’s game certainly means something.

As for Csuri, a member of Ohio State’s first national championship team under the legendary Paul Brown and a man who become legendary himself as a pioneer in computer graphics, I am not sure I ever actually spoke to him. But I edited his Michigan Memory in 2012 and his BSB interview in 2018 so I know that he was thoughtful and candid about everything he said.

I don’t think it was coincidence that he strung two thoughts together in his Michigan Memory. He talked about the intensity of the Ohio State-Michigan rivalry when he played, but why it is even more amped up today and his experiences in World War II.

“It had the same intensity back then,” Csuri told BSB of the rivalry. “The difference is simply media participation. What you have is an undercurrent of intensity driven by media. The average person doesn’t feel any different today, I think, than what we felt back in the ’40s. It’s just the media gives you this spin.

“Suddenly it’s like, ‘My god, it’s a life-and-death situation. This is the greatest thing that’s ever happened in the history of the world, in the history of mankind.’ ”

And then, shortly thereafter, he talks about returning to Ohio State and the Buckeye football team after serving in WWII.

“I was not very motivated because I served in combat – I was in the Battle of the Bulge and I saw some nasty stuff,” Csuri said. “I came back a very different person, and the whole notion of violence just didn’t have the appeal to me.

“The reality was that I didn’t want to play college football anymore, but because of the social pressure and I was an All-American and captain and that sort of thing, I felt obligated to play. But I just went through the motions.”

It makes you stop and think about where football really fits in the scheme of things.

Playing Against The Streak

Ever since the John Cooper era, when the Buckeyes went his first six years without a victory over their rivals and just 2-10-1 overall, I have tried to explain to people that once you get into a streak like that, you are not just playing your archrival, but you are also playing against the streak, which can be as much of a burden as lining up for the game. Michigan has been in the same situation since Jim Tressel took over the OSU program in 2001, and that is why it is so important for the Wolverines to string two wins in a row – and for the Buckeyes to keep them from doing so.

While I have tried for years to explain this to people, in his Memory the always eloquent Raymont Harris did a much better job than I have been able.

“There definitely was that atmosphere around our team, and unfortunately, I think that kind of trickled down from the coaching staff,” Harris said of dealing with the losing. “There was so much pressure on Coach Cooper and the staff to have success in that game, and for a number of years we did not win. So we started to hear the boos more often, we heard the criticisms and the critiques more often.

“I think the nervousness kind of started on the coaching level but then trickled down to a number of players on the team,” he continued. “We would do things kind of out of character. If we were more conservative, we would try to do trick plays. If we were a dynamic team that moved the ball up and down the field, we’d get a little more conservative and try and run the ball and run the clock out.

“We were doing things that just would not really match up with how we had been playing the entire year. *Once you get a team into that type of psyche, I think the other team definitely has the advantage.*” (my italics)

And as much as fans ache when their team is losing in the greatest rivalry of them all, we sometimes forget how hard it is on the players. Both Harris and Judah Herman, fine football

players each, were never able to taste victory against the rival Wolverines.

“It was just one of those things,” Harris said of never beating the Wolverines. “It still haunts me today. I am one of the few guys that will go down in history as having some of the greatest, most talented teams, but we never actually won a pair of gold pants. That’s truly unfortunate.”

Harris at least had the experience of playing in a tie. Herman’s teams lost to their rivals all four years, and it was difficult for him to get over that.

“For years, I was really sour on it, to the point of (during) Michigan week, I would wake up in the middle of the night with cold sweats,” Herman said of the losses. “This was like five years after I was done playing, you’d almost have flashbacks and stuff like that. I don’t have that stuff anymore. I’m very thankful that I got to play in the rivalry.

“For probably the first five to 10 years, I was really kind of bitter that we didn’t win because you carry that for life. Now I have better perspective. I’m just very thankful for it.”

As you read Herman’s Memory, you can see that he takes tremendous pleasure in the recent success of the Buckeyes.

“A big part of that was Ohio State started winning more,” Herman said. “That eased some of the pain that I felt over the years because Ohio State has had an awesome run.

“It’s obviously a big deal. I have all kinds of Brutus blowups in my front yard for The Game if I’m not at it. Ohio State running the table on them for 15-20 years, for the most part, that’s probably been the biggest thing to help flip it for me where it’s not such a pain point anymore.”

I think there is a reminder here. When we are unhappy with the team – such as after last year’s game – we need to remember that these are just 18- to 22-year-old students trying their hardest. We are so involved in the rivalry and The Game that sometimes we forget that.

The Not Trivia Question

Thank you to the Van Wert and Paulding County Alumni Club for inviting me up to speak on Nov. 17. Their hospitality could not have been kinder. Special thanks to president Jo Anne Wolford and Dr. Carl and Susan Jeffery for making me feel so welcome and to Caleb and Andrew Mohr for graciously sharing their table with me.

When we got to the question-and-answer session, one of the members caught me a bit off-guard with a fairly straightforward question. “Who do you think is the most underrated player on the football team?”

I rambled a little bit – rambling is my area of expertise – while trying to come up with an answer before I settled on Zach Harrison. I talked about the expectations that were put upon him early in his Buckeye career as the heir apparent to the Bosas and Chase Young and how high that bar had been set, but how he has come on strong in his senior season, becoming one of the big playmakers on defense.

Harrison did not make me look foolish, completely taking charge of the final minute of the Maryland game two days later, coming up with a sack and a strip sack that was recovered by Steele Chambers for a touchdown to eliminate any possibility of a Maryland miracle, which would not have been that much of a miracle given how well the Terrapins had played for the first 59 minutes.

Harrison finished the game with five tackles, 2½ for loss, two sacks and the forced fumble.

Who did you come up with as your most underrated?

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