

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Get in the game!

You are part of the best letter winner alumni organization in the country and participated in athletics at the biggest and best college sports program in the world.

So, what are you doing now?

Your connection to Ohio State, and your sport, and all Ohio State sports, did not end when your eligibility to compete did. Really, it just began then.

Think back to those days when you wore a scarlet and gray uniform and competed as a Buckeye. You spent untold hours conditioning, practicing techniques, learning, sweating, overcoming injuries and illness, and competing against elite athletes from other universities. There may have been blood shed. And bruises suffered. And losses endured.

Facing adversity was a little easier with the help and support of your teammates, people who strained and suffered alongside you. And those sweet victories were even sweeter when shared with your teammates.

The wins and losses mattered. That's why they keep score. But what also mattered was that you weren't out there all by yourself, you had your teammates, and the knowledge that for decades before other Buckeyes in your sport had similar experiences, and you were part of a long tradition.

The Varsity "O" Alumni Society is just an extension of your college experience, but on a grander scale.

We share a bond, of being a part of history, of competing in sports at The Ohio State University.

Don't you want to still be a part of that?

The Varsity "O" Alumni Society lets you do just that. You re-connect with teammates, and friends from other sports who competed when you did. You make new friends from other generations and eras, and other sports.

You're on the path by reading this newsletter. You can get to the next level by attending a Varsity "O" event. We have lots of them, and you are always welcome. They are fun and rewarding. You will read about some of our upcoming events in this newsletter.

Another way to get off the bench and get in the action is to bring others into the fold, letting your teammates and friends know that they should be a part of Varsity "O". During the next two months, why not suggest that to three people? You can direct them to our website,

[www.Varsityo.alumni.osu.edu](http://www.Varsityo.alumni.osu.edu).

Would you like to help plan those events, or write articles, or otherwise help direct good things for Varsity "O"? We welcome you to our team. Let us know how you'd like to get involved by writing to us at [varsityo@osu.edu](mailto:varsityo@osu.edu).

I love sports, I love Ohio State, and I love Varsity "O". I am honored to be a member of the Varsity "O" leadership team and look forward to working with you as we fulfill our mission of athletes help athletes during 2020.

### Go Bucks!

**Steve Chappellear**  
Varsity O President  
Wrestling ('71-'74)



# OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

## HALL *of* FAME SELECTIONS

The Varsity “O” Board of Directors will soon undertake the selection process for the 2020 class of the OSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

The Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame pays tribute and extends recognition to those individuals who through the years have contributed to the honor and fame of the University in the field of athletics, and who have continued to demonstrate, in their daily lives, the values learned in athletics.

To be eligible for consideration, five years must have passed after the completion of the athlete’s eligibility, and the athlete must have earned at least one varsity letter. A coach or member of the Athletic Department staff is also eligible for recognition.

The record of the individual considered must be so outstanding that there is no question as to the qualifications necessary for induction.

Qualifications and criteria for selection are based upon the candidate’s participation while attending or working at the University, and includes accomplishments after leaving the University. The selection must be on merit only, and never of a political nature. Consideration is given for personal conduct in life, and personal contributions to the high ideals of intercollegiate athletics.

Varsity O Board members consider worthy candidates year-round, but the formal selection process begins each year in March, when Board members nominate between 18 and 22 individuals for the Hall of Fame. All 36 varsity sports are eligible for consideration.

Formal presentations are made as to each nominee at a meeting where the 20 voters are present. Those voters include the fifteen members of the Varsity O Board; a representative of the University President; a representative of the University Director of Athletics; a representative of the President and CEO of the University Alumni Association; the University Faculty Athletics Representative; and a designated past president of Varsity O. The voting is done by secret written ballot.

The members of the Varsity O Board conduct extensive research to identify strong candidates and make the best presentation possible to the voters.

To be inducted, a nominee must be named on at least 75% of the ballots. In any given year, a minimum of seven and a maximum of fourteen athletes are inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Each candidate is considered on his or her merits. There is no pre-determined number set for individuals in any particular sport.

The process is, by design, highly competitive and selective, ensuring that highly qualified individuals are honored in the Hall of Fame.

If you know of a deserving candidate who is not in the Hall of Fame, please submit such information to any member of the Varsity O Board.



## BUCKEYE ALUMNI FENCERS HOLD REUNION

The Ohio State fencing program welcomed more than 30 alumni back to Steelwood for the first program reunion in 15 years.

Official celebrations started on October 21 at 10 a.m. at Steelwood. Alumni gave current Buckeyes a crash course in the program's history with old pictures, scoresheets and articles.

Next, close to 20 alumni picked up their weapons once again and challenged former teammates along with the current student-athletes. For some, this was their first time fencing with electric equipment. For many, it was the first time back on the strip in 30-40 years. Three alumni weapon winners were recognized: James Chen (sabre), Trevor Pedersen (epee) and Michael Shearer (foil). In the afternoon, the alumni toured the athletic village and the newest facilities including Covelli Center and the Schumaker Complex, where the team spends three days a week lifting and conditioning.

The weekend wrapped up with a formal Alumni Dinner where close to 50 alumni mingled with current student-athletes. Current Buckeyes received awards recognizing last year's accomplishments including MFC Championship rings, All-American and Big Ten academic awards, as well as Varsity O awards.

The recognition of former fencing head coach Charles Simonian was the highlight of the evening. Coach Simonian left a lasting impact on his former students, who came back to Ohio State to thank him one more time for his years of service after 40 years.



## VARSITY O ALUMNI SOCIETY ANNUAL HOMECOMING TAILGATE

Receiving 3 F's while on campus would be devastating to most...unless you're talking about the Food, Fellowship and Fun that 450 former athletes and their family and friends enjoyed at the Varsity O Alumni Society's annual Homecoming Tailgate. Take a look at the **VIDEO AND PICTURES FROM THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION.**





## VARSITY O AT THE ZOO

Over 130 Varsity O members and their families gathered at the Columbus Zoo on the evening of December 2 for “Wildlights at the Zoo”. The zoo grounds were brightly decorated with more than three million twinkling LED lights, and there were animated musical light shows in several locations. This is the 30th year of Wildlights at the Zoo.

Joining Varsity O members were members of the Brutus and Cheer alumni societies.

The evening began with visits from zoo animals, who delighted young and old. The cute animals included a baby kangaroo (a joey), an owl, a red tail tailed hawk, a penguin, and a porcupine.

