

Dissertation on Shelf 62
in Reference Room

THE HISTORICAL TRANSITION OF WOMEN'S SPORTS AT THE
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, 1885-1975 AND ITS IMPACT
ON THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATE
SETTING DURING THAT PERIOD

DISSERTATION

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate
School of The Ohio State University

By

Mary A. Daniels, B.S., M.A.

* * * * *

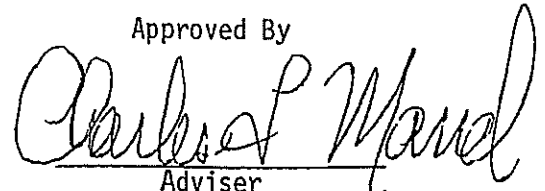
The Ohio State University

1977

Reading Committee:

Dr. Bruce Bennett
Dr. Mary Yost
Dr. Charles Mand

Approved By



Adviser
Department of Physical
Education

The first written account of a scheduled basketball game for women appeared in the January, 1899 issue of The Lantern. "The young ladies played an interesting and exciting game of basketball last Friday morning at 9 o'clock. The teams were taken from the two advanced gymnasium classes..."¹⁹

Although the first scheduled game was an informal, interclass encounter, the preceding article went on to inform the reader that "arrangements were already being made for a game, in the near future, between The Ohio State University and a team from one of Miss Rickey's classes from the city."²⁰

The element of competition was a contagious experience. The women students were exposed to it, a positive experience resulted from it, and from that point the future direction of women's sports at The Ohio State University was established for the next twenty-five years.

By February, 1899, the women students were participating in city-wide basketball competition. The first encounter merited front page headlines in The Lantern.

The Ladies at O.S.U. Are Defeated in
Basketball by a Combination From City Team

The first public appearance of our girls' basketball team was made Saturday morning when it met the picked team of the High Schools from the Y.W.C.A.

¹⁹The Ohio State University Lantern, January 18, 1899, p. 2, co. 5.

²⁰Ibid.

Although we lost the game in a score of 7 to 2 we are proud of our home team and the game they played. Some allowance must be made for the fact that it was their first public appearance, and some of the fouls made and our failure to make goals was undoubtedly due to confusion. After a few games in public our girls will be alright....²¹

By the end of March, 1899, The Ohio State University women's basketball team had competed in a series of three games against the city women's Y.W.C.A. team. The Ohio State team scored two victories of a possible three, making them unprecedented champions of the city.²² It was projected at the time that The Ohio State University women's basketball team was already hopeful that next year they would capture the state championship.²³

Complying with the national thinking that women's attire while physically active should not be viewed by men, no male spectators were permitted to observe the competition. It was, however, reported that the games were witnessed by great crowds of friends of both teams, who added to the general interest by waving colors, blowing horns, and giving yells.²⁴ One exception to this rule was in the case of Captain Karshner of the men's basketball team who was

²¹The Ohio State University Lantern, February 1, 1899, p. 1, col. 1.

²²The Ohio State University Lantern, March 15, 1899, p. 1, col. 1.

²³Ibid.

²⁴The Ohio State University Lantern, March 22, 1899, p. 1, col. 7.

granted permission to gain new points for use in training his own team, and he was favorably impressed with The Ohio State girl's playing ability.²⁵

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, several major developments within the establishment of The Ohio State University can be enumerated:

1. The Ohio State University was a forerunner in the support of co-education in institutions of higher learning.
2. Much importance was placed on the development of the total person; the mental, moral, and physical aspects were stressed. Therefore, social experiences were strongly encouraged.
3. As a result of the push for social encounters, recreational sports were established for both men and women.
4. As the demand for gymnastic classes increased, the construction of a gymnasium was inevitable. This need was acknowledged by the building of the Armory.
5. The new gymnasium provided increased exposure of students to new and different sport activities. One activity in particular was basketball.
6. Accompanying the actual skill acquisition involved in the game of basketball was the competitive experience. The popularity of this sport created a new realm for women to explore as we move into the twentieth century.

1899. ²⁵The Ohio State University Lantern, op. cit., March 15,

THE LANTERN

VOL. XIX

COLUMBUS, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1915

THE LINES

At 8:30 Are Held in Basket Ball by a Combination from City Team.

Enclosed Due to First Appearance of Game of the Season - A. L. H. Ryan Better Game.

League Defeated Thursday Afternoon by the Old Game.

The first public appearance of the girls' basket ball team was on Saturday morning when it met the pickup team of the High School from the Y. W. C. A.

Although we lost the game by a score of 7 to 2 we are proud of our brave team and the game they played. Some alterations must be made for the fact that in their first public appearance, some of the fouls made and some fouls made goals were undoubtedly due to confusion. After a few games in public our girls will be all right. As it was they played the best game in the field and it was only due to our failure to win goal that lost us the game.

Miss Miller made the only goal we gained during the game in a throw from the field in the first half. Three fouls were called on the Y. W. C. A.'s and four on O. S. U. during the first half, which closed with the score of 4 to 2 in favor of the Y. W. C. A.'s. In the second half Miss Early made a goal from the field and one from a free throw, making the score Y. W. C. A., 7; O. S. U., 2.

We failed to make any goals in the last half, although the ball was given us on five fouls. Three fouls were called against us.

Miss Williams' interference was fine, but she was called on four fouls. One was hardly felt.

Miss Hunt as forward was well suited to the position.

Miss Koughman always managed to get the ball, but by having such wild and she failed to make goals. She is one of our best players and we shall expect much from her after she has become accustomed to playing in public.

On the whole our team is one of which the college may be proud.

The strategy for the game was as follows:

- Y. W. C. A. - Center, Farrell; right forward, Ryan; left forward, Coleman; left guard, Ryan; right guard, Ryan; left wing, Ryan; right wing, Ryan; left center, Ryan; right center, Ryan; left base, Ryan; right base, Ryan; left back, Ryan; right back, Ryan.

The basket ball team struck the tables on the track team from Kenzie Saturday by defeating them by the score of 11 to 8.

The Kenzie team is supposed to be the best and fastest team in Ohio, and Saturday was the first time they have been defeated this season. A large crowd of spectators witnessed the game and the spectators witnessed the game and the spectators witnessed the game.

The game was very close. The members of the Kenzie team returned last Feb. 6, 11, played Kenzie ball their very team they had played this season. They were pleased with the result way the boys treated them during their stay in the city. Houghton had a foul, same as Vanda, but was equal to the occasion. MacIntosh, who played left back, was fine.

The game was called about 11:10. Before a minute of time had elapsed Kenzie had thrown the first goal from the field, and a minute later the ball was handed in the basket again by Kenzie from the field line.

Houghton and the third goal in about five minutes, Kenzie, Houghton and Harris fouled, and Kenzie was unable to throw a goal from the three trials given by the referee.

Karsbuer, Snyder and Hager were successful in throwing one goal each before the end of the first half, but just as time was called, Karsbuer, of Kenzie, succeeded in placing the ball in the basket, making the score 11 to 2 in O. S. U.'s favor.

In the second half, Karsbuer threw a goal on a foul, Harris and Snyder followed with a goal apiece from the field.

O. S. U. had several chances for field goals, but failed to land the ball in the basket. The final score was 17 to 5 in favor of O. S. U.

The line-up was:
O. S. U. (11) - Kenzie, left forward, Snyder, left forward, Hager, center, Ryan, right back, Houghton, right back.
Kenzie (11) - Miller, left forward, Hunt, left forward, Ryan, center, Ryan, right back, Ryan, right back.

SPECIAL LECTURES.

Series in Money Credit and Banking Will Begin Next Week.

The course includes: Municipal Indebtedness - W. F. Burdell, member Board of Banking Fund Commissioners, Columbus. A University Education for a Business Man - Emerson McMille of Emerson McMille & Co, bankers, New York. The Credit Men's Association of America - Joseph A. Jeffrey, President The Jeffrey Manufacturing Co, Columbus. Building and Loan Associations - L. L. Hooper, Attorney, Berkeley State Building & Loan Association, Columbus. Life Insurance - Harry Robb, Secy of Agency, Prudential Insurance Co, Columbus. Fire Insurance - Cyrus Woodruff, Special Agent and Adjuster, Queen Insurance Co, Columbus.

LABOR

Washington Gladstone, pastor First Congregational Church, Columbus. "Labor and Problems in Europe and America." "Rail-Road vs. Ship Help." "New Labor in Ohio" - John P. Jones, Commissioner of Labor, Columbus. "The Industrial High on the Labor Problem" - James M. Stewart, President of National Labor Union, Columbus.

STREET RAILWAYS.

W. A. Kelly speaks to Transportation Club - Transportation Department of Street Railways.

Had Service Week Out by Street Railways - Street Railways.

The Speaker is a Friend of the Utility.

Monday afternoon, January 26, Mr. W. A. Kelly, general superintendent of the Columbus Street Railway company, delivered a lecture before the Transportation Club on "The Operation of Street Railways." A large crowd of students from the Department of Economics and from other departments assembled to hear Mr. Kelly, so that additional chairs had to be procured. In introducing the speaker, Professor Clark remarked that this showed the great need of more money for the department. Mr. Kelly graduated in the course in science at O. W. U. in 1882. He took an active part in securing subscriptions from business men of this city to all the Department of Economics at O. S. U. In all about twelve hundred dollars was secured.

In speaking of the street railways Mr. Kelly traced the development of present systems from the horse car to the electric service showing that the latter is the only one widely used at present.

"No new cable lines are being built and compressed air systems have not proved a success. A few years ago people were content with the slow, uncomfortable, intermittent and frequently suspended transportation, while today the best is none too good and the public reserves its inalienable right to kick at will. The cry for several years has been for more cars, heavy cars, longer cars, cushioned seats, electric light, electric heat, higher speed, later service and gentlemanly employees."

The speaker then related out the different departments of the service, the duties of each and the duties of officers and employees. In speaking of the financial management he said:

"The interest on the bonds is a fixed charge and this together with the operating expenses must be paid first. If there be any surplus earnings after this it may be applied as dividends on stock. Owing to the limited amount of the franchise, the many and severe limitations put upon its business by public enactment, the hostility and enmity of the demagogue and finally the tendency to reduce its earnings and increase its losses, a street railway must offer the prospects of relatively large profits, otherwise capital would not care to lay out in an enterprise involving so much labor and capital, which with many uncertainties, will yield low returns and possibly no returns at all. Many of the other projects have been rejected."

