



VARSITY O

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Varsity O Members and Buckeyes,

Summertime! Well, almost. As the weather turns from spring storms to summer haze our thoughts turn to the typical summertime activities: no school, vacations, golf, swimming pools and the Olympics! In just a few weeks Team USA takes on the world. This issue of the VO Newsletter introduces you to current and former OSU Buckeyes that hope to score gold in Brazil. Make sure you put on the scarlet and gray and cheer extra loud for our Buckeye Olympians.

Speaking of cheering, there is so much news about the number of teams and individuals that recently had major victories for OSU. Just to name a few, Eleanor Harvey and Maximilien Chastanet both were crowned National Champions at the recent fencing championships. The First Varsity Eight won its third consecutive National Championship in Rowing and nine individuals and two relay teams competed in the NCAA track and field championships. The pistol team also picked up its third consecutive national championship. Check out varsityo.alumni.osu.edu for other news about current and past Buckeyes.

Also in this issue is the announcement of "Cruzin' with Cooz." This July, former OSU football player and All American, Tom Cousineau, will host a motorcycle ride to benefit the James Cancer Hospital and Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund to Fight Cancer. The announcement in this newsletter is for informational purposes only. VO is not sponsoring the ride, however we do hope to see a number of VO members support the ride and take advantage of a great opportunity to get together with former OSU athletes. Check out the details!

As the saying goes, "so much to do and so little time." Enjoy the summer. Cheer for the Buckeyes and remember, less than 100 days until kickoff!

Go Bucks!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garth Cox'.

Garth Cox
Varsity O Board, President
Football ('74-'77)



OHIO STATE AND THE OLYMPICS



To say that The Ohio State University has been represented in the Modern Olympic Games would be an understatement. Athletes from The Ohio State University have represented their respective countries in over 24 different Olympic Games dating all the way back to the 1912 games in Stockholm, Sweden. Only 6 of the Modern Olympic Games have not had an Ohio State athlete in them.

The 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio are no exception. To date, ten current and former athletes will represent their countries when the Games of the XXXI Olympiad open on August 5th.

Check OhioStateBuckeyes.com later on in the summer for the most up to date information on Ohio State athletes in Rio.

BY THE NUMBERS :

25 different sports that Ohio State athletes have competed in in the Olympics

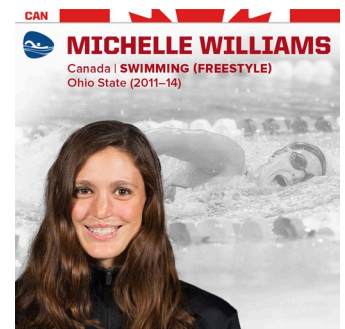
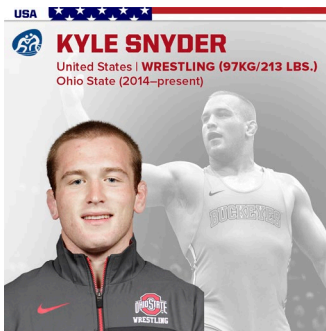
129 former and current Ohio State athletes that have represented their countries in the Olympics

28 different countries represented by Ohio State athletes in the Olympics

24 modern Olympic Games that have had an Ohio State athlete competing in them

10 Ohio State athletes representing their countries in Brazil this summer

**list includes those qualified as of 6/10/2016*



GRAPPLING FOR GOLD

by Steve Chappellear



August 21, 2016 has been a red letter day on Kyle Snyder's calendar for some time.

That is the day the Buckeye sophomore will compete in freestyle wrestling in Rio de Janeiro, as a member of the American team participating in the 2016 Olympic Games. Snyder will wrestle in the 97 kg (213 pound) weight class.

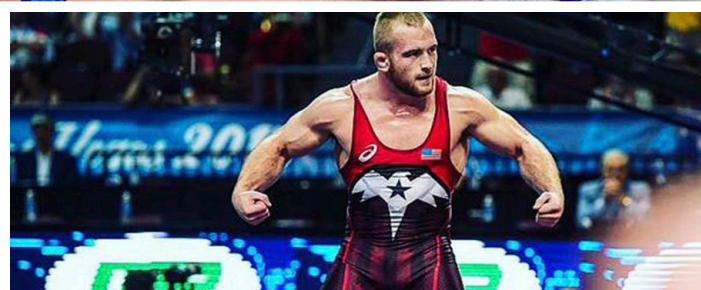
Snyder's route to a gold medal goes through three single-elimination bouts that day, which would then take him to the finals for a shot at the medal.

Before flying to Brazil on August 2, and several weeks living in the Olympic Village and working out in preparation for his competition, Snyder is doing his workouts at the Steelwood Athletic Training Facility west of campus. He has a daily routine of lifting, running, drilling, conditioning, and live competition. He also competed in the Freestyle World Cup in Los Angeles in mid-June, going undefeated and winning the gold medal.