The attendees stayed warm at the Water’s Edge Pavilion, and enjoyed a tasty buffet dinner, with hamburgers, hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, hot chocolate, a cookie making station, and s’mores.

Following the group get together, families dispersed to take in carousel rides, the Polar Bear Express Train Ride, the Aquarium, and the beautiful light displays.

Those attending gave the event great reviews and asked that it be repeated for a third time in 2020.



## VARSITY O ON THE FIELD

Varsity “O” Alumni Society Board members recognized on the field during the November 9 football game against Maryland, with President Drake and Director of Athletics Smith.



## SPRING SPORTS LETTER JACKET CEREMONY

Buckeye athletes from 17 spring sports gathered on October 22, 2019 in the football recruiting room to receive their Ohio State letter jackets in a traditional ceremony.

The sports recognized were baseball, softball, women's golf, men's gymnastics, women's gymnastics, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, rowing, synchronized swimming, men's tennis, women's tennis, men's track, women's track, men's volleyball, cheer, mascots, and dance.

The addition of cheer, mascots, and dance to the ranks of letter winners added fifty first-time letter winners to the program, making this the largest letter jacket ceremony in Buckeye history.



## ABC'S OF SAFE SLEEP

Former Ohio State football players Chris "Beanie" Wells, Dionte Johnson and Thomas "Pepper" Johnson are lending their celebrity to a central Ohio effort aimed at reducing the number of babies who die before their first birthdays.

The three men volunteered to star in two public-service announcement videos about safe-sleeping practices recently released by CelebrateOne, a private-public coalition that works to lower Franklin County's infant-mortality rate. The videos are part of a series dubbed "Sweet Dreams Team." In one PSA video, Dionte Johnson and his father, Pepper Johnson, visit Pure Elegance Barber and Beauty on the South Side, where the younger Johnson is congratulated on the birth of his son. In a conversation, Dionte Johnson says: "The hardest thing is convincing my wife not to fall asleep with the baby in the bed."

His father says: "The Johnsons, we practice the ABCs of safe sleeping. So that means my grandson will be sleeping alone, on his back, in his crib, no matter how tired you are."

That grandson is featured in another video in which Dionte Johnson and Wells set up a portable crib on a visit to grandma's house, and grandma suggests putting the baby on a couch instead. "Grandma, if you're gonna keep him, you gotta remember the ABCs of safe sleep," says "Uncle Beanie."

In 2018, 137 Franklin County infants died before reaching their first birthday, and 29 of those deaths were related to sleep, according to preliminary data from Columbus Public Health, which houses CelebrateOne. In the first three months of 2019, Franklin County reported the deaths of 29 babies, and four of those deaths were sleep-related.

Pepper Johnson was a linebacker at Ohio State from 1982 to 1985. He won two Super Bowls with the New York Giants and three as a coach with the New England Patriots. Dionte Johnson played fullback at Ohio State from 2004 to 2008 and was signed by the NFL's Arizona Cardinals before being released due to injury. Wells was an Ohio State running back from 2006 to 2008 and played for the Cardinals from 2009 to 2012.

(Reprinted from "The Columbus Dispatch".)

View the video [Here](#).





## CORNELIUS GREENE INDUCTED INTO ROSE BOWL HALL OF FAME

Former Ohio State quarterback and three-time Rose Bowl Game starter Cornelius Greene was inducted into the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame as part of a four-member Class of 2019 on December 31, 2019.

The Rose Bowl Hall of Fame was established in 1989 to pay tribute to members of the Rose Bowl Game who have contributed to the history and excitement of the game, and those who embody the highest level of passion, strength, tradition, and honor associated with the Granddaddy Of Them All.

Greene is one of the few individuals who played in four Rose Bowl games. He played in the 1973 game, then started in the 1974, 1975, and 1976 games. In the 1974 game, Greene was named MVP in a 42-21 victory over USC. The sophomore quarterback threw for 129 yards and ran for 45 yards and a touchdown. Buckeye coach Woody Hayes described that game as “the best game we’ve ever, EVER played.” Greene’s third quarter touchdown run broke a 21-21 tie and gave the Buckeyes a lead they would not relinquish. Greene accumulated 454 yards of offense and scored two touchdowns in the 1975 and 1976 games.

Greene was honored for his upcoming induction on the field in Ohio Stadium on October 5, 2019, during the football game against Michigan State.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS - CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF OSU

Think Beyond: Academic Summit Series

Buckeye Biography: 150 Years of Ohio State

Sesquicentennial Student Scholar Leadership Program

Sesquicentennial Signature Publication

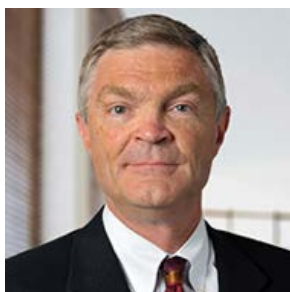
Time and Change - Photographic History Book

The Carmen Collection

Our Stories, Our Future: An Ohio State Docu-series

Global Carmen Ohio

Sesquicentennial Open House – March 21, 2020



## ADVICE FROM YOUR TEAM PHYSICIAN: CHRIS KAEDING, MD

As this New Year begins, Ohio State Sports Medicine wants to help motivate our Varsity O Members to keep moving and stay strong! Careers and families keep us busy, finding time to exercise can be difficult and finding the motivation to exercise even harder. We've asked Marcus Williams, PT, MBA (Ohio State football, 2009) from our Sports Medicine Rehabilitation Team to provide advice for those looking to jumpstart their workout habits.

*"It's easier to exercise when you set a goal and make it a priority," says Marcus. "One way to make exercise a priority is to participate in a 30-day exercise challenge."*

*"In these challenges, you follow a calendar that outlines a few simple exercises you should do each day to improve your fitness and overall health. They won't take up too much of your time and will help guide you through effective workouts."*

*"If you haven't been working out every day as you did in college, but want to get back into the habit of exercising more often, these challenges are a great place to start. This challenge targets your core, glutes, legs and back. It includes just four exercises per day and can be done at home — no fancy gym equipment required."*

To jumpstart your active lifestyle, check out the 30-day exercise challenge:

[wexnermedical.osu.edu/blog/try-our-30-day-exercise-challenge](http://wexnermedical.osu.edu/blog/try-our-30-day-exercise-challenge)

We'd like our Varsity O Members to know Ohio State Sports Medicine provides comprehensive care for all levels of active individuals, not only Ohio State athletes. From high school athletes to weekend warriors, everyone benefits from the multi-disciplinary team of experts including physicians, physical therapists, sports performance specialists and nutritionists. We have five physician and seven physical therapy clinics conveniently located throughout the Columbus area.

