Professor Jon R. Woods conducts OSU basketball band practice Thursday at the stadium bandroom. This year, the band has a record turn-out of 267 members to cheer on the Buckeyes.

**Buckeyes’ fast start boosts band turnout**

By Jennifer Rieck
Lantern staff writer

The excitement of the OSU men’s basketball team rallying toward an undefeated season has spurred a record-breaking turn-out of pep band participants.

“We’ve set an all-time university record of 267 students,” said Jon Woods, director of the OSU Marching Band and coordinator of the athletic bands.

Woods said the OSU basketball band is larger than the 224-member football marching band.

The basketball pep band will be split in half because the maximum number of band members allowed in St. John Arena is 120. Woods said. One half will be the Scarlet Basketball Band, directed by Woods, and the other will be the Gray Basketball Band, directed by graduate assistant David Scott.

Each band will play half the scheduled men’s games and half the women’s games.

Woods said because there are 132 students in each band, 120 will participate in the men’s games and 12 will be alternates. “We’ll rotate to get everyone in and give everyone a chance to participate,” Woods said.

He said they will use all 132 members at the women’s games because more space is available.

Woods said over the last couple years, the number of students wanting to be in the basketball band has climbed from 120 to 180. He said they would usually have a split of 90 for each game. Until now, the largest number of students who turned out was 240.

“We had a spectacular turn-out,” Woods said. “One thing that helped the band this past fall was when Randy Ayers and Nancy Dorsch (head coach of women’s basketball) spoke to the band.”

Woods credited the turn-out to the success of the men’s team and the coaches encouraging new members to join the basketball band.

“I personally think the basketball band has a significant role in the home court advantage,” Woods said.

Ayers agreed. “The band gets our fans and players excited and adds to the atmosphere,” he said. “Dr. Woods has been a very good supporter of the basketball program. Good leadership is the catalyst behind a good program and Dr. Woods has been a good leader.”

Woods said they have about 100 new students who are not previous band members.

“Some, but not as many students from the football band as one would think, turn out to participate in the basketball band,” Woods said. He said this is because many students are too busy during autumn quarter and are trying to catch up on missed classes in winter quarter.

Kristen Sagan, a sophomore from Thornville, Ohio, said she joined the basketball pep-band again this year because it is like a big social club and because it is fun.

“This year the band is split, so you only get to see half the games, but it’s worth it,” Sagan said.
OSU has not only the best but also the biggest band

By Jo Crawford
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State's basketball band may have to add an extra letter to the already famous TBDBITL and become The Best Damn BIGGEST-Band In The Land.

"I would assume that this (the band) is one of the largest in the country," said Jon R. Woods, coordinator of athletic bands.

The athletic band, which plays at men's and women's basketball games, is 331 members strong — a record high, Woods said.

Last year the enrollment in the athletic band was about 260, so the band has gained about 70 members, Woods said.

The band will actually be three different bands because of seating restrictions.

Each of the three bands will play at an equal distribution of men's and women's games, Woods said.

Packed from wall to wall with nearly 300 band members, the band room offers a scene of potential chaos as dozens of trumpeters, drummers and trombone players practice. The band separates and practices in different rooms because the band room does not have enough space for 331 musicians.

"No question — there is excitement about the Buckeye basketball program, both men's and women's teams," Woods said, when asked about this year's high band turnout.

"Obviously, the size increase is due to the success of the basketball team," said percussionist Dan Nemeth, '90, an astronomy major from Cincinnati.

The basketball athletic band does not have auditions, so anyone who can play an instrument is eligible to join. Participants receive one hour of academic credit and rehearse twice a week, Woods said.

"This band is not only for entertainment at the game, but is also a rewarding learning experience for the students," Woods said.
Horns Aplenty

When this brass gets together at Ohio State, you can bet there's a lot of hot air to go around. After all, it takes a lot to make a tuba sing, which is just what these five OSU Basketball Band tuba players have done at the Ohio State-Illinois women's basketball game. Making their way back to the OSU band room in Ohio Stadium are, from left, Greg Hostetler, Heath Younkin, Steve Byrom, Sean Seibert and Ted Parsons.
Little drummer boy

The OSU basketball band found itself with a new drummer at the OSU women’s basketball game yesterday, as Aric Schmitter, 3, imitates Bryan Canterbury before the start of the game.
Starting early

Aric Schmitter, a 4-year-old, takes drum lessons from freshman band member Greg Rock during the band's pre-game set before an OSU women's basketball game.
Trumpet tunes

A trumpeter in the OSU basketball band keeps his eyes on the conductor as he plays during Tuesday's Ohio State/Iowa men's basketball game.
OSU basketball band is bigger than ever

By Matt Englehart
Lantern arts writer

The 1994 basketball band may be the largest in OSU history, and positions are still open to interested musicians, said Brad McDavid, the band's graduate assistant.