LABOR

Several times and their capital account thereby largely increased. The average factory was a well-lighted and speaks with ease of the fortunate change which turned the revenue. He was only the crowded car, never the empty one.

The total number of passengers carried on the Columbus Street Railway from the beginning of the year was about four per cent and the net earnings per passenger but only a fraction of a cent.

With five times the population per mile of track, European roads carry only three-fourths the number of passengers carried in Boston.

TOWNSHEND.

Stewart Speaks for Party Alliance Against Independent Action.

Townshend held an interesting meeting Friday night, although the attendance was not as large as usual. The liveliest number on the program was the debate. The question was on Party Alliance versus Independent Action. Stewart and Gladding supported the party line and Flynn and Dillmore the Independent. The speakers on both sides waxed very warm. "By Stewart made the speech of his life, growing loud and eloquent, and with his grandiloquence and "sempiternal-veritas" won the decision of the judges.

Flynn, although somewhat mild and conservative in his statements, put up his usual strong argument.

The business meeting was short and unimportant. The society has 25 members on its roll. Visitors are always welcome.

SERIOUSLY BURNED.

Accident Resulting From an Open Window Near the Gas.

Mr. C. L. Binklerhoff, who rooms at No. 25 West Ninth avenue, had a narrow escape from burning to death Wednesday night. He and Mr. McLaughlin occupy two rooms, one of which is used for a study, the other for a bathroom. He left the study for a few minutes and on his return found the curtains in a state owing to their being blown out the gas lamp by the wind from the open window.

The curtains were pulled down and an effort made to stamp out the blaze. However, the fire was communicated by the carpet and the ruffled woodwork. Mr. Binklerhoff then attempted to smother the blaze with a coverlet. His hands and wrists were burned so badly that he was forced to leave the room. Mr. McLaughlin hurried up at this time and expanded a bucket of water with the bath room as a hose. Mr. Binklerhoff is severely injured, not being able to use his limbs for any purpose.

LABOR

Recovery of P. D. Delta Phi Held Saturday Night at the Hotel.

Recovery of P. D. Delta Phi Held Saturday Night at the Hotel.

Recovery of P. D. Delta Phi Held Saturday Night at the Hotel.

The friends of Kibbe had the were scheduled to been taken sick the hospital on month. The suffering with a appendicitis and his recovery was a time, but we that he has all recovered and is comfortable in work as usual.

Harriet Page's classes during meeting was held class and upon made a committee and the follow adopted and a Kibbe:

"We, as a committee by the Senior I. Ohio State University assembled, desire you our sincere, long of your line that these flows in some degree the monotony of law college join sympathy with mess and our speedy recovery is our belief."

Geo. Y. West, I. H. M. E.

The legal of Delta Phi held among themselves for evening at 7. A special meeting judging from waves have been, an important about to be held Phi Delta Phi in this college.

For months principally on the installation of room, Dean He to divide the two sections, as Senators and a class meeting of and this will be accomplished what is scheduled be seen from of the need of a college of law night but now this is become everyone. Not accomplished by, except the good better.

The following edited by Dean Delta Phi had the resolution:

Lady Bucks win Big Ten

2-13-78

Ohio State's women's basketball team tacked a third Big Ten title to their belts, whipping Minnesota 77-62 in the championship game played Sunday afternoon at Purdue.

Coach Debbie Wilson called the performance "truly a team victory." Frani Washington led OSU scorers with 50 points for the three-game tournament, while Kim Jordan had 49 and Cindy Noble added 32.

In the final game, however, it was clutch shooting and rebounding by senior captain June Brewer that kept Ohio State close in the first half when the team was plagued by fouls and loose defense.

Brewer popped in seven points and grabbed seven rebounds for the half, putting the Bucks in the lead with 1:59 remaining in the first period.

In the second half Ohio State tightened up its defense and never relinquished its lead. Wilson put Cathy Bennett at guard with Laurie Pirtle. Bennett came up with 4 steals, and

the team finished with 8 for the afternoon.

Washington led all scorers with 18 points. Brewer had 16 points and 13 rebounds. Jordan had 15 and Noble added 10.

Ohio State shot 47 percent from the field (35-74) and 46 percent from the foul line (7-15). Minnesota sank 33 percent of their field goal attempts (21-64) and 91 percent of their free throws (20-22).

Ohio State reached the finals after wins Friday and Saturday over Wisconsin and Michigan State.

Ohio State beat the Badgers 73-49, after battling back from a 10-0 deficit.

OSU called time and switched from a player-to-player to a zone defense. Washington led the Bucks back within striking distance, pouring in 6 of the next 12 Buckeye points. OSU tied the game with 6:08 remaining in the half in the midst of a 14-point scoring spree and dominated the rest of the game.

Washington led the Buckeyes again, scoring 22 points and snaring 17 rebounds. Jordan added 16 while collecting 9 rebounds and Noble pumped in 12 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

The win over Michigan State was a harder fought battle. The lead seesawed between the two teams for the first half until Washington twisted her knee with 6:52 remaining in the period and left the line-up.

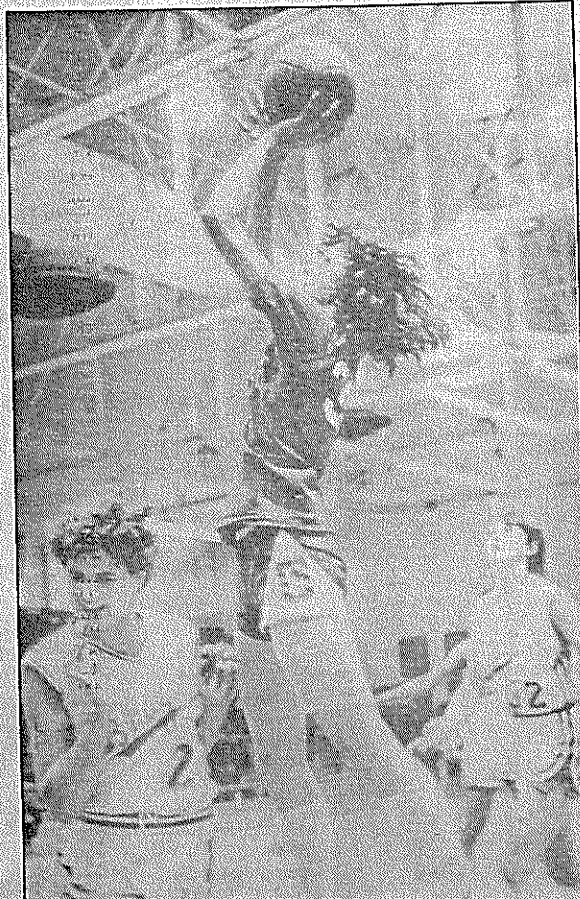
MSU built up a 23-14 lead before Noble popped in three baskets and Brewer added a fourth to bring the Bucks within one. Michigan State led at the half 26-24.

Washington came back to play in the second half. Ohio State tied the game with 17:28 remaining and pulled ahead, leading by as much as 10 points.

The rest of the game was spent protecting the lead, which Michigan State chipped to the final 66-61 score.

Buckeye's leading lady on the court

Mary Sivak sets high goals in last season



By Dick Zunt

If Ohio State University basketball star Mary Sivak reaches her goals this season, it will be a very good year for the Lady Buckeyes.

"My goals are for the team," said the 21-year-old senior center from Wickliffe. "The goals are for the team to win the Big Ten and in doing this automatically qualify for the post-season NCAA tournament.

"This is our first season as an NCAA member. Since this is my senior year, I would like very much for it to be the best season in Ohio State history.

"The other seniors and I would like to leave something with the school and help establish OSU as a basketball power.

"This is the best team I've been on since I've been here," added the 6-2 Sivak, who is starting at center for the fourth straight year. "Our 6-1 record also is the best start for our team in history.

"I'm very proud to be a member of this team. We are hoping to attain national recognition for our school."

Ohio State has won six of its first seven games this season, with Sivak playing center on offense and switching to forward on defense.

The Lady Buckeyes won their first five games, 74-59, over visiting Toledo; 75-41 at Western Michigan; 75-69 over 13th-ranked Kentucky; 88-62, over Portland

campaigns.

Sivak's game-high total this season came against Tennessee when she scored 24 points. Her rebound high mark is 13, against Indiana.

Sivak's total of 1,181 points for 101 varsity games ranks her No. 4 on the all-time Ohio State career scoring list. She surpassed Fran Washington, a former Kodak All-American, who finished with 1,173.

Sivak soon should move up another career notch, passing June Brewer's 1,217 total.

"In preparing for this season Mary worked a lot harder than ever before," said Tara Van Derveer, who is in her second season as head coach of the Lady Buckeyes. "She has become a more complete player at her position and this is obvious from her statistics and contributions to the success of the team this year."

Sivak started all 30 games as a freshman and all 32 as a junior. Her sophomore season she started 27 of 34 and played in 32 of them despite an injury.

Sivak scored 160 points for a 5.3 average as a freshman, 386 for a 12.0 average as a sophomore and 536 for 16.8 last season.

Sivak's high game came last season against Cincinnati when she scored 32 points. Her single-game rebounding high is 25, her freshman season against Youngstown State.

Sivak is averaging more than



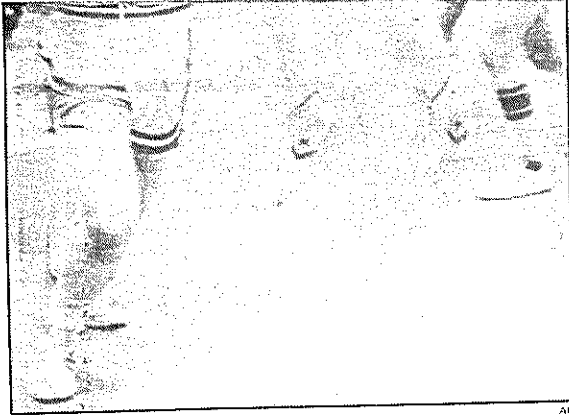
Mary Sivak

at Ohio State," she said. "I possibly would like to get into coaching later on.

"I'm getting married next Sept. 4, to photographer Larry Gilbert, in Bowie, Md. He graduated from here last year.

good basketball school."