If you or your family have need for our services, we are happy to help! To schedule a same day or next day appointment call 614-293-3600, email [SportsMedicine@osumc.edu](mailto:SportsMedicine@osumc.edu) or seek us out online at [wexnermedical.osu.edu/sports-medicine](http://wexnermedical.osu.edu/sports-medicine)

### - CHRIS KAEDING, MD

Executive Director Ohio State Sports Medicine



## INSIDE THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT: SHAUN RICHARD

Shaun Richard is a Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Sport Administration at OSU.

Shaun's responsibilities include sport oversight of Men's Soccer, Field Hockey, Men's Ice Hockey, Women's Gymnastics, and Baseball.

In addition, he oversees Ohio State's equipment room operations, operations at the Ohio State Golf Club, and the Nike contract. He also represents the Athletics Department on the Big Ten Sports Management Council, Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee, Athletic District and Facility Council, Revenue Generation, and Public Relations Committee.

Shaun is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, where he was a 2-time all-conference performer on the school's baseball team. Last year, Shaun was inducted into his college's Athletics Hall of Fame.

He also has a master's degree in education with a concentration in athletic administration from Springfield College.







## DICK RIGBY

*By Robert J. Roman*



Ohio State had just passed its tenth season of playing basketball as the first decade of the 20th century came to a close. Across those ten seasons, a string of O.S.U. players had offered thrilling performances. The first was Mel Karshner, the founder of Ohio State basketball. Next were George Bellows, later America's greatest painter, and Rink Barrington, arguably Ohio State's greatest athlete overall before the Big Ten era. As a basketball player, however, none of those men could match Dick Rigby.

The Makio said of Rigby, "He was an accurate shot, always cool and steady, a remarkable dribbler, and a wonderful floor man." When Rigby joined the team, Ohio State basketball had been on a downward trajectory, recording a losing record in the 1908 season. Rigby became a starting forward in 1909, and he dominated his competition. Ohio State won the Ohio Athletic Conference title that season in overwhelming fashion. The team also won games against Rochester University and Wabash College, and they swept a home-and-home series with Michigan. The Ohio State players outscored their opponents that year 424 to 244, and Rigby scored over half of Ohio State's points himself.

Rigby's playing electrified the campus. His teammates unanimously elected him to be their captain for the following year. That fall, Rigby tried out for football. He didn't make the team, but the Lantern treated his tryout as exciting news. Fred Cornell, an Ohio State alumnus and a former athlete himself, as well as the author of "Carmen Ohio," reviewed O.S.U.'s 1909 basketball season, calling it the best team that the school had ever seen. Cornell acknowledged the greatness of Rigby, but he felt the need to defend the others on the team from accusations that it had been a one-man show.

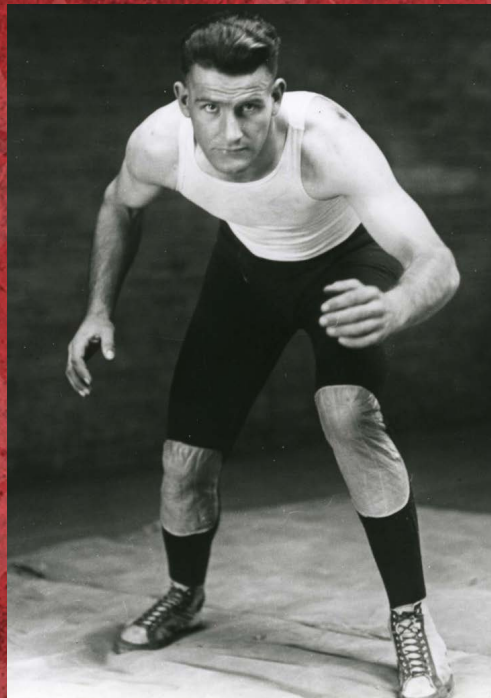
The 1910 season was, if anything, even more impressive than 1909. Ohio State swept through the Ohio Athletic Conference, and also defeated the school that would later become Michigan State. They outscored all opponents 462 to 228, and Rigby again personally outscored the rest of his teammates. This 1910 Ohio State basketball team, as much as the growing national reputation of the O.S.U. football team or the individual heroics of some of the school's track athletes, demonstrated that Ohio State was ready to join the Western Conference (i.e., the Big Ten).

Fans were excited to see what Rigby would do in 1911, but his senior season soon went awry. The university administration discovered Rigby and three of his teammates playing an outside game under assumed names. Like the football player Cris Carter, over seventy years later, Rigby was accused of professionalism and his senior-year eligibility was revoked.

Unlike Cris Carter, however, Dick Rigby has been never forgiven and welcomed back into the Ohio State family. Such forgiveness, after 108 years, is long overdue.

*Robert J. Roman is the author of "Ohio State Football: The Forgotten Dawn" where additional stories such as this one can be found.*





## BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

by Rusty Wilson

[Editor's Note: In this year of the Olympics, Varsity "O" will recount stories of some past Buckeyes who reached Olympic stardom.]

When Harry Dwight Steel enrolled at Ohio State in 1920 as a 21-year old freshman, he was literally one of the largest men on campus at 6-foot-4 and 210-pounds.

One of seven children raised on a cattle farm in East Sparta, Ohio, he did his chores before traveling 12-miles to Canton McKinley High School. Once in Columbus, he worked nights at the Penn Station warehouse and in the campus dairy barns, where he also lived. His sophomore year he made the football team and in his junior year, 1923, he gave wrestling a try.

Elected wrestling captain his senior year, Steel won the Big Ten heavyweight championship and the Ohio-Kentucky Olympic tryouts. At the final trials in Madison Square Gardens, Steel lost only one match and finished third. He was named first alternate for the 1924 Olympic Team, just missing a trip to Paris. He returned to Ohio State, graduated with honors and won the Western Conference Scholarship Medal.

On June 13th, just days after graduation, Steel was notified that a member of the team could not make the trip and he was named to fill the vacancy. Within days, and only 14 months after taking up the sport, Steel was on his way to the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Always the student, Steel kept meticulous notes on all his potential. He made it through all of his preliminary rounds with little resistance and into the gold medal match. In a Columbus newspaper account, written by former OSU wrestler and Olympic teammate, Perry Martter detailed Steel's championship bout in Paris.

