OHIO STATE FOOTBALL
YEAR IN REVIEW

After posting an 11-1 regular-season record, the Ohio State football team, in its third year under head coach Urban Meyer, trounced No. 13 Wisconsin, 59-0, in the Big Ten championship game Dec. 1 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind. The win propelled the Buckeyes to the No. 4 spot in the country and a spot in the inaugural College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Allstate Sugar Bowl against top-ranked Alabama Jan. 1.

After losing two-time Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year, Braxton Miller, to injury in August, the Buckeyes defeated Navy in their opener in Baltimore, Md., Aug. 30 before falling to Virginia Tech, 35-21, Sept. 6 in Columbus. However, the Buckeyes bounced back to rattle off 11 consecutive wins and became the first team to win every game in Big Ten regular season games three consecutive years.

Prior to suffering a season-ending injury in the regular season finale against Michigan Nov. 29, quarterback J.T. Barrett set a Big Ten record with 45 touchdowns on route to Big Ten Griese-Brees Quarterback of the Year honors. He threw for 2,834 yards and rushed for another 938 for a school record 3,772 total offensive yards. In addition, defensive lineman Joey Bosa earned Smith-Brown Defensive Lineman of the Year laurels after leading the conference in sacks (13.5) and tackles-for-loss (20.0) to rank fourth and fifth nationally in those categories.

A total of eight Buckeyes were named first or second team All-Big Ten selections. Joining Barrett and Bosa were cornerback Doran Grant, offensive guard Pat Elflein, defensive tackle Michael Bennett, tight end Jeff Heuerman, offensive tackle Taylor Decker and linebacker Joshua Perry. Offensive tackle Darryl Baldwin, safety Vonn Bell, running back Ezekiel Elliott, punter Cameron Johnston, receivers Devin Smith, Evan Spencer and Michael Thomas, and defensive tackle Adolphus Washington earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors.

On top of the All-Big Ten laurels, Bosa was named a consensus All-American, while Bennett garnered first team All-America honors from CBS Sports and the Associated Press and second team recognition from the AFCA and The Sporting News. Barrett also was named a second team selection by the AFCA and The Sporting News and a third team pick by the Associated Press.

The Buckeyes, who had wins over ranked teams Michigan State, Minnesota and over the Badgers in the Big Ten title game, will be playing in their 44th bowl game when they take on the Crimson Tide. Ohio State will be seeking its eighth national championship when it joins Alabama, No. 2 Oregon and No. 3 Florida State on New Year’s Day in the first College Football Playoff.
SEASON UPDATES

MEN’S BASKETBALL

The Ohio State men’s basketball team has posted an 9-1 record through its first ten games of the 2014-15 season under 11th year head coach Thad Matta. A young group that returns seven letterwinners and just two of five starters from last season has gained valuable experience through the non-conference slate to prepare for a grueling Big Ten schedule.

Selected third in the Big Ten preseason poll behind Wisconsin and Michigan State, the Buckeyes have been paced offensively by freshman D’Angelo Russell. The Louisville, Ky., native has averaged 17.7 points per contest while handing out 49 assists through nine games and recently was named to the Naismith Award Top 50 watch list. Sophomore Marc Loving (10.9 points per game) and senior Sam Thompson (10.4 points per game) round out the group of Buckeyes averaging double-digit points per contest while senior Shannon Scott ranks fourth nationally with 7.3 assists per game. As a team, Ohio State ranks No. 3 in the country with a .533 field goal percentage through nine games.


MEN’S HOCKEY

The Ohio State men’s hockey team has posted a 5-9-1 record through its first 15 contests in 2014-15 under second-year head coach Steve Rohlik. The Buckeyes own early-season wins over nationally-ranked foes Providence and Bowling Green.

Junior Anthony Greco leads the Buckeyes with seven goals while senior Tanner Fritz has tallied 11 points on five goals and six assists. Christian Frey (3.69 goals-against average) and Matt Tomkins (2.80 goals-against average) have split time in net through the non-conference slate. Each has received multiple honors from the Big Ten in the early season.


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The Ohio State wrestling team is off to a 4-2 start through the first six meets of the 2014-15 season under ninth-year head coach Tom Ryan. The nationally ranked Buckeyes have victories over Kent State, Army, Arizona State and Virginia, along with a pair of narrow defeats to Top 10 foes Virginia Tech and Missouri.

Senior Logan Stieber already is 11-0 on the year to improve his career record to 101-3. One of four team captains, Stieber is looking to become just the fourth wrestler in NCAA history to win four consecutive national titles. Another team captain, freshman Kyle Snyder, is 14-1 on the year while a third, Nathan Tomasello, is 14-3. In addition to the Buckeyes' 4-2 dual meet record, Ohio State also finished second at the Cliff Keen Invitational Dec. 6, paced by Stieber's 141-pound title and third-place finishes from Snyder, Tomasello and Johnni DiJulius.