Mary's parents, Ernest and Patricia Sivak of Wickliffe, drive to Columbus for all the home games. She also is cheered by her two brothers, both former stars at Wickliffe High. John attends Lakeland Community College and



Ohio State's Mary Sivak fires a jumper over Wisconsin's Theresa Huff in a game last year. Sivak scored 17 points in that game.

first five games, 74-59, over visiting Toledo; 75-41 at Western Michigan; 75-69 over 13th-ranked Kentucky; 88-62 over Portland State in the Giusti Tournament; 83-82 over 14th-ranked Tennessee in the semifinals of the Giusti Tournament in Portland, Ore.

The first loss came in the finals of the Giusti Tournament, 68-60, to Oregon. The Lady Buckeyes then resumed winning, 67-53, at home last week against Indiana.

The varsity record was 19-11 in Sivak's freshman year, 16-18 her sophomore season and 17-15 last season.

Sivak is averaging 14.1 points per game this season and 7.1 rebounds, lower than her previous averages, but she has more help on the boards than in her previous

game rebounding high is 25, her freshman season against Youngstown State.

Sivak is averaging more than 50% in field goal accuracy, including 54.2 last year. This season she was named to the Giusti (Portland, Ore.) All-Tournament team and last season was named to the All-Big-Ten tourney and the Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAIWSW) tournament teams.

"Mary has been the team leader in blocked shots the past three years," said Claudia Dinges, women's sports information director at OSU. "She had 61 last year."

What are Sivak's overall goals? "I would like to teach elementary school and attend graduate school

4. to photographer Larry Gilbert, in Bowie, Md. He graduated from here last year.

"But, before I leave, I would like to help make Ohio State a

two brothers, both former stars at Wickliffe High. John attends Lakeland Community College and Jim is a student at Gannon College in Erie, Pa.

"This is our first season as an NCAA member. Since this is my senior year, I would like very much for it to be the best season in Ohio State history. The other seniors and I would like to leave something with the school and help establish OSU as a basketball power."

Nobody serves up business like The Plain Dealer

Fresh business news poured on daily.

Nobody squeezes more readers out of one section than The Plain Dealer.

Fortified with major wire services, The Plain Dealer Business Section contains the kind of eye-opening news that business people have a thirst for before they start the day.

So advertisers who want to sell anything from Cadillacs to commercial property will get satisfying results in The Plain Dealer. Six business section ads will reach 229,500 adults in households with incomes of \$35,000 or more.* That's why 100% of all credit card advertising and investment advisory service advertising run in The Plain Dealer.†

The Plain Dealer Business Section. It gives your advertising a quick lift.



WHEN
THE
NEWS
BREAKS

The Plain Dealer

WE
PULL

New OSU women's coach has 'commitment' to keep

By Dave Kelch
For The Dispatch

6-12-85

Stating that Ohio State is "committed to women's basketball," OSU Athletic Director Rick Bay made the formal announcement today that Nancy Darsch, an assistant at the University of Tennessee, is the new Buckeye coach.

"We were committed to finding someone with a national reputation," said Bay. "She has been exposed to, and coached, every great women's basketball player in the country in the past five years."

Bay was referring to Darsch's involvement as an assistant coach with the 1984 women's Olympic team under Tennessee Coach Pat Head Summitt, with the Olympic trials in 1980 and '84 and with the 1979 and '83 Pan-American Games.

Darsch, 33, succeeds Tara Van Derveer, who was head coach at Ohio State for five years. Van Derveer's teams produced a 110-37 record and four consecutive Big Ten titles. Van Derveer accepted the head coaching position at Stanford in May.

"I am, of course, very pleased to become the new head women's coach at Ohio State," said Darsch at a press conference at the OSU golf course.

"We will continue the type of success and dedication you have had at Ohio State all along. It's (the success) here to stay."

Darsch, who spent seven years at Tennessee, is a graduate of Springfield (Mass.) College. She coached five years at the high

school level at Longmeadow, Mass. She joined Summitt at Tennessee in 1978 as a graduate assistant then became Summitt's only assistant until this year.

Darsch said her involvement in the '84 Olympics kept her from pursuing other head coaching positions until now.

"I had interviewed for different positions since being at Tennessee, but Pat asked me to go with her to LA," said Darsch, who was the second assistant and chief scout for the Games.

Darsch said she met with the returning member of the Ohio State team early today.

"We met and talked," she said, "But I wish Yvette Angel (graduated senior) was going to be a sophomore, again."

There are no major changes planned for the program, Darsch said. She said she plans to have the same running-style offense that was characteristic of Van Derveer's team.

"I think everyone is looking right now to see what's going to happen in the Big Ten," she said, referring to OSU's dominance in the conference the past four years. "The most profound change (for her) will be going from a supporter to an initiator."

One thing Darsch said she learned from Summitt is: "I've become more of a firm disciplinarian and tradition oriented."

Darsch said she has made no decisions as to her coaching staff.

Tennessee teams compiled a 180-58 record during Darsch's seven years with the Volunteers. UT advanced to the final of the NCAA



Dispatch photo by Tom Sines

New OSU Coach Nancy Darsch

tournament in 1984, losing to Southern Cal, and has been in the Final Four of either the old AIAW tournament or the NCAA five of the past seven years. This year, Tennessee lost to Mississippi in the Mideast Regional final.

Lady Bucks Set To Defend Title

By Rick VanBrimmer
OSU Sports Information

With the start of a new season a little more than a week away, the Ohio State women's basketball team is hoping that there is truth in the old adage that "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

Over the past few years, the Buckeyes have gone about building a team that annually contends for a Big Ten championship and national honors. So far, that building project has been a quality job, evidenced by four straight conference championships and appearances in three of the last four NCAA tournaments.

OSU women's basketball will enter a new phase with the advent of the 1985-86 season, as Nancy Darsch takes over as head coach with hopes of keeping the Buckeyes climbing to higher levels.

"This team is coming off an exciting and successful season, and our goal is to continue the winning tradition and quality of basketball that the people have come to expect from Ohio State," said Darsch.

Women's Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 26	At Cincinnati	7:30 p.m.
29	TEXAS	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 1	At Penn State	2:00 p.m.
7	SYRACUSE	2:00 p.m.
15	At Illinois State	1:00 p.m.
20-21	BUCKEYE CLASSIC SOUTHERN METHODIST vs. CENTRAL MICHIGAN, UTAH vs. OHIO STATE	6:00 and 8:00 p.m.
28	NEVADA-LAS VEGAS	7:30 p.m.
30	KENTUCKY	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 3	At Michigan State*	7:30 p.m.
5	At Michigan*	2:00 p.m.
8	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	7:30 p.m.
10	WISCONSIN*	7:30 p.m.
12	NORTHWESTERN*	2:00 p.m.
17	INDIANA*	7:30 p.m.
24	At Illinois*	7:05 p.m.
26	At Purdue*	2:00 p.m.
31	MINNESOTA*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	IOWA*	2:00 p.m.
7	At Northwestern*	7:30 p.m.
9	At Wisconsin*	1:30 p.m.
14	At Indiana*	7:30 p.m.
21	PURDUE*	7:30 p.m.
23	ILLINOIS*	2:00 p.m.
28	At Iowa*	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 2	At Minnesota*	2:00 p.m.
6	MICHIGAN*	7:30 p.m.
8	MICHIGAN STATE*	2:00 p.m.

ALL CAPS indicate home games
* indicates Big Ten games

Last season was the best in OSU history, with a school record 28 wins, a league title and a runner-up finish to eventual national champion Old Dominion in the East Regionals all rolled into a 31-game slate. The Buckeyes were perfect in league play, completing the 18-game round-robin schedule without a hitch.

So where does that leave the current bunch of Buckeyes? Hopefully right where they left off if four returning starters and nine letterwinners have any say in the matter.

The early forecasts for the new year have Ohio State again rated as the Big Ten favorite, and national polls have the Buckeyes ranked as high as No. 9.

Part of the reason for such lofty expectations is the return of all-Big Ten choice Francine Lewis, a 6-2 senior from Mansfield, and 6-0 sophomore Tracey Hall of Cleveland Heights, the 1985 Big Ten Freshman of the Year.

Lewis and Hall represent nearly a third of the Ohio State offense a year ago, with averages of 12.7 and 12.8 points per game, respectively. The pair is also responsible for nearly half of all OSU rebounds last year, both averaging better than eight caroms per outing.

The only question mark is just how fast Lewis can return to form after October surgery on her right knee, and how soon her contributions will be felt on the court. So far, healing has progressed rapidly, but the jury is still out in terms of whether or not she'll be ready when No. 1 Texas comes to town on Nov. 29.

Joining Lewis and Hall are returning starters Jodi Roth, a 6-0 junior from Shelby, and 5-4 Liana Coutts, a sophomore from Delaware. Roth (9.8 ppg) gained time in the starting lineup last year due to injuries, and Coutts (4.3 ppg) started all but one game as a freshman.

Add to that a pair of experienced senior backcourt players in 5-3 Barb Smith of Perrysburg and 5-5 Toni Roesch of Columbus, and according to Darsch, the Buckeyes are in good hands.

"We have a strong nucleus of experienced players returning, which is encouraging," she says.

Other returnees include 6-3 sophomore Rhonda Winters of Orrville, 5-11 sophomore Joni Mazzola of



All-Big Ten choice Francine Lewis hopes to have the Buckeyes reaching for another Big Ten title.

Worthington, 6-4 junior Teresa Dombkowski of Oregon, and 6-2 junior Suzanne Gilkey of Weirton, W. Va.

A talented group of freshmen have caught Darsch's eye in practice and could make early contributions. No stranger to OSU fans is the last name Cline, which is back in a Buckeye uniform. Lisa, a 5-11 stand-out from West Holmes, follows brother Mike (a letterwinner from 1976 to 1979) to Columbus.

Other freshmen that will be competing for playing time are 5-1 Genifer Johnson from Canton, Detroit's 6-0 Nikita Lowry, and 5-10 Geneva Sanford of Springfield.

The schedule is perhaps the toughest in Ohio State history, with the top-ranked Longhorns of Texas making their post-Thanksgiving visit to set the stage for a demanding non-conference slate. Other national powers on the schedule include Southern Cal, Nevada-Las Vegas, Kentucky, Penn State and league nemesis Iowa.

Also on tap is the third Buckeye Classic, which will bring Utah, Central Michigan and SMU to St. John Arena on Dec. 20-21 for a festive holiday tournament with all the trimmings.