"Columbus folks ought to give Harry Steel a rousing reception when he gets back. . . His work in the heavyweight division brought the championship to the United States, and in so doing Steel wrestled as he never wrestled over here and as I didn't think it was possible for him to wrestle. He wrestled four matches – all with men more experienced than himself and not one of them was behind him once. In the finals he met a huge Swede named Nillson. Steel, outweighed, was forced to wrestle a careful match at first. Tugging and straining he even outfought Nillson on his feet and, after six minutes, dove for Nillson's legs in as pretty a flying tackle as I've ever seen. He raised the huge grappler in the air and slammed him to the mat. Nillson wriggled out and to his feet and twice more Steel had to dive, pick him up and slam him and hold him long enough to win the decision. It was an almost super-human effort."

Following his return from Paris with the Olympic gold medal, Steel bought a farm in London, Ohio. Here he lived the rest of his life, occasionally teaching wrestling to inmates at the London Correctional Facility. A successful farmer, raising Angus cattle and Berkshire hogs, he was active in the Grange, Farm Bureau and the Madison County AAA committee. On October 8, 1971 Steel passed away at age 72. He was inducted into the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1980.

*Rusty Wilson is the author of the book "Ohio State University at the Olympics".*



## JAMES HOULE AND BUCKEYE GYMNASTICS: A LIFELONG LOVE AFFAIR

By Tami Kamin Meyer

When James Houle was growing up in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, his parents sought a way for him to exhaust his seemingly boundless energy. So, when he was just 3 years old, they registered him for gymnastics.

And, as they say, the Rest is History.

Houle's path to becoming a world-class gymnast found him winning championships in high school, gaining national prominence along the way. He says he owes a huge debt of thanks to Tim Daggett, his high school gymnastics coach and himself a 1984 Gold Medalist in gymnastics.

Daggett's greatest influences on Houle were his dedication and perseverance. Says Houle, "Coach Daggett inspired me to be the hardest worker, no matter what. That was the bottom line: Make yourself the hardest worker on the team."

When Houle was a high school junior, he was favored to repeat as the Junior Olympic National Champion, a feat he accomplished as a sophomore. However, his performance was less than stellar, preventing him from even earning a spot on the Junior National team.

Daggett then advised Houle and his family that the gymnast needed to change something about his gymnastics if he wanted to achieve national prominence in the sport. Houle began meeting with a sports psychologist to discuss the pressures he was feeling as he tried to repeat the success of his sophomore year. That decision and experience proved pivotal in his life, not only during his years as a Buckeye gymnast, but in his adult life, too.

"Talking with a professional helped me get my head back on straight. It was one of the best decisions I ever made when it comes to gymnastics," he says.

The following year, 2000, Houle regained the national championship. He is among the few who have won two separate national championships at different levels.

He was heavily recruited by many universities seeking to have him join their squads, and the list is impressive. They include Michigan, Iowa, Penn State, University of Massachusetts, Temple, Cal-Berkeley and, of course, Ohio State.

In the end, Houle choose the Buckeyes over the others because Ohio State was known for winning championships and developing national team members and Olympic athletes, says Houle.

He was a dedicated student-athlete who trained for gymnastics four hours a day, six days a week, all while maintaining a nearly perfect GPA. He rarely missed classes and lived an extremely regimented schedule to ensure he excelled in both the books and on the mat. Houle played an integral role when OSU's men's gymnastics team won the 2001 NCAA National Championship when he was a member of the squad.



## JAMES HOULE AND BUCKEYE GYMNASTICS: A LIFELONG LOVE AFFAIR (CONT.)

As the end of his gymnastics career and graduation from OSU neared, Houle began to ponder his professional life afterwards. He recalled how meaningful it was to meet with the sports psychologist during high school, and he decided that was exactly what he wanted to do, too. He applied and was accepted into a master's program at Springfield College, followed by earning a doctorate in counseling psychology from Auburn University.

While at Auburn, Houle met and eventually married Allison Croysdale, a fellow psychology grad student there. The couple are parents to two young children.

A post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin Counseling Center followed Auburn. From 2013-2016, Houle rejoined the Big Ten by becoming a sports psychologist at the University of Maryland (they were part of the ACC Conference until joining the Big Ten in 2014).

In 2016, Houle returned to Columbus and Ohio State. This time, however, it wasn't to serve as a student-athlete. Instead, it was to serve student-athletes, as a sports psychologist.

On August 1, 2019, he was promoted to lead sports psychologist for OSU Athletics. While overseeing a staff comprised of one sports psychologist and two athletic counselors, Houle also offers individual counseling and team workshops. In addition, he consults with coaches, medical staff and athletic directors for the university's 36 sports team, both male and female.

Houle savors his career counseling student-athletes. He says it's a great fit for him because "I know the stresses and challenges they are going through as a student-athlete. Juggling studies, exams, practices, travel and sleeping, to name a few, are among the real challenges facing student-athletes daily. They are also in the spotlight and have pressures, whether they're doing well or not. They get berated if they do poorly and accolades if they succeed."

Houle also lamented some of the additional burdens student-athletes endure outside their sports and studies. "The pressures can be enormous for developing adults, and people often perceive them as professional athletes. The truth is they are still developing, as an athlete, student and, as a person, and they need to know they have a strong support system to guide them through."

The icing on the cake for Houle is he gets to enjoy his profession in a place where he loves to be.

"I have come full circle to be able to give back to the university that gave me so much. It is so fulfilling to be back on the Ohio State campus and for my wife and I to raise our children in such a great city."

*Tami Kamin Meyer is a Columbus attorney and freelance writer whose byline has appeared in Forbes, Marketplace, Next Avenue, Ohio Magazine, Columbus Monthly and Columbus CEO. She is the Marketing Chair for the American Society of Journalists and Authors and tweets as @girlwithapen.*

## OHIO STADIUM VARSITY "O" ROOM UPGRADED

In case you haven't made it to the Varsity "O" Room in Ohio Stadium recently, we have given it a "facelift" by upgrading the décor and adding phone charging stations. The banners you will remember from your past visits, bearing the likenesses of Jesse Owens, Archie Griffin, Jack Nicklaus, Katie Smith and Jerry Lucas, have been upgraded to oil painted murals of those five former Ohio State stars. A deserving addition to those murals is that of Chic Harley. Harley was Ohio State's first consensus first-team All-America selection and first three-time All-American selection. He played halfback, quarterback, end, kicker, punter and safety. Harley was so good that the public and press referred to Ohio Stadium as "The House that Harley Built".