The Buckeyes begin the new year with home meets against Iowa Jan. 4 and Penn State Jan. 11 before road matchups at Michigan State Jan. 16 and Michigan Jan. 18. After a meet against Indiana Jan. 23 in Norwalk, Ohio, Ohio State hits the road to face Maryland Jan. 25. The Buckeyes take on Purdue Jan. 30 in Columbus before a meet at Rutgers Feb. 1 and an Alumni Night meet in the Schottenstein Center to close out the Big Ten regular season against Minnesota Feb. 6.

After the National Duals in Edinboro, Pa., Feb. 15 and the finals of the National Duals in Iowa City, Iowa, Feb. 21, the Buckeyes host the Big Ten Championships beginning March 7 before the NCAA Championships in St. Louis, Mo., March 19-21.

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The Ohio State men's gymnastics team, under fourth-year head coach Rustam Sharipov, enters the 2014 season ranked third in the CGA Preseason Coaches' Poll, earning its second-consecutive Top 5 preseason ranking.

Picked to finish first in the Big Ten preseason coaches' poll, Ohio State returns three All-Americans off a team that finished second at the 2014 Big Ten Championships. Junior Jake Martin was the Big Ten champion on vault last season and picked up a pair of All-America honors. Sophomore Sean Melton is another standout for the Buckeyes. The 2014 Big Ten Freshman of the Year was a four-event All-American and two-time Big Ten champion last season.

The Buckeyes open the 2015 season at the Windy City Invitational Jan. 17 before a home matchup against Illinois Jan. 24 and a tri-meet at Iowa with Oklahoma Feb. 1. After a meet at Penn State Feb. 6, Ohio State travels to Las Vegas, Nev., for the Winter Cup Challenge Feb. 19-21 before returning home for a dual meet against Michigan Feb. 28 and the Arnold Classic Challenge March 7. The Buckeyes close the regular season at Oklahoma March 14 before the Big Ten Championships March 27-28 in University Park, Pa., and the NCAA Championships April 10-11 in Norman, Okla.
As we sing at the conclusion of “Carmen Ohio”, “How firm thy friendship, O-hi-o.”

We have fast, firm friendships in Varsity “O”. Many of us have strong bonds forged as teammates, bonds that have lasted for many years. As we left campus, and our playing days behind, our friendships expanded through membership in Varsity “O” to athletes in our sport before and after us, and then to athletes in other sports.

We all have some important things in common. A heritage of athletic excellence, and having been through the crucible of competition at the highest levels. The pride of being a Division I letter winner. The joy of having worn the scarlet and gray, and having competed in storied, historic venues. The wish to maintain our relationship with The Ohio State University, and to help current athletes achieve their dreams and goals.

We are athletes helping athletes.

I have now been a member of Varsity “O” for 40 years. Among other things (mostly, that I’m old!), that means I’ve been a “former collegiate athlete” 10 times longer than I was a collegiate athlete. These times are as rewarding for me as my competitive days, because I get the chance through Varsity “O” to stay connected to Buckeye athletics, to make and maintain friendships with former Buckeye athletes from all sports, and to help both current athletes and alumni.

I hope you enjoy your membership in Varsity “O” as much as I do. Please share your own feelings with me. I’d love to relate them in an upcoming Newsletter.

Also, if you’d like to be a more active member, and participate in our planning events and activities to help us fulfill our mission of “Athletes helping athletes”, by getting involved in one of our committees, or helping in some other way, please reach out to me. We would love to have you as part of our team.

You can contact me at schappelear@fbtlaw.com, or by telephone at (614) 559-7251, at any time. This is YOUR Varsity “O” Alumni Association, and your Board is here to serve you.

Happy Holidays to all of you, my friends in Varsity “O”. I wish you good health, prosperity, and happiness in 2015.

Go Bucks!

Steve Chappelear
As a condition of membership in this organization, I certify and agree to the following:

- I have received the Ohio State Department of Athletics educational pamphlet titled “Your Guide to Ohio State Athletics (Buckeye Insider).” I have read it and I understand it.

- I have not knowingly engaged in any violations of NCAA, Big Ten, or University rules and policies applicable to Ohio State’s intercollegiate athletics program, and I am currently not aware of any such undisclosed violations.

- I will abide by all NCAA, Big Ten, and University rules and policies applicable to Ohio State’s intercollegiate athletics program that are set forth in the educational pamphlet referenced above, and will report to the Director of Athletics or his/her designee, and to the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, any violations of those rules and policies of which I become aware.

Contributions or gifts to The Ohio State University Men’s Varsity O Alumni Association are NOT tax deductible as charitable contributions.

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Full Name of Member (Print or Type)    Varsity O Membership Number

Signature of Member

Date

Member Certification of Compliance

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR DUES BY THE ESTABLISHED DEADLINE IN ORDER FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO BE PROCESSED.