Gifts from local businesses promote women's basketball

By Ken Frazier
Lantern staff writer

Gifts from local businesses are helping the OSU Athletic Department promote the women's basketball program.

Of course, the Buckeyes' performance this season hasn't hurt either.

In the department's view, women's basketball has become as marketable as the men's and believes increased exposure will mean bigger crowds at the women's games.

In its contract with the university to televise men's basketball, WTVN-TV also agreed to include air time, worth about \$20,000, to promote three women's games it will broadcast this season, said Allen Bohl, assistant director of athletics.

In addition to the television promotions, the university received

the services of Big Bear Supermarkets' advertising agency, Byer & Bowman, to design billboards for promotion of the women's basketball program, said Owen Carroll, account supervisor at the agency.

Donrey Outdoor Advertising Company contributed space, worth \$2,915, on eight billboards, said Robert Manion, Donrey's sales manager. Six of the boards were donated in January and two in February.

Howard Nourse, administrative assistant for the athletic department, said it markets selected events instead of the whole season.

Radio advertising remains the department's most cost-effective medium because television time is too expensive, said Denny Hoobler, the department's director of marketing.

Attendance at women's games is up 7,000 so far this season, Nourse said.

Videotape to aid in recruiting

By Sonya Lynn Elam

Lantern staff writer

The OSU Women's Basketball team has shown what it can do on the court . . . now it is working on its image off the court.

The first-ever videotape depicting many aspects of the women's team is ready for the recruiting season.

Tape highlights of the women's basketball program include: available facilities, coaching staff and their past successes, as well as what Ohio State offers in academic

instruction and campus life. An overview of Columbus is included for recruits not familiar with the city.

"It's a real helpful tool in recruiting and increasing awareness for the team," said Nancy Darsch, head women's basketball coach.

OSU Sports Information Assistant Rick VanBrimmer agrees, "It will hopefully interest recruits enough to make them want to know more about us, and consider Ohio State for continuation of their athletic and academic careers."

Darsch said the recruiting tape

will also be used to acquaint other organizations with women's basketball. "It will be useful to show in summer basketball camps and to send to high schools," she said. "We will also take it to alumni organizations and other clubs to give them a better look at what the Lady Buckeyes are all about."

The women's team finished its 1985-1986 season with their fifth consecutive Big Ten Championship. The team made the Final 16 in the NCAA tournament before losing to Louisiana State University by one point in the semi-finals.



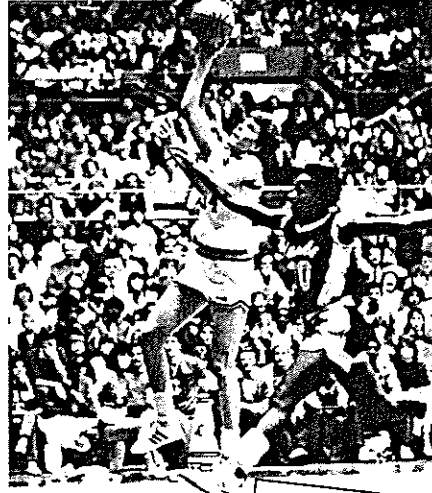
Pat Kiesel/the Lantern

Win a car if 'you go'

Kent Anders, a graduate student from Columbus, hands out flyers Monday concerning Thursday's women's basketball game against Indiana, Fan

Appreciation Night. A drawing will be held for a 1987 Yugo, two trips to the NCAA Women's Final Four and a weekend at a Columbus hotel.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP SHOOTOUT



Lisa Cline was a hot-shot last year, earning Freshman of the Year honors in the Big Ten.

Senior Jodi Strine is the Buckeyes' steadying influence.

Big Ten Player of the Year Tracey Hall is a legitimate All-American candidate.

Ohio State opens at the Texas Classic on Dec. 5, and could see the Longhorns again at the Orange Bowl Invitational in Miami, Dec. 27-29.

Other national top guns dotting the schedule are Southern Cal, Tennessee, Kentucky and Iowa.

Hunting season at home gets under way on Dec. 19 with the fourth Buckeye Classic. North Carolina State, West Virginia and Tennessee Tech will travel to Columbus for the two-day affair. The Buckeyes averaged over 3,000 fans a game a year ago, second best in the nation.

The Big Ten season begins on Jan. 3 at Indiana, and Darsch predicts a mirror image of last year's league shootout that went right down to the final shot.

"Looking at the fact that we did have three Big Ten teams (Illinois, Iowa and OSU) in the field of 40 at the NCAA Tournament is an indication of just how much stronger the conference has become in the last few years," says Darsch. "Last year's conference championship came down to the final weekend, and I anticipate the same drama this year."

1986-87 OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Dec. 5-6	Texas Classic	Austin, TX	TBA
	OSU vs. Colorado; Texas vs. Notre Dame		
12	Kentucky	Lexington, KY	7:30 p.m.
14	Central Michigan	Mt. Pleasant, MI	2:00 p.m.
19-20	BUCKEYE CLASSIC	ST. JOHN ARENA	8:00 p.m.
	NORTH CAROLINA STATE vs. TENNESSEE TECH; OHIO STATE vs. WEST VIRGINIA		
27-28-29	Orange Bowl Inv.	Miami, FL	TBA
	OSU vs. Miami; with Texas, So. Cal, North Carolina, St. Joe's, Temple, Tennessee		
Jan. 3	Indiana*	Bloomington, IN	7:30 p.m.
5	NORTHERN ILLINOIS*	ST. JOHN ARENA	7:30 p.m.
9	MICHIGAN*	ST. JOHN ARENA	8:00 p.m. (TV)
11	MICHIGAN STATE*	ST. JOHN ARENA	2:00 p.m.
16	Northwestern*	Evanston, IL	7:30 p.m.
18	Wisconsin*	Madison, WI	1:30 p.m.
23	MINNESOTA*	ST. JOHN ARENA	7:30 p.m.
25	IOWA*	ST. JOHN ARENA	1:00 p.m. (TV*)
30	Purdue*	West Lafayette, IN	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	Illinois*	Champaign, IL	2:00 p.m.
6	Michigan State*	East Lansing, MI	7:30 p.m.
8	Michigan*	Ann Arbor, MI	2:00 p.m.
13	WISCONSIN*	ST. JOHN ARENA	7:30 p.m.
15	NORTHWESTERN*	ST. JOHN ARENA	2:00 p.m.
20	Iowa*	Iowa City, IA	7:30 p.m.
22	Minnesota*	Minneapolis, MN	2:00 p.m.
27	ILLINOIS*	ST. JOHN ARENA	8:00 p.m. (TV)
Mar 1	PURDUE*	ST. JOHN ARENA	2:00 p.m.
	5 INDIANA*	ST. JOHN ARENA	8:00 p.m. (TV)

ALL CAPS indicate home games
*indicates Big Ten games

All times listed as local times and are subject to change
TV—Live local broadcast by WTVN-TV (Channel 6)

TV*—Live regional broadcast by Big Ten, locally on WTTE (Ch. 28)

BUCKEYES RELOAD FOR ANOTHER

By Rick VanBrimmer, OSU Sports Information

With five consecutive Big Ten championships behind them, second-year head coach Nancy Darsch realizes her Buckeyes are becoming big game to opponents. That's the challenge she will face as she attempts to reload her Ohio State women's basketball team for another shootout in an ever-improving Big Ten and a demanding pre-conference schedule.

"Everyone in the conference is always out to defeat the defending champion. That's a fairly common means of measuring success," she says. "The Big Ten has become more competitive within the conference and nationally. Continuing as champions is definitely one of our top goals and a major challenge."

Darsch will have plenty of high-caliber ammunition in four returning starters from last season's 23-7 team, including big gun Tracey Hall, the 1986 Big Ten Player of the Year. Hall, a 6-0 junior forward, helped lead OSU to a 16-2 conference slate and the Final 16 of the NCAA Tournament last season—the Buckeyes' fourth NCAA berth in the last five years.

The Cleveland Heights native averaged 16.6 points and 9.5 rebounds a year ago, and ranked in the top 10 in nearly every offensive and defensive category in the Big Ten. She was a Kodak District All-America choice, and has already been named to several pre-season all-star squads after spending the summer on the ABA/USA Select Team. Hall's presence is part of the reason OSU has received early national ranking, as high as No. 14 in one poll. But Darsch warns that Hall could be even better in 1986-87.

"She is working harder in practice, and her experience this summer has helped her mature and identify some of her goals," she says. "It has made her aware of just how much potential she does have."

Reserved section season tickets for the Buckeyes' 12-game home schedule are on sale now at the St. John Arena Ticket Office. The cost of the package is \$25 for the general public, \$20 for OSU faculty and staff, and \$15 for students (through high school seniors and OSU students). Included in the package are tickets for the Buckeye Classic (Dec. 19-20) and a 1986-87 media guide.

Season and individual game tickets can be ordered by phone by charging to your VISA account. The ticket office can be reached at 422-2624 locally, and toll free in Ohio at 1-800-GO-BUCKS.



Nancy Darsch hopes to chart OSU to a sixth straight Big Ten title.

Only point guard Toni Roesch (now an assistant coach at Stetson University) is missing from last year's starting quintet, a tough loss when you figure that Roesch generally pulled the trigger for the Buckeyes on the floor. Replacing Roesch's instincts and leadership is a top priority for Darsch.

Six-foot senior Jodi (Roth) Strine and 5-10 sophomore Lisa Cline join Hall to bolster the Ohio State arsenal. While her name changed due to a summer marriage, Strine's game remains the same—steady. Strine (12.1 points per game last year) is called "our backbone" by Darsch, and will be looked upon to take up some of the leadership slack left by Roesch's graduation.

Cline made a good early impression last season, earning unanimous Freshman of the Year honors in the Big Ten after averaging 13.4 points per outing.

Also returning to the fort are 6-0 sophomore Nikita Lowry (8.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg) and 6-4 senior Teresa Dombkowski (6.8 ppg), both having spent time in the starting lineup at center. The inside game receives help from 6-5 freshman Mindy Smith from nearby Pataskala. Steady 5-10 sophomore

Geneva Sanford (4.9 ppg), a boost off the bench last year, is also back, as is 6-2 senior Suzanne Gilkey.