Varsity "O" contracted the Columbus Sign Company to upgrade the walls and entrance into the Varsity "O" Room and the murals are a nice improvement. Work was finished mid-September. We at Varsity "O" will constantly strive to upgrade your experiences as a Varsity "O" member.

# BUCKEYE NOW AND THEN: MATT MARINCHICK

Being a Buckeye is something that shapes our lives and follows us throughout our lives. It was no different for Matt Marinchick, former Buckeye basketball center, who grew up just outside of Cleveland in Hudson, Ohio. Hard work and sacrifice were virtues instilled in Matt at a young age. Originally born in Cuyahoga Falls, Matt's family moved around often, from Austin, Texas to Charlotte, NC, for his father to find steady work as an ironworker.

Flash forward to the year 2000 when Matt received a basketball scholarship at The Ohio State University under Coach Jim O'Brien. After watching how hard his father worked as a young boy, he couldn't wait for a chance at an opportunity to make his family proud. After redshirting his first year to spend some time developing in the weight room, Matt began to contribute and support the Buckeyes on the court. Matt reflects on his role as center, explaining, "Though I was never a star at the center position, I worked hard. And it paid off. Coach Matta told me that I worked too hard for him not to play me, and that was a really good feeling."

Matt really felt good under Thad Matta's coaching style after he became head coach during Matt's fourth year at Ohio State. Shortly after, Matt regularly began coming in for Terrence Dials to give him some rest each half or to keep him out of foul trouble. Matt was best known for setting good screens to open up the Buckeye guards, Tony Stockman and Brandon Fuss-Cheatham. He also strived to be a leader to the younger players coming in under him - a true team player.

Off the court, Matt always thought a lot about what kind of person he would grow into while at Ohio State. He worked hard and studied harder, understanding the value an education from Ohio State held. Matt recalls that discipline and time management were two of the most valuable skills he learned throughout his time as a Buckeye, as those two traits have carried him to success in his adult life.

After receiving a Bachelor's degree in Family Resource Management with a specialization in Economics from the School of Human Ecology, he got a job working at Muirfield Village Golf Club doing a little bit of everything, from assisting Jack Nicklaus and his wife while they were in town for the Memorial Tournament, to getting the players' credentials ready when they committed to playing in the tournament, to manual labor as the staff got Muirfield ready for the Memorial Tournament each June in Dublin.

From there, Matt started getting calls from agents asking if they could represent him to play professionally. Matt recalls, "At first, I laughed it off. I was a backup center who played five to 12 minutes a game for the most part, and I never really put up too many points in that role. I never thought basketball at the professional level was something that was in the cards for me."

Despite those feelings, Matt talked to an agent who he met when he was selected to play for the Big Ten European team ahead of his senior year. He took a chance, and a few weeks later he was packing his bags for Crailsheim, Germany to play in the Pro B Bundesliga. In his first season, he broke his foot early on, causing him to have to return home for surgery, which was a long, frustrating process. But not even surgery could stop Matt.

He continued playing for a minor league team in Cuyahoga Falls throughout recovery. While he had some downtime, he picked up an old hobby - playing guitar. To pass the time, he began playing music, writing, and singing, heading down to Mount Union University every so often to play music on campus with a few of his buddies. The feeling he got from that never subsided... From then on, he would return home every off-season and play music at colleges, local bars, and any open mics he could find.

While the professional basketball seasons were going on, he would come home after games and practices and play guitar and write songs. Finally, he reached a point where he had the opportunity to move up in basketball by signing a contract with Pro A Dusseldorf Giants after playing in Crailsheim, Herford. But Matt knew basketball wasn't where his heart was, and he knew if he wanted to pursue music, he needed to take the leap. So, he canceled the contract to return to Germany and began preparing himself for a move to Nashville.

Eight years have passed since that day, and after taking time to gain more on-stage experience, gain fans, and learn some of the ropes of being a musician, he's now a successful musician and songwriter in Nashville, Tennessee. Having played guitar as a hobby since he was young, he never imagined that nights of guitar sessions in his college dorm room with friends would turn into a career. Matt admits, "I never really considered the idea of doing music full time. Or basketball professionally for that matter."

Now, he plays around 300 gigs a year, writes countless songs, and has spent several years signed to a record deal - loving it all. You can find some of Matt's latest music on his website, [www.mattmarinchick.com](http://www.mattmarinchick.com).

His parents still reside in Hudson and he does miss his hometown from time to time. Over the years, he has visited Columbus often to play gigs and visit his old coach, but recently, he's played close to home in Tennessee and nearby areas. He does make it back when he can to attend the Ohio State Men's Basketball Players reunion dinner, which he heartwarmingly explains as, "a great way to get together and reminisce about the 'good ol days'."



## BUCKEYE NOW AND THEN: MATT MARINCHICK (CONT.)

Matt reflects on his days at Ohio State, saying his favorite Buckeye memory would have to be during the last game of his final year at Ohio State. Matt says, "We were playing the #1 team in the nation. A 29-0 Illinois Fighting Illini, a team that sent several players to the NBA, and we beat them at the buzzer with a three-pointer from Matt Sylvester! Nothing like it."

To other Buckeye student athletes today, Matt encourages them to give everything their all, saying, "Go to class. Make the most of your time at school. Work hard in the gym and in the class room. Understand your class material, even if you don't think you'll take it with you in your next chapter. Commit to do the best you can in everything because that is something you'll take forward at your next step in life after school. The act of trying is a trait that makes you attractive to bosses, coaches, and coworkers. And when you're on the court, field, or gym floor.... leave it all out there. You'll never regret anything if you gave it your all."

By Casey Sudzina



## FALL AWARDS

It is becoming a tradition that the Varsity "O" Board of Directors present the Jim Jones Career Achievement Award and the Varsity "O" Lifetime Loyalty Award during the Varsity "O" Homecoming Tailgate at French Field House.

The Jim Jones Career Achievement Award recognizes those male Ohio State Letter Winners who, throughout their careers, have contributed to the honor and fame of The Ohio State University. Those award winners have capitalized on the values learned in intercollegiate athletics and have achieved singular success in their career.

The Varsity "O" Lifetime Loyalty Award recognizes Ohio State Letter Winners who have reached the highest, most exclusive level of success in their industry, sport, career or profession. While that success may or may not have any connection to the Varsity "O" letter they obtained at OSU, the unparalleled success that this inductee has achieved in their career brings honor and recognition to OSU athletics and further the reputation of the University in significant ways. It must be clear that these highly recognized individuals have so excelled in their profession, sport, industry, or career that few have achieved.