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Men’s Varsity O Alumni Association 2015 Membership Dues

Varsity O Annual Dues ...........................................$50.00
Emeritus Dues ....................................................$25.00
(Must be 70 years of age or older as of 1-1-2015)
Lifetime Membership ..................................... $1,000.00

Additional Scholarship Contribution $ ____________

Total Enclosed $ ____________

☐ I am a New Member
☐ I am a Renewing Member
☐ I am a Lifetime Member

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Men’s Varsity O Alumni Association Membership Application

Print or Type All Information

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
Phone ________________________________
Preferred E-mail ____________________________
Sport(s) ____________________________ Year(s) ____________________________
Birthday ________________________________

☐ This is updated contact information
☐ I do not want to be included in the member directory

Payor relationship to member:
☐ self ☐ mother ☐ father ☐ sister ☐ brother
☐ daughter ☐ son ☐ wife ☐ husband

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Please make checks payable to: Varsity O

Application, payment and compliance form must be received by January 31, 2015 to receive your football ticket application.
1969 Fencing Big Ten Championship Reunion: Ruth Anne Mitchell (representing her husband Ken), Roland Koch, Bob McCance, Scott Spears, Steve Broidy, Dave Nauman, Jeff Smith, Coach Charles Simonian, John Rice, John Seich

1969 fencer Charlie Morton and Coach Charles Simonian

1979 Men’s Golf National Championship Reunion: (Back) Jim Brown, Rick Borg, Rocky Miller, Joey Sindelar. (Front) Mark Balen and John Cook

1979 Men’s Golf National Championship Reunion: Mike McGee, Tom Fairgrieve, John Cook, Jim Brown, Rocky Miller

Tennis Letter Jackets: Ralf Steinbach, Justin Kronauge and Herkko Pollanen

Men’s Golf Captains Mug: Jeff Brown and 2013-14 Captain Boo Timko

Lacrosse Letter Jackets: John Pearson, Gordie Koerber, Jake Withers and Bryan Lichtenauer

Cindy Wentz and Denny Hoobler
2014 Varsity O Big Game Drawing

2014 Varsity O Big Game: Jim and Jeff Nein

2014 Varsity O Big Game: Matthew and Emily Fratta

2014 Varsity O Big Game: Mark Sotherden and his Nephew

2014 Varsity O Big Game: Thomas Wherry

VO member Archie Griffin, University President Dr. Michael V. Drake, Troy Smith w/ children, and Director of Athletics Gene Smith during “THE GAME” when Troy’s #10 was enshrined in Ohio Stadium

Varsity O Tunnel of Pride

Varsity O Tunnel of Pride
Earle Bruce works the VO Room in Ohio Stadium

Sonny Gordon and Mike Lanese

Emie Epitropoulos and Brandon Mitchell

Lacrosse Alumni Game: Dan Lindner and Logan Schuss
A THANK YOU from Varsity O scholarship recipient Kenny Cunningham

Dear Members of the Varsity O,

Thank you for your gift that supports my scholarship at Ohio State. Your gift makes it possible for me to get my education from this great university while playing the sport I love. As a former walk-on, it is truly humbling to know that my effort on and off the field has not gone unnoticed, and thanks to you I am being rewarded for the work I have put in.

Thank you again for your generous contribution to the soccer program at Ohio State. I greatly appreciate it!

GO BUCKS!

Ken Cunningham

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

2015 Men’s Basketball Hospitality

Varsity 'O' members are invited to the Fred Taylor Room of the Jerome Schottenstein Center for food & beverages before/during the following Ohio State home men's basketball games during the 2014-15 season:

- Saturday, January 3 vs. Illinois | 3:30 pm
- Thursday, January 29 vs. Maryland | 7:00 pm
- Thursday, February 26 vs. Nebraska | 7:00 pm
- Sunday, March 1 vs. Purdue | 4:00 / 7:30 pm
- Sunday, March 8 vs. Wisconsin | 4:30 / 7:30 pm
VO HOMECOMING HATS

Our Homecoming hat returns for the fourteenth year! Always a sell out, this year’s edition has all the features you have come to expect. Proceeds from the sale of hats support our Bill Wentz scholarship and team academic awards. Hats are $15.00 each (includes shipping). To order your hat, submit your contact information and payment (check made payable to Varsity O Alumni Association).

*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST*

VO Store
P.O. Box 736
Worthington, OH 43085

VARIOUS O FLAG

Special order from the Flag Lady in Columbus, Ohio. To order your flag (3’ x 5’), submit your contact information and $50 (check made payable to Varsity O Alumni Association) and mail to:

VO Store
P.O. Box 736
Worthington, OH 43085

VARIOUS O RING

Your choice of Celestrum silver for $180.00 or 10K yellow or white gold for $924.00 (plus $14.95 shipping & handling and tax). To order your ring, submit your contact information and payment (check made payable to Varsity O Alumni Association) and mail to:

VO Store
P.O. Box 736
Worthington, OH 43085

NEW VO SIGNAGE IN OHIO STADIUM AND THE JEROME SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER
athletes helping athletes