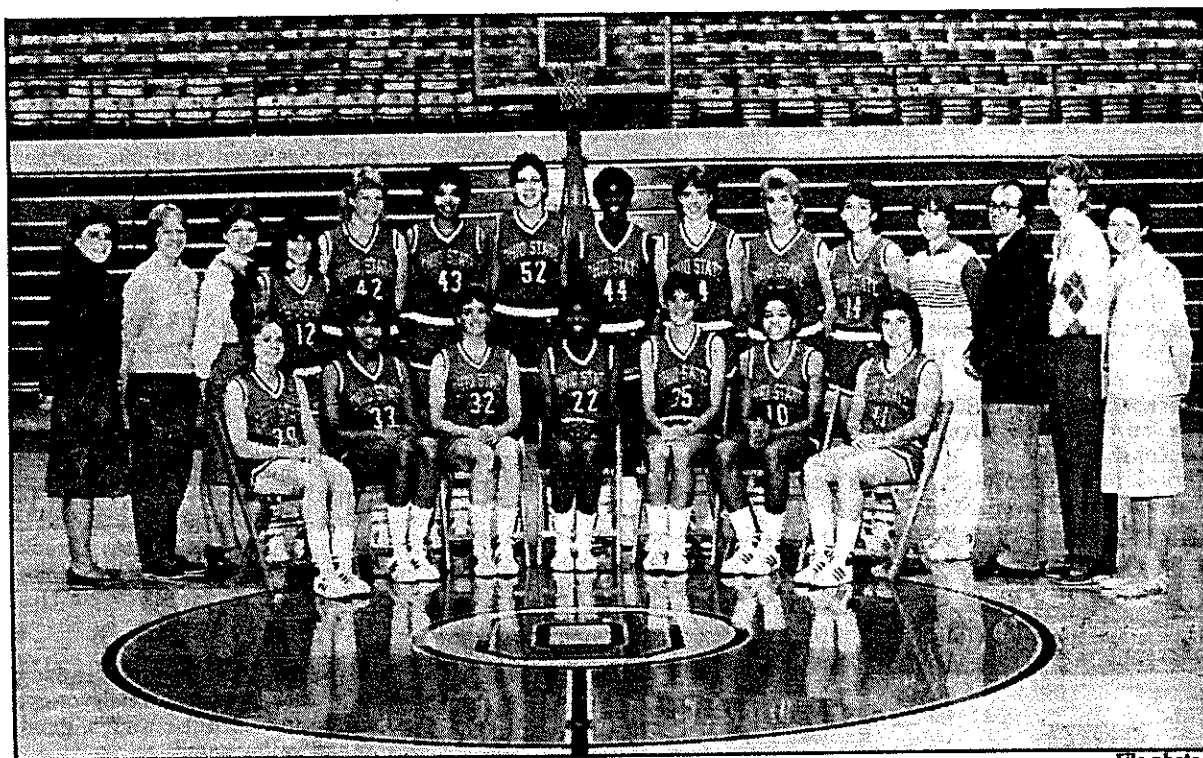
A new weapon is the Ohio High School Class AAA Player of the Year, 6-1 Nicole Sanchez of Pickerington. Sanchez will fill a variety of roles, seeing time in both the front and back courts.

Battling at point guard for the right to light the fuse on all that firepower are 5-4 junior Liana Coutts and 5-1 sophomore Gennifer Johnson. Coutts started 29 games as a freshman, while Johnson has shown promise so far this fall. Darsch says the starting spot could come down to a daily decision based on opponents' style of play and personnel.

As for her own team, Darsch will once again have the Buckeyes on the run, opting for a fast-paced offense/pressure defense combination that clicked a year ago. Six of the seven losses last season were by four points or less, while the offense chalked up a school record 78.9 points per game.

The Buckeyes won't have any easy early target practice, and run the risk of meeting defending national champion Texas twice in the first three weeks of the season.

competing off court



File photo

Members of the 1984-85 Buckeyes include: (front row, left to right) Barb Smith, Francine Lewis, Theresa Busch, Carla Chapman, Kristin Watt, Yvette Angel, Toni Roesch, (back row) Marsha Snavely-Manager, Debbie Noel-Manager, Linda Daniel-

Trainer, Liana Coutts, Suzanne Gilkey, Rhonda Winters, Teresa Dombkowski, Tracey Hall, Joni Mazzola, Jill Williams, Tara Van Derveer-Head Coach, Lubomyr Lichonczak-Asst. Coach, Amy Tucker-Asst. Coach, Sue Guevara-Graduate Assistant.

ball in Spain for four months.

"I knew it (playing pro ball in Spain) wasn't providing me with a career or a future," she said. "I just really wanted to get on with my career because I knew I couldn't play ball for a long time."

Chapman, who has recently returned to her hometown of Akron, remembers both the people she met at Ohio State, and bringing the women's team here to the forefront.

"I remember the people I met and the friends I made that are still good friends to this day," she

said. "I also remember the success and the great achievements we had there and the strides we made in bringing that women's program to national recognition."

Chapman is employed by Casual Corner clothing stores and is pursuing a career in fashion merchandising.

Roesch is another member of the team who went on to pursue a coaching career. She is the assistant women's coach at Stetson College in Deland, Fla.

She remembers bringing OSU women's basketball to center stage nationally.

"From my freshman year, we went from averaging 500-600 people at a game to being second in the nation in attendance my senior year," she said. "We had a lot of great games."

Lewis is the only one of the starting five still attending Ohio State. She plans to graduate this quarter with a degree in communications.

Lewis said she would remember the many possibilities offered here.

"I like the variety of things that are offered in the classroom and outside the classroom," she said. "There's just a lot of things to do and a lot of people to meet. In itself, it is a challenge to know there are so many different personalities and different ambitious people out there."

But what has playing basketball at a school the size of Ohio State meant? For most, it has taught them things they can apply to life off of the hard-wood courts.

"When I first came to Ohio State, it was hard as far as balancing school and practices, so I really learned to be disciplined and motivated to reach my goals," Angel said. "It's important just knowing how to win and be determined."

Lewis said the competitive spirit involved in basketball is something she can apply outside of the sport.

"Life itself is competitive, and to be a student-athlete is competitive," she said. "I think that being a student-athlete at a school like Ohio State is competitive itself. It was definitely a growing experience on and off the court."

Chapman agreed. "The thing that is most important in my life now is the discipline that will carry over into other experiences," she said. "Also, working with others was very important. And, along with the competitiveness, I think those are the things you need in real life."

Roesch said she can relate the values she learned on the court to her life now.

See page 6, **WOMEN**

Undefeated team

By Dave Fleming

Lantern sports writer

Official Big Ten Championships for women have been recognized since 1982. From that year until the present day, the OSU women's basketball team has never lost a league crown.

If Ohio State defeats Indiana Thursday, the Buckeyes will be guaranteed a share of the Big Ten title this season with Iowa.

The Buckeyes have been conference champions for five consecutive years, and the popularity of the sport has steadily risen along with the success of the Buckeye teams.

Five women who have been a major part of basketball at Ohio State and watched the popularity grow through the years also had the honor of being on the only women's team to go undefeated in conference play.

In 1985, Ohio State (28-3, 18-0) ripped through a conference schedule with little difficulty enroute to an NCAA berth and an eventual showdown with powerhouse Old Dominion in the finals of the East Regionals.

For the members of the team, the memories of that year are still very fond.

"It was very exciting going undefeated," said Francine Lewis, the eighth-leading scorer in OSU history. "It didn't really hit me until it was over because we played each game one-by-one and it just came out that way. But it was exciting afterwards because it was an accomplishment and something to cheer about."

Lewis was a starter on that team and an All-Big Ten selection in 1984 and 1985.

Another starter and All-Big Ten selection in 1983-1985 was Yvette Angel. She remembers setting a goal to go undefeated in her final season and feeling good about accomplishing it.

"Basically for myself and the other seniors who were on the team, we wanted to go undefeated," she said. "We really set that expectation for ourselves and for the team and when we went out and did it, it gave me a feeling of gratitude."

Angel is currently third on the all-time scoring list at Ohio State.

One of Angel's senior teammates was Carla Chapman, who also earned All-Big Ten honors in 1984 and is the fifth-leading scorer in Buckeye history. She remembers working very hard to

go unbeaten.

"I remember most that it wasn't easy, I mean we worked very hard for that," she said. "That's probably the year I remember most in that we had a great team spirit. There was a real togetherness on that team that was probably the best contributor to our success."

A junior on the 1985 team, Toni Roesch, said the thing that stands out in her mind from that year was their win at Iowa. "The year we went 18-0 we played in front of a crowd of 15,000 at Iowa and that was real thrilling," she said. "I'm sitting here looking at the picture on my wall and I know it's a feeling you really can't explain to look up in the stands and see nothing but people. That was really the icing on the cake."

Roesch is third in assists at Ohio State and was voted to the All-Big Ten team in 1986.

The point guard on the team was Liana Coutts, a freshman at that time. And, like her teammates, she felt they worked very hard for that accomplishment.

"We sweat a whole lot and worked very hard," she said. "But it's something you don't really realize is happening until it's over."

But many of the members on the undefeated team have moved on, leaving basketball and Ohio State behind. For some of them, the memories of good friends and lessons learned, remain.

"I developed some very close and lasting friendships at Ohio State and I think that's very special," Angel said. "I have some great memories of team play, being part of a team, and togetherness."

Angel is now a graduate assistant coach at Michigan State and is working on her master's degree in athletic administration. She was hired by Michigan State after having played professional basket-

Continued from Page 5

"You learn how to handle yourself in pressure situations and how to deal with people because you're on a team and you have to work together," she said. "It helps you in so many ways I don't

think you could put them all down on paper."

Coutts has not graduated from Ohio State yet but she agreed with Lewis that the competition is very valuable for life after college.

"Real life is competition so basketball gives you a good foundation because you're used to being competitive," she said.

Although these former players are pursuing other careers and some are readying themselves for a new career, do they wish they had the chance to play professional basketball in the United States like their male counterparts at Ohio State?

Lewis said even if a women's league existed in this country, she didn't think she would compete in it.

"I think there should be an option for women to continue basketball if that's what they

want to do," she said. "I just don't really think that's what I would like to do for the rest of my young life.

"After all, it takes a lot of time out of each day and a lot out of you physically," she said.

Chapman agreed with Lewis. She said she would like to see a women's league, but doubted she would compete in one.

"I'd like to see women have the same opportunity as the men do," she said. "But I had been in basketball long enough for myself and I needed to know that I could do more than bounce a basketball."