This year, October 5th, prior to the Homecoming game versus Michigan State, former football player Jeff Logan was awarded the Jim Jones Career Achievement Award and former basketball player Clark Kellogg received the 2nd annual Varsity "O" Lifetime Loyalty Award.



CLARK KELLOGG



JEFF LOGAN

# ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

The generosity of former Buckeye student athletes has for many years allowed current student athletes access to higher education and unmatched athletic opportunities in the form of scholarships.

Varsity "O" has endowed five full scholarships. This academic year, these scholarships were awarded to a gymnast, a soccer player, a football player, a track and cross-country runner, and a women's basketball player.



## **MAX ANDDRYUSHCHENKO**

Gymnast Max Andryushchenko was awarded the Men's Varsity "O" Alumni Association Athletic Scholarship. Max is from Mt. Prospect, Illinois, and an OSU Junior. Last year he qualified for the NCAA Championships on the rings. He is majoring in business and specializing in operations management. His father was a member of the Soviet Gymnastics National Team.



## **CHANNING CHASTEN**

Channing Chasten is a freshman forward on the men's soccer team. He received the 2006 Men's Varsity "O" President Athletic Scholarship. He hails from Queen Creek, Arizona, where he was a two-time Arizona Youth Soccer Association State Champion. He plans to spend his time as a Buckeye studying Communications.



## **JADEN MCKENZIE**

Football player Jaden McKenzie is a freshman defensive tackle who was a three-star prospect coming out of high school in Wake Forest, North Carolina, where he was a key contributor in helping his high school win three consecutive 4A state championships. He earned the Larry Zelina/Varsity "O" Athletic Scholarship.



## **ALEX LOMONG**

Alex Lomong is a senior who is both a track and field mid-distance runner and a cross country competitor studying Psychology. He owns the third-best outdoor 800m and fifth-best indoor 800m in program history. Alex is from Fork Union, Virginia. He earned the 2008 Men's Varsity "O" Athletic Scholarship.



## **JENSEN CARETTI**

Women's basketball player Jensen Caretti earned the Phyllis Bailey Endowed Scholarship. The Clarington, Ohio native is a senior guard, who played in 23 games last season. In high school, she was named Ohio's Ms. Basketball and was the Gatorade Ohio Player of the Year. She was also an extremely talented volleyball player. Jensen is majoring in Communications.





**The Boren Family**

## WHY I GIVE: BORENS ARE ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES

The Boren family has left a legacy at Ohio State, both on and off the field. The Borens recently committed to a million dollar gift in support of the Ohio State Athletics District. The Department of Athletics is extremely grateful for their support and recognize their leadership as former student-athletes who donned the Scarlet and Gray.

Born and based in Ohio, the Boren family started a commercial landscaping and snow removal company as well as a waste management company. Today, Grass Groomers, Inc. and Boren Brothers Waste Services serve the people of central Ohio and continue to grow across the state.

However, the Borens were not born Buckeyes. Mike Boren, president of the family business, played football under Bo Schembechler at the University of Michigan where his wife, Hope Boren, ran track. Their eldest son, Justin Boren, also began his collegiate football career at the University of Michigan. Justin thought better of this decision.

Justin transferred to The Ohio State University where he earned First Team All-Big Ten honors as a Buckeye offensive lineman. His younger siblings, Zach Boren, Jacoby Boren and Kallie Boren, would later all attend The Ohio State University as student-athletes. Zach served as a captain on the 2012 football team that finished with a 12-0 record. Jacoby was a center on the 2014 national championship football team. During Kallie's time on the Buckeye softball team, she earned Big Ten Distinguished Scholar and Academic All-Big Ten honors.

The Boren family embodies the Buckeye spirit, industrious as student-athletes and investing in the future of Ohio State Athletics. When asked why they gave, Zach shared, "Ohio State has shaped us into the people we are today; it is our home. And this is our way of saying thank you in a monetary way".

Thanks to the support of the Boren family, Ohio State Athletics will continue to attract the brightest and most talented recruits while providing current student-athletes with the finest resources possible. The Borens look to provide student-athletes with the funds to have the pinnacle Buckeye experience. They want current and future student-athletes to have the best of everything and have the opportunity to succeed.



## WHY BECOME A VARSITY “O” MEMBER?

The Ohio State University Varsity “O” Alumni Society is an exciting, active alumni organization consisting of former Ohio State varsity athletes who earned at least one letter in their varsity sport. We enjoyed our time competing for the Buckeyes and we strive to help current and former Buckeyes. Our slogan is “Athletes Helping Athletes”, which we achieve by creating programs designed to help current and former Buckeye athletes. We are proud of our rich history and tradition and celebrate our legacy through our Athletics Hall of Fame, team reunions, and sales of Varsity “O” apparel, rings, mugs, and flags. We support current athletes through fully funded scholarships, a post graduate scholarship, recognition of team captains, a first-time letter winners’ ceremony and awards to the teams with the highest and most improved grade point averages. We provide Buckeye networking opportunities through social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, the Varsity “O” website, quarterly newsletter, our annual Homecoming Tailgate, pre-game football tailgates, receptions at football and basketball games, and receptions at select away football games and other sporting events.

Benefits of membership:

- ▢ Ability to purchase OSU football tickets
- ▢ Free admission for two to OSU Olympic sports events
- ▢ Invitations to exclusive Varsity “O” events
- ▢ OSU golf course walk-on privileges
- ▢ Access to Varsity “O” Store for exclusive goods and apparel
- ▢ 20% discount on goods at Ohio State Team Shop
- ▢ Quarterly Varsity “O” Newsletter
- ▢ Sustaining membership in OSU Alumni Association
- ▢ Buckeye Club Membership

Be a part of The People, The Tradition and The Excellence and become a Varsity “O” Member today! Go to [varsityo.alumni.osu.edu/membership/](https://varsityo.alumni.osu.edu/membership/)

## 1960 OHIO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM 60-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Members of the 1960 Ohio State Buckeyes Men’s Basketball team are celebrating the 60-year anniversary of their national championship season.

Seniors on the team were Howie Nourse, Dick Furry, Joe Roberts, John Sedargren, and Dave Barker. The juniors were Richie Hoyt, Gary Milliken and Larry Siegfried. The sophomores were Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek, Mel Nowell, Gary Gearhart, Bob Knight, Nelson Miller, Jim Allen and J. T. Landes.

Fred Taylor, who had played on the 1950 Ohio State Big Ten Champion Team, was the head coach, in just his second season. His assistants were Jack Graf and Frank Truitt. The trainer was Ernie Biggs, and Bob Murphy was the team doctor.