McDavid said the exact size of the band has not been set, but the final student enrollment should fall between 280 and 300.

"We're not sure of the final numbers yet because we had a lot of students with transportation problems who were snowed in and couldn't make it to Tuesday's practice," McDavid said.

Because of the band's size, it has been divided into three groups — scarlet, gray and buckeye — which will play at men's and women's basketball games this season. Each band is responsible for performing at three men's and three women's games.

The scarlet and the gray band are comprised of students with at least one year of band experience, while new musicians are placed in the buckeye band. The scarlet and gray bands will play at the big home games such as the men's Indiana and women's Iowa games, McDavid said.

"The athletic department gives us 120 seats at the basketball games," McDavid said. "By splitting up into three bands we average 100 people a group so there is plenty of room at the games."

Accommodating all of the band members is a greater problem during rehearsals. Instead of having all the students rehearse once a week, the scarlet and gray bands rehearse Tuesdays, while the buckeye band practices on Thursdays, McDavid said.

Allison Schaffer, a junior majoring in speech and hearing science and in theater, is a member of the scarlet band who thinks basketball band enlistment is too large.

"They should either have auditions or limit enrollment to upper class," Schaffer said. "We don't get as many games as we would if there were two bands."

Brian Jacobson, a junior majoring in advertising and a member of the gray band, said he does not mind playing his flugelhorn at fewer games and

Don't forget your deodorant! welcomes the idea of a larger band enrollment.

"Older people have complained about playing at less games but they've been doing that ever since I've been here so I don't mind," said Jacobson. "The whole idea is to get more people involved, get to know more people, that's what is important."

The band accepts woodwinds and fewer than 20 percent of its members are music majors, McDavid said.
Strike up the band

Tubas and trombones belt out crowd-pleasing tunes before the start of the men's basketball game Wednesday evening. The OSU pep band plays before every game.
Band lets students support team, develop music skills

By J.C. Benton
Lantern staff writer

WANTED: Music enthusiasts with love for sports to play in college band. Uniforms provided.

The "band" is actually Music 186, better known as the OSU Basketball Band. The class is a one-credit course that rehearses once a week in the stadium bandroom.

"The band has no auditions and everyone is welcome, regardless of what instrument you play," said Jack Fuller, graduate assistant director.

This year the band has almost 280 members and has been divided into three smaller bands: Scarlet, Gray, and Buckeye.

"As an avid Buckeye fan, I like the opportunity to support the basketball teams," said junior trombone player Jeff Bayer-Bashore.

"Since I am a member of the marching band during the fall, this is a laid-back way to keep my chops in shape and a great way to meet people."

Jaime Sever, band secretary, said the Scarlet and Gray Bands are comprised of veteran members, while the Buckeye Band is made up of rookies. All three bands have about 90 members.

"Each band gets to play at three women's and three men's games throughout the season and band members get to keep a scarlet and grey rugby shirt that is worn at games as a uniform," Sever said.

The repertoire of the band ranges from present day rock charts to OSU's school songs, such as "Buckeye Battle Cry", "Across The Field", and "Hang On Sloopy".

Jennifer Johnson, a sophomore clarinet player, is using the basketball band as training for marching band tryouts in the fall. She is learning to play the British e-flat alto horn.

"I'd like to be in TBDBITL this fall, but right now I don't play a brass instrument very well. I hope by playing the alto this winter in basketball band I will reach my goal," Johnson said.

Mark Oppenheimer, a sophomore trumpet player and music major, said he enjoys basketball band because it combines his two favorite things - music and sports.

"I love to play at the games because we're so close to the action on the floor," Oppenheimer said.

"It's also great to get the fans at St. John Arena rockin' with Sloopy or the Hey Cheer."