Roesch and Coutts both said they felt that a women's league is a long way off. They said they would rather pursue alternate careers.

"I don't regret not playing because I love coaching so much"

Roesch said. "Until the high schools and colleges can start filling their gyms, I don't think it's going to go. If a program was very well-established, I might have played."

"I would just as soon get started on my career," Coutts said. "The competitiveness and athletic ability of women is steadily on the rise, but I think we have to have more women's support at this level."

But, at least one former Buckeye, Angel, knows she would have played professional basketball in the United States if a league had existed.

"Men's basketball has that opportunity but women's doesn't and it's a slap in the face because what you love is no longer there," Angel said. "To think you have to go all the way overseas to another country to play ball is really not fair."

THIS WAS NO ORDINARY ROAD TRIP

by Rick Van Brimmer
OSU Sports Information

When it comes to away games, a trip overseas is no ordinary road trip. That was the finding of Ohio State women's basketball players Niki Lowry and Tracey Hall, who traveled half way across the world this summer to help represent the United States in competitions abroad.

Lowry, a junior from Detroit, Michigan, was part of the United States Junior National Team that brought home the gold medal from the Jones Cup in Taipei, Taiwan. Hall, a senior from Cleveland Heights, was a member of the U.S. entry at the World University Games in Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Both had their share of interesting and sometimes enlightening stories to tell about their travels, the first overseas adventure for either player. Perhaps their biggest discovery was that things we think are usual and comfortable here at home are sometimes strange to foreigners.

Lowry, who wears her hair in a series of tight braids, found her style to be quite a sight to the Taiwanese. It was so different to the natives that it was the subject of a local newspaper story, complete with picture. But that wasn't the worst part says Lowry.

"A group of three little girls came up to me and asked me for a piece of my hair," she laughs. "I was scared to turn my back on anyone because I was afraid they might cut some off. People were always coming up and touching it. It was a little annoying at times."

Lowry overcame the annoyance enough to lead the United States in scoring, including 31 points and the winning basket with nine seconds left in the title game. That, she says, will remain her fondest memory of the excursion.

While most of her trip was enjoyable and educational, Hall says watching a teammate become ill and end up in the hospital thousands of miles from home was a little unsettling. Vicki Orr, of Auburn, became ill in Finland during a series of warmup games and by the time the team reached Yugoslavia had to enter the hospital and have her appendix removed.

Overall, Hall said the crowds and



NIKITA LOWRY



TRACEY HALL

townspeople were more than friendly, as evidenced by the reaction to the United States team at the opening ceremonies.

"Walking around the track at the opening ceremonies, I couldn't help but smile because I was representing the United States," said Hall. "When we were introduced the people cheered and chanted 'U-S-A, U-S-A'."

Over in Taiwan, Lowry said she was equally proud to be wearing the Red, White and Blue, but the crowd reaction wasn't nearly as nice once the games began.

"Every time I went to the free throw line they started hissing. I didn't know what that meant, but I knew it wasn't good."

When it came time to eat, both Lowry and Hall tried their share of local specialties, but the All-American hamburger still topped the favorite list. Hall said their meals were served with a little something for every country represented — including "french fries for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

Lowry remembers a banquet honoring the competing teams, where the menu included jellyfish and snail. "Right after it was over we headed to Wendy's," she added.

"Some days at the hotel they would

serve chicken, but it didn't look like chicken. We ate at Wendy's a lot."

But even Wendy's in Taiwan are little different, with fried chicken and spaghetti on the menu to provide an American eating oasis.

Communication would be a problem at times also, especially on the court.

"Almost everyone there spoke English," said Hall, "but we couldn't understand what language they were speaking when they called out picks and defenses."

Hall's team finished with a 6-1 record, losing only to host Yugoslavia in overtime. Her sights now may be set on a possible Olympic Team berth next year and a chance to avenge the loss.

"We didn't compete as well as we could have. If the opportunity arises, I'd definitely like to get involved," says Hall.

Both players agree that getting there is half the fun, but coming back tired and drained was no joy ride. Hall spent about nine-and-a-half hours in flight from Yugoslavia, while Lowry was airborne 12 hours.

"On the way there we were so excited it didn't bother us," says Lowry. "But on the ride back we were tired. I could have done without that."

"If I had the chance I'd do it all again — but somewhere closer to home."

Basketball practice begins

Women look for 7th straight title

By **RANDY JACOBS**
Lantern sports writer

Tracey Hall has been looking forward to the start of women's basketball practice since March 21, the day the Buckeyes lost in the NCAA tournament.

"I think everybody was pretty disappointed with the way we lost last year in the tournament," said Hall, a two-time Big Ten Player of the Year. "We're all pretty anxious for practice to start because we have a lot of goals we want to achieve this season. I think people have worked a lot harder over the summer and we just want to get things under way."

The Buckeyes began practice Thursday in St. John Arena.

Hall is one of three starters returning from last year's team

which finished with a 26-5 record. Juniors Geneva Sanford and Lisa Cline return with Hall.

The Buckeyes lost in the NCAA West Regional finals to Long Beach State.

Cline said she is excited about starting practice even though the first game is over a month away.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done in the early part of the season," the Millersburg native said. "You have to pay your dues to get ready for the first game."

The team has been the most successful in the Big Ten over the last six years. During that time, they have won or shared the league title each year. No other conference member has won an outright championship since the league began sponsoring championships for women in 1981-82.

Coach Nancy Darsch, beginning her third year at Ohio State, said

the early practices are important for finding out what players perform best together.

"We want to develop our offensive and defensive systems," she said. "We also try to get everybody fitting together in terms of lineups and different combinations. I guess the bottom line is that we want to get prepared for our opening games."

The team has been taking part in conditioning workouts since the early part of August. These workouts included weightlifting three days a week, and running drills. They have also been playing basketball together during this time.

"Those workouts help us to learn what people can do," said Hall, who is from Cleveland Heights. "The freshman have an opportunity to get used to what we can do and that way we're not like strangers out there the first



Nancy Darsch

File photo

few practices."

Hall said versatility will be one of the strengths of the team.

"We have a lot of players that can play two or three positions," she said. "We also have a lot of experienced players and a good freshman class coming in."

Psychologist helps OSU team

By Mary Carmen Cupito
Dispatch Medical Reporter

When the Ohio State University women's basketball team meets archrival Iowa at St. John Arena tonight, they'll know that even if they lose, they win.

That is the philosophy of the team, fostered by team psychologist Pamela Highlen.

"It essentially captures how I view sport, and also how I approach life," said Highlen, an associate professor of psychology at OSU whose sport in college was field hockey.

In weekly conferences with the players and coaches, Highlen said, she emphasizes the win-win philosophy, taken from a book of the same name by Denis Waitley.

"THE PERSON who plays any game with the intention of enjoying the game itself, regardless of the outcome, always wins," he wrote.

Sure, Highlen said, winning on the scoreboard is important, and coaches who don't deliver winning seasons often don't coach for long, but winning isn't everything.

Highlen emphasizes "performance goals" rather than "outcome goals." A performance goal may be, "I want to improve my free-throw percentage;" an outcome goal would be, "I want to beat Iowa."

If a team's goal is the latter, losing can be demoralizing, she said. By emphasizing performance, "the outcome of winning should take care of itself," she believes.

This season the women's bas-



Dispatch photo

Pamela Highlen

ketball team, which has won the Big Ten championship 6 years in a row, lost against No. 1 Iowa 75-64 in Iowa City. Highlen, nonetheless, was proud.

"I THOUGHT they were very well-prepared," she said. Despite 17,000 screaming fans in Iowa, OSU's players did not lose their composure, she said. They played well, but "the ball didn't go in the hoop."

Coach Nancy Darsch asked Highlen to counsel the team 2 years ago. Having a team psychologist has improved the team's ability to set goals, visualize successful performances and, most important, improve communication, Darsch said.

"You're a group of 12 or 18

people trying to accomplish a task," she said. "It's important people be on the same wavelength."

"The difference between two equally talented teams is their cohesion," Highlen said.

In fact, Highlen regularly asks the team to pair off and talk individually about good and bad aspects of their performance — a practice that concerned some players at first. They now enjoy and learn from the practice, she said.

The psychologist spends perhaps 3 hours a week with the team and coaches during basketball season, and more in off-season. She has helped the team learn to cope with days when nothing seems to go right, Darsch said.

"RATHER THAN lose your cool or lose your patience or be a screamer — which is what I would have a tendency to do," she said, Highlen has helped coaches and players look for something positive and search for a solution.

"There are only five players on the court at a time, and there can be a lot of external competition between individuals," Highlen said.

Her philosophy is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and the parts must work together if the whole is to make progress. Such a philosophy does not stifle individuality, Highlen said.

"If my teammate does well, I win as well," she said. "There is an 'I' in 'team.'"

Darsch anticipates big year

By Theresa M. Diggs
Lantern staff writer

Even with a tough schedule ahead for the OSU women's basketball team, especially tough away games, coach Nancy Darsch predicts only success for her team.

The 1988-89 OSU women's basketball schedule takes the team coast to coast, meeting up with nationally-ranked Rutgers and then UCLA two weeks later.

The team lost only one player from last year, Tracey Hall. But a few weeks ago it looked like the Buckeyes were going to have to do without another starter — Nikita Lowry.

Lowry hurt her left knee fifteen minutes into the first half of a game while playing in Taiwan for the United States Women's National Select team.

"The first indications were that Lowry would probably miss next season," Darsch said.

"It was quite a shock knowing that I would be losing two caliber players in one year," she said.

Fortunately, Lowry suffered only a tear on the cartilage which was repaired by orthoscopic surgery. "The damage was minimal which we had hoped for," Darsch said.

Lowry will spend the rest of the summer recuperating and rebuilding strength in her knee.

Darsch said Iowa will probably be the preseason favorite to win the Big Ten conference title. "Purdue looks very strong and Michigan State is coming along pretty well in Big Ten play," Darsch said.

Iowa finished first in the Big

Ten last season and Ohio State finished second. The Buckeyes lost to Maryland in the final sixteen of the NCAA tournament.

"We will be running the ball a little bit more next season," Darsch said. She said she is looking for inspiring and determined leadership, with a fighting attitude.

"Although Tracey Hall is gone and we don't have a player to fill her shoes, we do have players who can do the job," Lowry said.

"Some people might not believe this, but if everybody progresses like they are supposed to and at the same time give it their all, we can win the national championship," Lowry said.