The starters were Lucas, Havlicek, Siegfried, Nowell and Roberts. Furry and Roberts were the co-captains. Every player on the team graduated. Every player on the team was from Ohio: Columbus, Middletown, Shelby, Mt. Vernon, Bridgeport, Dixie, Orrville, and Springfield.

The team defeated the defending champion Cal Bears in the national championship game on March 19, 1960 at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

The Buckeyes averaged more than 90 points that season, long before the three-point line or shot clock. All five starters averaged in double figures, led by Lucas’ 26.3 points per game (as well as 16.3 rebounds per game). The entire starting five ended up playing in the NBA.

***Congratulations on the anniversary of your championship, Buckeyes!***



# CHAPPELEAR NEW VARSITY O PRESIDENT

Our President of the OSU Varsity “O” Alumni Society for 2020 is Steve Chappelear.

Steve was a member of the Buckeye wrestling team in the early 1970s.

Following his degree in Social Sciences in 1974, Steve attended the OSU Law School, and graduated in 1977. He has engaged in a general litigation practice in Columbus, Ohio ever since.

Steve has been listed in Best Lawyers in America for over 25 years. Long active in the organized bar, Steve is a past president of both the Ohio State Bar Association and the Columbus Bar Association and has held numerous leadership positions in the American Bar Association, including service on the Board of Governors and House of Delegates. For his bar service, Steve has been presented with the Columbus Bar Association’s highest award, the Bar Service Medal, and the Ohio State Bar Foundation’s highest award, the Ritter Award.

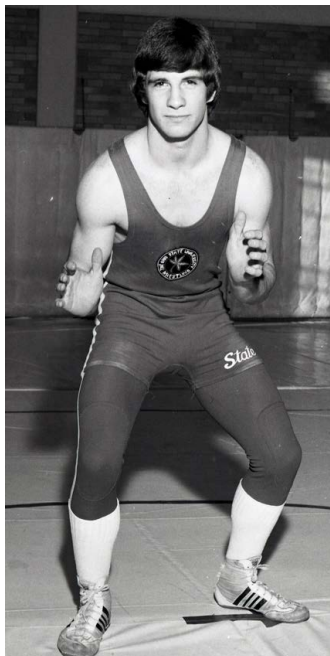
Steve has been very active in alumni service at The Ohio State University. He served a term on the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University Alumni Association. He is a past president of the OSU Moritz College of Law Alumni Association, and currently serves on the law school’s National Council. He is a past president of the OSU Men’s Varsity “O” Alumni Association and played a pivotal role in the merger of the Men’s and Women’s Varsity “O” Associations.

Steve is a member of The Ohio State University Athletic Council, The Ohio State University Sports and Society Initiative Board of Advisors, and The Ohio State University Alumni Advisory Council. He is a recipient of the Outstanding Service to the College Award from the OSU Social and Behavioral Sciences College, and the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from The Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences. He has also received the law school’s Public Interest Law Foundation Excellence in Public Service Award, and the Community Service Award.

Steve was a volunteer high school assistant wrestling coach for over twenty years at Licking Heights, Columbus Academy, and New Albany High Schools. His successes included a state championship team, and seven individual state champions.

In 2018, Steve was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Ohio chapter.

Steve’s wife Sharon is also a proud OSU alum. She is an active community volunteer and serves as a Master of the Rocky Fork Headley Hunt, an equestrian fox hunting organization. Steve and Sharon have been married over 45 years and have two adult children. Kacey (a graduate of the OSU law school) is an Assistant United States Attorney in Mobile, Alabama, and Chris is a video game software programmer in Austin, Texas. Steve and Sharon have a granddaughter, Francesca, who lives in Austin.



## MEET NEW VARSITY O BOARD MEMBER CASSIE DICKERSON

Cassie is a native of Kalamazoo, MI, but now resides in Columbus, OH. She is a 2011 graduate of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences with a dual degree in Animal Science and Nutrition. Cassie ended up only playing two seasons for the Women's Soccer team, by taking a fifth-year of eligibility, after undergoing three consecutive ACL reconstructions her freshman through junior seasons. Still, while at Ohio State, Cassie was a three-time captain of the Varsity Women's Soccer team, also earning First Team All-American and Big Ten Player of the Year awards, and was a semifinalist for the MAC Hermann Trophy given to the top American collegiate soccer player. Dickerson also was a winner of the Big Ten Medal of Honor, which recognizes the athlete in the graduating class who has attained the greatest proficiency in both academics and athletics, and was subsequently the Big Ten's nominee for NCAA Woman of the Year. In 2018 Cassie was inducted into the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame. As an undergrad, Cassie also became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Incorporated.

After graduating from Ohio State, she went on to pursue her law degree at the University of Kansas. Cassie graduated from KU Law with a certificate in Media Law and Technology and was admitted to the Bar in 2014. Since law school she has worked in both athletics and government positions, and currently works full-time as an Intellectual Property Strategist for Ohio State University. Cassie also owns her own hand-lettering business called Get it in Writing, where she creates custom hand lettered items for weddings, special events, and meaningful moments of all kinds. When she's not working, you can find her working out at a local fitness studio, coaching on the soccer field, or waiting on the latest sneaker drop.

Immediately upon moving back to Columbus in 2016 Cassie reconnected with the Women's Soccer team as the Volunteer Director of Player Development. She also assumed the responsibilities for alumni relations by leading communications and planning team reunions. Looking back, Cassie says she chose Ohio State because of the challenge she felt to uphold the standards of the soccer program, but also because of the respect she had for the history and tradition of the athletics program in its entirety. She knew that by assimilating herself into this athletics community she would be positioning herself in an environment that would not only support but demand that she reach excellence. Cassie wants all Varsity O members to know that she is still motivated by the things her fellow Buckeyes are doing, and finds it an honor to once again serve this population through the activities and efforts of VO.



## MEET NEW VARSITY O BOARD MEMBER MATT FINKES

Matt Finkes played defensive end for Ohio State from 1993-96. During this time, he earned 4 varsity letters and was a 3 year starter earning multiple All-Big Ten and All-American honors.

After 4 years in the NFL he was able to return to Ohio State and complete his degree in economics. Matt is currently the Director of Development at the Wexner Medical Center with a focus on the Ophthalmology department and is an owner of the Winans Grandview Yard location, which is a chocolate, coffee and wine store that originates from his hometown of Piqua, Ohio.