Last summer, Snyder became the youngest World Champion in USA wrestling history, topping defending champ Abdu salam Gadisov of Russia in the gold medal match 6-5. He also won the Pan Am Games. He defeated 2012 Olympic gold medalist Jake Varner in the finals of the U.S. Open, the championship series of the U.S. World Team Trials, and in the 2016 Olympic Trials.

During his 179-0 run in his first three years of high school (Good Counsel, Woodbine, Maryland), Snyder only gave up a single takedown, and became a three-time Maryland national prep champion. He was undefeated in what are considered the top-three toughest high school wrestling tournaments in America, winning the Walsh Jesuit Ironman twice, the Beast of the East three times, and Powerade once. He gave up his senior year of high school to train at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. In 2013, he became the youngest American in over 20 years to win a FILA Junior World Championship.

As a true freshman for the Buckeyes, Snyder finished runner-up in the 197-pound weight class at the Big Ten and the NCAA tournaments, and was a member of Ohio State's Big Ten and NCAA championship teams. He originally planned to take an Olympic redshirt for the 2015-16 season, but instead chose to return for the Buckeyes in January. He finished 11-0 for the season, won the Big 10 championship at heavyweight, and then won at the NCAA tournament, defeating the two-time defending national champion. He was the lightest heavyweight in the field at 226 pounds.



Snyder, just 20 years old, is the fourth Buckeye wrestler to make the Olympic team (Harry Steel and Perry Martter, 1924; Mark Coleman, 1992), and the first to compete as an Olympian while still enrolled in school.

Snyder's older brother Stephen will also be serving his country this year. Stephen recently graduated from West Point, where he was a member of the wrestling team, and is entering the U. S. Ranger program. Younger brother Kevin has just graduated from high school, and will become a Buckeye wrestler.

Snyder is proud to represent both the Ohio State Buckeyes, and the United States of America. He says, "I just feel like there's so much more that I haven't done yet in the sport. Even if I win the 2016 Olympics, I still know that I will be extremely motivated because my goal is to master the sport of wrestling. I want to wrestle a way where I have each position I can control and I can wrestle the exact match that I plan in my mind every night, every day before practice, and while I'm practicing. So what keeps me motivated is not always a sense of always wanting to win but a sense of always knowing that there's things I can do to improve."

Snyder will be set to go on August 21. "Not a doubt about it. I'm ready. I know I'll be more ready August 21st than I am now. But I'm doing everything that I can. I'm doing more than I ever have. I worked hard before this. But I'm doing more now. Because this is a moment I want to take advantage of, a moment, an opportunity that doesn't come often. There's no doubt about it. I will be ready when I step out."



WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Now that every former letterwinner is a member of Varsity O, this section will highlight why it makes a difference to donate to the **LETTERWINNERS LEVEL (\$250)** or **SUSTAINING LEVEL (\$75)** each year.

Please see the following link for an explanation of additional benefits.

buckeyeclub.org/ways-to-give/letterwinners-level.php

RECONNECTING

Varsity O has had the pleasure of financially supporting several alumni reunions this year. In the past calendar year Varsity O has contributed to reunions for women's rowing, men's gymnastics, track and field and men's tennis. Our board members have worked with coaches and alums to determine how we can best help and hope to offer this to each sport on an annual basis. We understand the importance of staying connected or reconnecting with those that stood next to us during very memorable times. Your membership matters because it helps us all connect back to our sport and our beloved university.



Baseball "Golden Era" Reunion



Men's Lacrosse Alumni Weekend



Rowing Alumni Event



Ohio State Football Coaches Golf Outing
Ernie Epitropoulos, Andrew Sweat (former football captain), Kristen Christman, Antonio Smith & Jim Cordle (former football player and current Graduate Assistant)



FORMER BUCKEYES FOCUS ON PROVIDING FREE BOOKS AND POSITIVE ROLE MODELS TO KIDS IN NEED



In 1999, former Buckeye football players Luke Fickell, Ryan Miller and Mike Vrabel started something big. Something that has grown beyond their wildest expectations. Their commitment to serve the community and pay it forward was the catalyst for an organization that now provides free books and positive role models for kids in 17 states and over 60 communities across the country.

The mission of The 2nd & 7 Foundation is to promote reading by providing free books and positive role models to kids in need while encouraging young athletes to pay it forward. With the funds from a small football camp 17 years ago, Fickell, Miller and Vrabel were able to purchase enough books to provide for all of the 2nd graders in 7 schools in central Ohio. After doing a bit of research, Miller found that 2nd grade was a pivotal year for young readers. "If kids aren't able to read by the end of their 2nd grade year, that can indicate a lot of problems for them down the road," Miller said.

"I was inspired by the community service we did while playing football at Ohio State," Miller, who now serves as Chairman of the Board, said. "It took such a little bit of our time to make a huge difference for some of the kids we spent time with. After graduation, I didn't want that community connection to stop."

And that's where it all began. As their football camp grew, so did the demand for visits to local schools. In an effort to find more athletes to participate as role models, Miller approached OSU Athletic Director Gene Smith, who fully embraced their mission. "Gene Smith loved what we were doing and told us that he would make it a departmental initiative to get all of the varsity student-athletes out there reading to kids."