Lowry averaged 22.2 points and 8.0 rebounds per game last year. Her career high of 36 points came



File Photo

Nancy Darsch

at Illinois last season.

Four starters and 11 letterwinners return to the team that ended the 1987-88 season ranked sixth by the Associated Press with an overall record of 25-5. The team was 16-2 in Big Ten play.

Rebounders club benefits women's team

By Lori L. Pagel
Lantern staff writer

Women's basketball at Ohio State still doesn't draw the large crowds it should, but the Rebounders Club is trying to change that.

"Very few students attend women's basketball games," said Bruce Beals, president of the club.

He said one of the club's main objectives is to boost awareness of

the women's program to the students.

Most of the people who attend the games are parents of players, junior high students, or people who have been going to the games for years, Beals said.

"People have got this stereotype of women. If you're a female and you're an athlete, you're an outcast," Beals said.

He said this stereotype is what might be keeping students away.

Kathy Lindsey, assistant coach for the women's basketball team, said the team appreciates the club's support and tries to have a coach attend the club meetings.

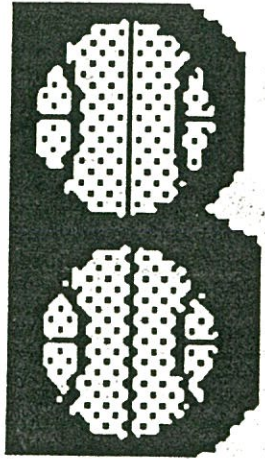
Founded in 1984, the club has grown from 20 members to 209. It has continued to promote and support women's basketball by raising money through dues and fund raisers for the athletic fund and by attending as many of the games as possible, Beals said.

He said other Big Ten schools, like Iowa and Michigan State, have similar clubs, but often when the Rebounders travel to an away game, the home crowd is surprised to see that such a large group is dedicated enough to travel with the team.

Beals said a few years ago he attended an away game with the club at Wisconsin. It was winter and more OSU fans were there than Badger fans.

the Lantern

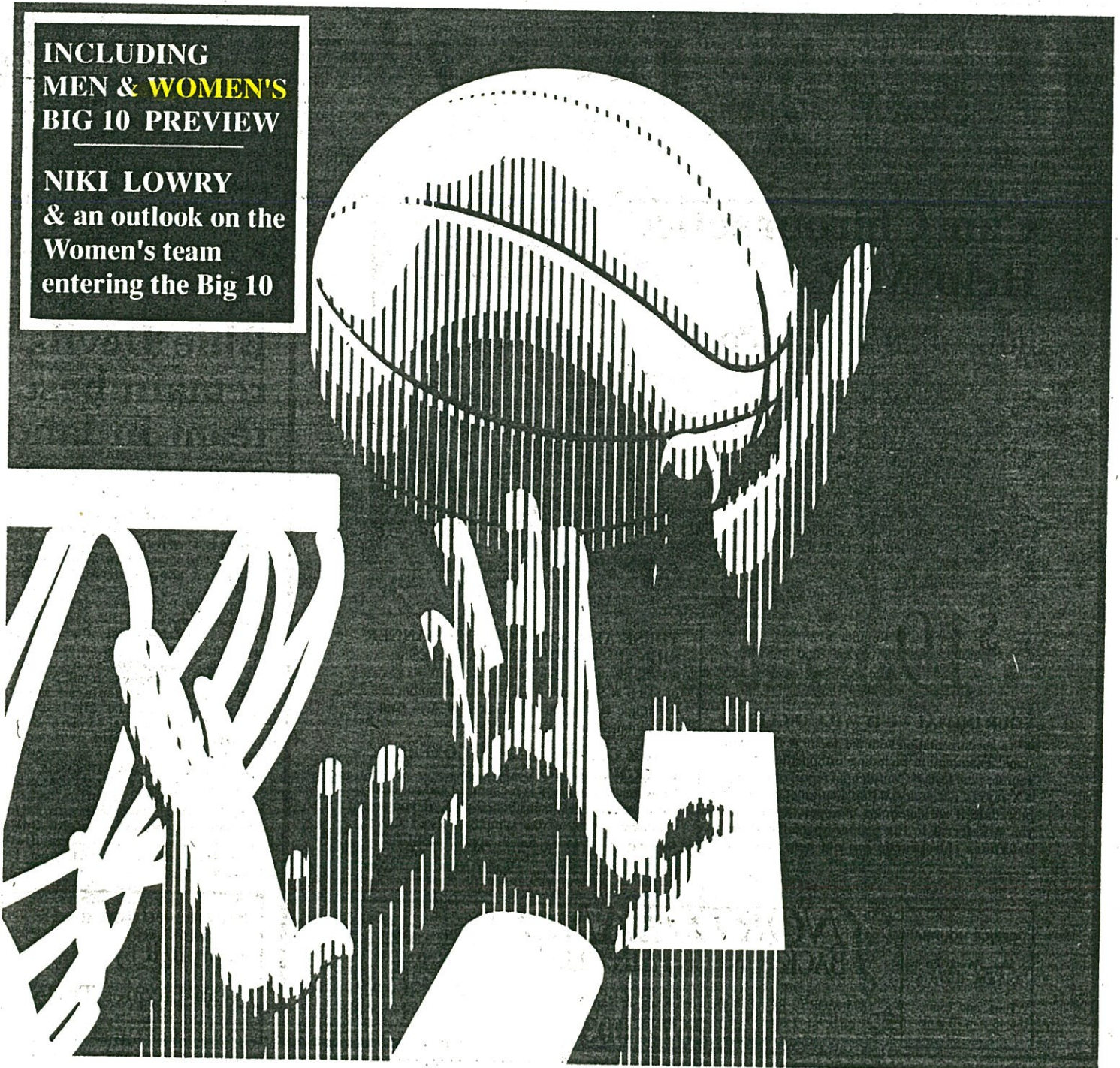
Special Supplement
January 5, 1989



uckeye basketball bulletin

INCLUDING
MEN & **WOMEN'S**
BIG 10 PREVIEW

NIKI LOWRY
& an outlook on the
Women's team
entering the Big 10



Queens of the hardwood, Big 10

Hawkeyes, Buckeyes determined to maintain dominance despite more competitive squads

By Kevin Mark Orr
Bulletin staff writer

Despite what history suggests, there will be 10 women's basketball teams competing for the Big Ten Title this season.

Since the conference began conducting a women's basketball championship in 1981-82, only Ohio State and Iowa have won Big Ten Titles.

Ohio State won the title six consecutive years from 1982-87. Iowa broke the streak last season.

Although the rest of the teams in the Big Ten have vastly improved, odds are the championship will likely be decided when the Buckeyes visit Iowa City on Jan. 15, and when the Hawkeyes come to St. John Arena, Feb. 21.

Purdue, Michigan State, Michigan, and Northwestern appear to have made enough improvement to challenge the "Big Two".

Despite the loss of All-American guard and national player-of-the-year Michelle Edwards from last year's 29-2 squad, defending Big Ten Champion Iowa is looking to start its own title streak.

The Hawkeyes return three starters, including pre-season All-Big Ten selections junior Franthea Price, a 5-foot-11 inch guard that averaged 13.6 points and 5.8 rebounds a game, and senior forward Shanda Berry, 6-3 (14.5 ppg and 8.5 rebs.).

Coach Vivian Stringer's squad also returns starter sophomore Jolette Law 5-3 (8.4 ppg and 3.2 rebs.), and two of her top substitutes 5-9 junior guard Robin Christian and 5-3 sophomore guard Stephanie Schueler.

Looking to reclaim their top spot in the Big Ten standings, Coach Nancy Darsch's Ohio State Buckeyes are the most experienced team in the conference, returning four starters and five

seniors.

Although the Buckeyes lost 1988 All-American forward Tracey Hall, the cupboard is stocked with pre-season All-American and All-Big Ten forward Nikita Lowry 6-0 (22.2 ppg and 8 rebs.), and pre-season All-Big Ten guard Lisa Cline 5-11 (14 ppg and 3.5 rebs.), along with starters Nicole Sanchez and Liana Coutts, who are all seniors.

Filling Hall's void will be difficult. Sophomores Stacie Bruce (6-2), Vicki Pullie (6-0), and senior Geneva Sanford (5-10) will each take a shot at easing Hall's departure.

Beating Ohio State on its home court has been virtually impossible for Big Ten teams. The Buckeyes are riding a 54-game home Big Ten winning streak, and have a 63-1 overall home record.

After leading Purdue to a third-place Big Ten finish, and to the finals of the National Invitational Tournament, second year coach Lin Dunn is looking to establish a perennial title contender.

Losing three of their top scorers, including All-Big Ten center Christa LeCroix won't help, but returning starters Jill Sauer, a 6-1 forward, and Anne Kvachoff, a 5-9 guard, along with a great crop of freshmen, hope to keep the Boilermakers on the winning track.

Challenging for a starting spot at power forward will be 6-3 sophomore, Rhonda Mateen, sister of Ohio State men's basketball player Grady Mateen.

Sophomores Joy Holmes of Mansfield and Erika Brooks 5-11, sister of former Indiana standout Delray Brooks, will compete for the small forward spot.

Karen Langeland, 1988 Big Ten Coach-of-the-Year, who guided Michigan State to its highest Big Ten finish ever, fourth, lost her two top scorers from last year, but is loaded with

experience.

Of Michigan State's 13 players on its roster, 10 lettered last year.

Starters junior Carlotta Taylor, a 5-6 guard, senior Dawn DeYoung, a 6-2 center, and senior Cynthia Lyons, a 5-7 guard, will most likely be joined by 6-4 senior center Sue Forsyth, which will cause DeYoung to move to power forward.

The other forward spot is up for grabs. If Langeland chooses Letitia Plummer, a 6-0 junior, who played in 20 of the Spartans 28 games last season, Michigan State will have the tallest front-line in the Big Ten.

Coach Don Perrelli's Northwestern squad returns its top two scorers, but loses three starters from last year's 14-13 club.

Junior Kelly Cole, a 5-6 guard (13 ppg), and senior Carrie Lawless, a 6-0 forward (13.7 ppg), will depend on a freshmen class that was ranked as fourth-best in the nation by Blue Star Index, as to how good the Wildcats will be.

After years of futility, last seasons 14-14 record, and a sixth-place tie in the Big Ten, has Michigan thinking of post-season tournaments.