Matt decided to get involved with Varsity O because of the longstanding tradition of the organization and its mission of helping fellow student athletes. During his time on the board, he hopes to increase the connectivity and services that Varsity O can provide to its members to make a bigger impact in the lives of former student athletes and the community at large.





# SPECIAL VARSITY O ALUMNI SOCIETY LICENSE PLATE FRAMES, CHENILLE AWARD FRAMES, FLAGS & BANNERS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO PURCHASE

Questions? [Joe@BuddeRealEstateLaw.com](mailto:Joe@BuddeRealEstateLaw.com)



**ITEM #1**  
Varsity O License Plate Frame



**ITEM #2**  
Framed Chenille Award

## LICENSE PLATE FRAME

\$30 - includes shipping when delivered to a business address

\$35 - includes shipping when delivered to a residence due to UPS charges

## FRAMED CHENILLE AWARD

\$75 - includes all shipping costs



## ORDER FORM

**ITEM NUMBER REQUESTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*If requesting item #2, please list name, varsity sport(s) and year(s) participated how you would like it to appear on the award.

**VO MEMBER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VARSITY SPORT(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR(S) PARTICIPATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIPPING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this order form and your check payable to: OSU Varsity "O" Alumni Association to:

*Joseph E. Budde, ESQ*  
259 W. Schrock Road, Westerville, OH 43081

# Varsity O Alumni Society Flag & Banner Order Form



## DESCRIPTION

SKU # FLC -2008	Varsity O Alumni Society Printed Nylon Flag	\$ 130.00
SKU # FLC -2009	White Varsity O Alumni Society Printed Nylon Flag	\$ 130.00
SKU # FLC -2010	White Varsity O Alumni Society Printed Nylon Banner	\$ 107.00
SKU # FLC -2011	Red Varsity O Alumni Society Printed Nylon Flag	\$ 130.00
SKU # FLC -2012	Red Varsity O Alumni Society Printed Nylon Banner	\$ 107.00

### BILL TO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

### SHIP TO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: please provide street address for all shipments. We can not ship to P.O. Boxes.*

SKU #	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT	QTY	PRICE EACH*	TOTAL	OFFICE USE ONLY
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		
			Ohio Residents add 6.75% sales tax		
			<b>SHIPPING CHARGES</b>		

CC Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### SHIPPING CHARGES

The following charges are for shipping in the continental 48 states. Please call for orders to Alaska, Hawaii, and international destinations, as these will include air freight charges.

For quick delivery, we can ship UPS 2nd-day and UPS next-day services for an additional charge. Please call and we will be able to quote you the special charges.

### SHIPPING CHARGES

Add to all orders

MERCHANDISE VALUE	S&H
Up to \$50.00.....	\$7.75
\$50.01 - \$100.00.....	\$10.00
\$100.01 - \$200.00.....	\$16.50
\$200.01 - \$499.99.....	\$23.00
\$500.01 - \$1000.00.....	\$36.00
\$1000.01 and over.....	\$ CALL

Email Completed form to: [patricia@flagladyusa.com](mailto:patricia@flagladyusa.com)

Call with any questions! 614-263-1776 x 306



## UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of upcoming Alumni Association events, visit [osu.edu/alumni/activities-and-events/events](https://osu.edu/alumni/activities-and-events/events)

Alumni events are filled with fun, festivities and, yes, sometimes football. The Ohio State experience doesn't stop with commencement, so come together with your fellow alumni to enjoy more time as a #BuckeyeForLife.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### MEET THE COACH NIGHT

February/March TBD

Keep watch for the date for our "Meet the Coach Night" with Ryan Day. You never know, this year we may even have "Meet the Coaches Night" with both Ryan Day and Chris Holtman. Many of you will remember, nearly 100 Varsity "O" Football Members, Board of Director Members and guests had the opportunity to attend our "Meet the Coach Night", last February 28th at the Varsity "O" Room in Ohio Stadium. Coach Ryan Day expressed his honor to be the 24th Head Football Coach of The Ohio State Buckeyes and he impressed the crowd with his excitement, his flair and optimism for the 2019 Buckeyes. After his talk, he stayed behind to "meet and greet" over 50 years worth of former Buckeye players, whose playing careers spanned the early 1950s all the way to the recent 2000's. A great time was had by all, who left feeling confidence that Ohio State Football will continue to be in "great hands".



#### TOUR THE SCHUMAKER CENTER

April 27, 2020

The Schumaker provides a state-of-the-art facility for the nutritional, physical, and psychological development of student-athletes on 33 teams at Ohio State. It is named in honor of the family of Shirley and Harold Schumaker, frequent donors to the University. Over 800 student-athletes lift, condition, train, and rehabilitate injuries in the complex, while also benefiting from nutritional and mental preparation for peak performance.

#### TOUR THE COVELLI CENTER

May 2020 | TBD

The Covelli Center, which opened in June 2018, is the home to seven athletics programs, including men's and women's lacrosse, softball, rowing, field hockey and men's and women's soccer. Named after Sam Covelli, Ohio State graduate and a large Panera franchisee, the Covelli Center also provides access to training and rehab facilities for 33 athletic teams at Ohio State, totaling more than 800 student-athletes. The Covelli Center is a world class facility, also providing 10 locker rooms, 7 coach's offices, a spacious athletic training area, and enhanced team meeting and study spaces.

#### TOUR THE SHOE WITH VARSITY O

August 12, 2020

Back by popular demand, Varsity "O" will be offering a Behind the Scenes Tour of Ohio Stadium to include the locker room, band room, press box, recruiting room and Huntington Club, followed by refreshments in the Varsity "O" room. A great experience was had by all in 2019 and we expect another terrific event. Registration e-mails will be forthcoming.

#### ANNUAL HOMECOMING TAILGATE

September 26, 2020

Once again, Varsity "O" will be conducting the Homecoming Tailgate in French Fieldhouse prior to the Ohio State vs Rutgers Homecoming football game. This annual Tailgate provides active Varsity "O" members the opportunity to meet and greet many Varsity "O" Members and the Board of Directors. Doors will open 3 hours prior to kickoff. You will be able to enjoy food and beverage while socializing with fellow Varsity "O" Buckeyes. Entertainment will also be provided and an awards ceremony honoring the recipients of the Jim Jones Lifetime Achievement Award and the Varsity "O" Loyalty Award. Registration will be offered late summer 2020.

## NEWS

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US to be shared in future newsletters! [varsityonews@gmail.com](mailto:varsityonews@gmail.com)