By introducing OSU student-athletes into the fold, The 2nd & 7 Foundation was able to serve even more children in central Ohio. With an initial target of Columbus City Schools and South-Western City Schools, the foundation wanted to serve areas with the most children on free and reduced lunch plans, believing that those were the kids that may not have books of their own at home. Now the outreach has grown outside of central Ohio, serving 2nd graders all across the country.

Initially, the children were given an assortment of books that were donated to or purchased by the foundation. A pivotal time for the organization is when they decided they had enough resources to write their own series of children's books. In 2007, the foundation published its first book, *The Hog Mollies* and the *Pickle Pie Party*. Since then, the foundation has written a new book every year to give to the children they visit. Each book features a group of friends called the 'Hog Mollies,' who learn a new lesson in each story such as teamwork, try your best and do the right thing.

The growth of their outreach has meant an increased need of fundraising for the organization. Corporate sponsors and individuals donors have supported the mission from the beginning. The 2nd & 7 Foundation also hosts four events each year: The Derby in March, a youth Football Camp and Celebrity 8-Ball Shootout in June and the Pay it FOREward Golf Outing in July. Each of these events combines family, friends, community leaders, business owners and former Buckeyes in an environment of having fun while giving back.

"I never would have guessed that we would be where we are today. I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish," said Miller. "We are committed to playing our role in the fight against illiteracy."

FUN FACTS:

- 1999 The 2nd & 7 Foundation was started by former OSU Football Players Luke Fickell, Ryan Miller, Mike Vrabel
- Since 1999, the foundation has given away over 150,000 free books to kids in need
- As of April 2016, The 2nd & 7 Foundation reading program is being implemented in 60 communities spanning 17 states
- In central Ohio alone, nearly 6000 books are given annually to kids in need
- The 2nd & 7 Foundation has written 8 children's books and will release #9 in June 2016

The 2nd & 7 Foundation / Amy Hoying, Executive Director
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MEET THE BOARD

Varsity O Alumni Society Board of Directors



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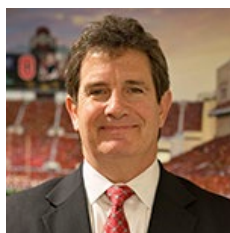
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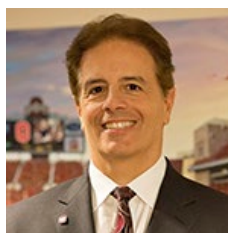
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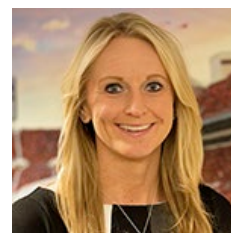
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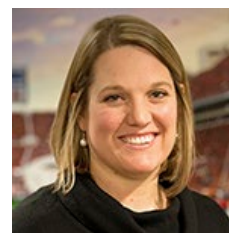
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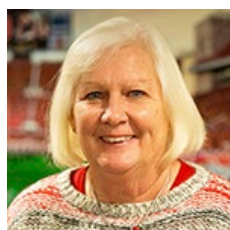
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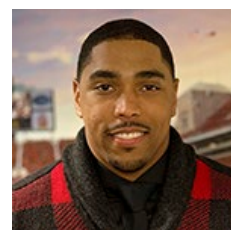
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UPCOMING EVENTS

ALUMNI HOUSE CINEMA

Movies will be screened this summer at the Archie and Bonita Griffin Pavilion outside the Longaberger Alumni House, just north of Lane Avenue.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15 : **FINDING NEMO**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20 : **INSIDE OUT**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10 : **ALADDIN**

For more information, visit go.osu.edu/alumnievents



“CRUZIN’ WITH COOZ”

SATURDAY, JULY 30 offers the opportunity for VO members to live the lyrics of Steppin’ Wolf as sung in the 1960’s anthem, “Born To Be Wild.” Get your motors runnin’ and head out on the highway with former Ohio State athlete and All-American Tom Cousineau on a motorcycle ride.

The ride will benefit the James Cancer Center and Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund to Fight Cancer. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. at A.D. Farrow Harley Davidson, 7754 St. Rt. 37 E, Sunbury, Ohio. Kickstands go up and you will go heading out for adventure at 1:00 p.m. VO is not a sponsor of this event. It offers this information so VO members that love to ride and race with the wind can get together with friends and former athletes. The ride is open to the public. Watch varsityo.alumni.osu.edu and your email for more information on this event.

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME BANQUET & FOOTBALL GAME

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 at The Ohio Union

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 3:30 vs. Tulsa

This year’s inductees include Justin Kronauge (men’s tennis), John Machado (baseball), Jantel Lavender (women’s basketball), Randall Larson (diving), Sam Marder (softball), Dan Taylor (men’s track and field), Evan Turner (men’s basketball) and Paul Zelenak (pistol).

HOMECOMING TAILGATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 at French Field House

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. tailgate

NOON Kickoff: football vs. Rutgers

NEWS

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US to be shared in future newsletters!

varsityonews@gmail.com



VARSITY O