Coach Bud Van De Wege has three starters returning, sort of.

Junior Tempie Brown, a 5-8 guard (14.8 ppg), and junior Tanya Powell, a 5-11 forward, from last season's squad, while senior Lorea Feldman, a 6-0 forward, who is fourth on the all-time Michigan scoring list, returns after sitting out last year to concentrate on her studies.

First-year coach Jim Izard must make a major overhaul of the Indiana program to satisfy the basketball crazy Hoosier faithful.

Losing top scorer Cindy Bumgarner and her 18 points a game only makes his job that much tougher.

Senior Ann Mooney, a 5-7 guard,



Courtesy Sports Information

Vivian Stringer

and senior Pam Fritz, a 5-7 guard, both averaged 8.1 ppg, will be joined by veteran, but inexperienced teammates.

Minnesota, and second year coach LaRue Fields, returns leading scorer junior Lea Blackwell, a 5-7 guard (11.3 ppg), from last season's 9-18 team.

Junior Jackie Goulet, a 5-11 forward, is the only other starter returning on a Gopher team that features eight players that have not played a minute for Minnesota.

If Illinois coach Laura Golden could buy experience in a bottle, she would order a case.

The Fighting Illini (9-19) return two starters, senior Dee Dee Deeken (10.9 ppg), a 5-4 forward, and junior Kristan Haynes (6.6 ppg), a 5-6 guard, are the only teammates with any substantial playing time.

Although Wisconsin had a 4-24 record last season, third-year coach Mary Murphy had five teammates who gained valuable playing time.

Of this group, sophomore Kay Fredrickson was named Big Ten Freshman-of-the-Year, and looks to lead the Badgers this season.

Lowry's aura needed for Buckeyes success

Ohio State's women's basketball team can not win the Big Ten championship without senior forward Nikita Lowry.

And it's not necessarily because of the points she scores (22.2 last season), the rebounds she pulls down (8.0) or her defensive play (77 steals).

No, Lowry has the same intrinsic value to the Buckeyes that all great players have. Her presence on the court immediately elevates the play of her teammates.

When Lowry missed the Buckeyes (7-3) first five games of the season because of a stretched ligament in her left knee, the Buckeyes faltered. She injured the knee playing in an all-star basketball tournament in Taiwan this summer. At one point, she briefly considered the possibility of red-shirting this year.

The Lowry-less Buckeyes began the season 2-3 with losses to Rutgers, Illinois State in the championship game of the Buckeye Classic, and Cincinnati. If senior forward Lisa

Cline had not made an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer the visiting Buckeyes would not have defeated Kentucky.

A 1-4 start could have devastated this team's confidence.

After the loss to Cincinnati, the team's confidence and Buckeyes' ship looked ready to sink.

Aside from Cline, who averaged more than 20 points per game this

of its pre-season ranking. They will, however, need more victories to impress the media and return to the Top 20. The Buckeyes received one vote in last week's AP rankings.

The Lowry factor is an intriguing one.

And it takes on additional significance this season because Lowry's knee is nowhere near 100 percent, which drastically increases the prospect of re-injuring it.

She has already gone down twice — once during a preseason practice and last Friday against Colorado — since practice began in mid-October. The preseason injury kept her from practicing for about two weeks and pushed back her rehabilitation forcing her to miss the start of the season. At presstime, the extent of the injury she sustained against Colorado had not been diagnosed.

The odd thing about the "Lowry Factor" is not just that the team looks up to her as a team leader, but that a team with four other seniors can't

COMMENTARY

season, the Buckeyes don't have a consistent scorer.

Vicki Pulley might have a good game one night, Geneva Sanford the next, and Nicole Sanchez the next, but none of these players has shown they can consistently score in double figures against the better teams.

Then Lowry returned to the lineup and the Buckeyes have won five consecutive non-conference games. They are playing like a team worthy

provide the necessary leadership when Lowry's out of the line-up.

The "Lowry Factor" didn't just come about this season, it has been in effect since her freshman season, during the Tracey Hall era.

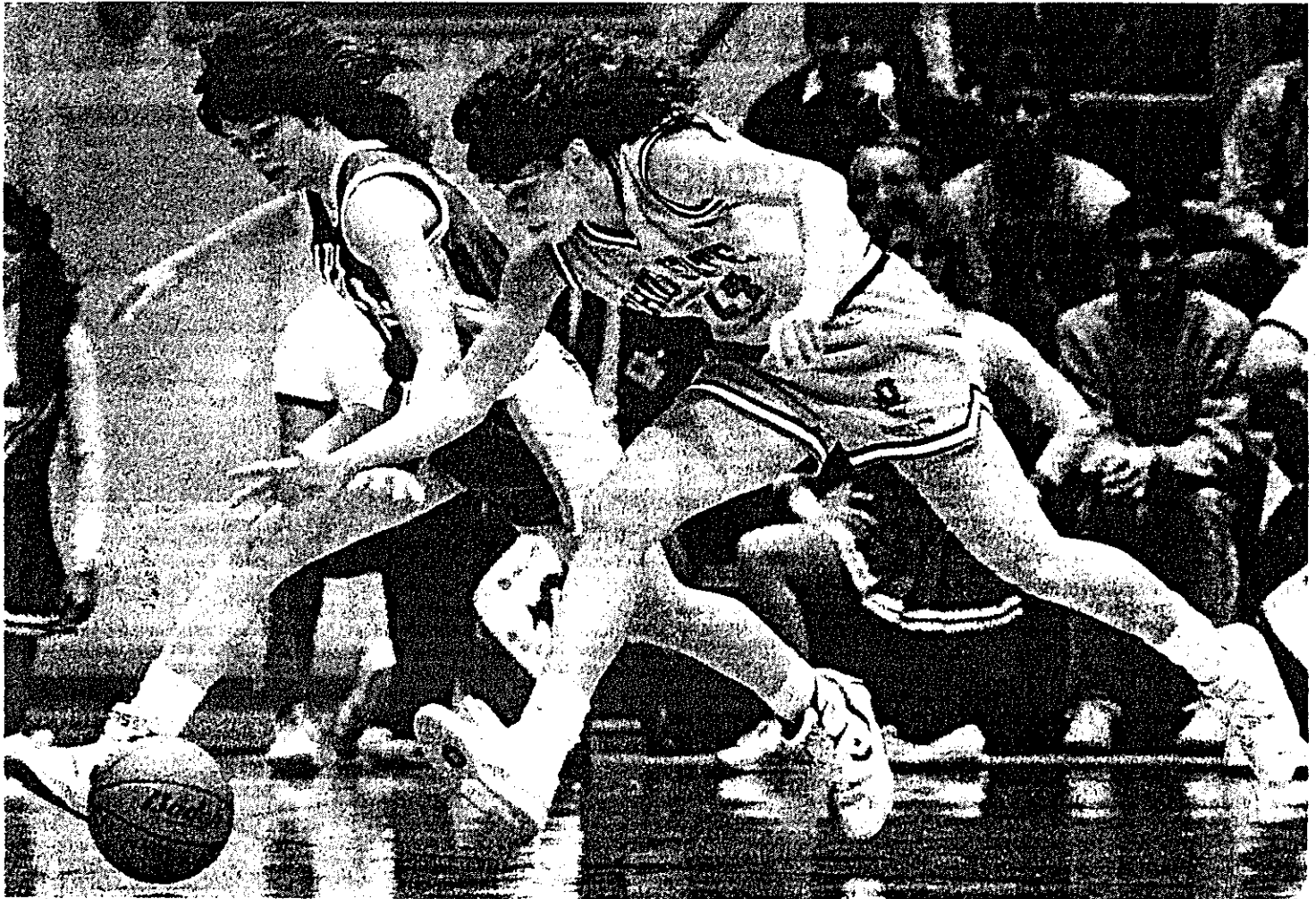
During those years, Lowry didn't start but was Ohio State's "super sub" because whenever she entered the game it always seemed to coincide with an OSU scoring spree.

Whatever the players see in Lowry it works.

When Lowry is missing from the lineup, the Buckeyes are a less than average team. With Lowry in the lineup the Buckeyes have a legitimate shot at winning the Big Ten championship for the seventh time in eight years.

If that's going to happen, Coach Nancy Darsch had better pray she can keep Lowry healthy.

Kevin Orr is a senior from Columbus majoring in journalism.



Senior forward Lisa Cline shields a Marshall player from the ball in a victory over Marshall. Cline scored a

career-high 35 points against the Thundering Herd.

Kevin Dye/The Bulletin

Lowry motor behind Buckeyes

By Kevin Mark Orr
Lantern staff writer

Like an old car, it took the OSU women's basketball team a little time to warm up before it began running on all cylinders.

After a 2-3 debut that included a 20-point loss at Rutgers and an embarrassing defeat to host Cincinnati, the Buckeyes reeled off five consecutive victories.

But the slow start cost Ohio State more than victories--it cost the team its pre-season national ranking. Ohio State was ranked as high as fourth by Sports Illustrated.

The win streak coincides with the return of Nikita Lowry, Ohio State's pre-season All-American forward.

Lowry, who is averaging 15.3 points a game, missed the first five games and most of pre-season practice, due to a stretched ligament in her left knee. She suffered that injury during the summer in an international tournament.

Although the Buckeyes have had great success in the past with Lowry in the line-up, Lisa Cline has helped the team bounce back

with a 7-3 record.

Cline, Ohio State's leading scorer, is averaging 22.7 points a game. She scored a career-high 35 against Marshall two weeks ago.

A major disappointment thus far has been the lack of scoring from the point guard position, shared by sophomore Cheryl Perozek (1.5 ppg), and seniors Liana Coutts (4.6 ppg), and Gennifer Johnson (0.8 ppg).

A big question heading into Big Ten play will be the health of Lowry and Johnson.

Both were injured during the Buckeyes 72-67 victory over Colorado in Boulder, Colo., on Dec. 28.

Lowry re-injured her knee to an undetermined extent with less than a minute to play in game. Johnson left early in the contest with a concussion.

Both players were absent in Ohio State's 63-46 victory over UCLA last Friday.

The Buckeye's slow start, plus the uncertainty of having two starters missing from the line-up, might put some added pressure on the Buckeyes to win the Big Ten championship. A Big Ten championship would gain the team an automatic bid to the NCAA Tour-



Kevin Dye/The Bulletin

All-American forward Niki Lowry missed the Buckeyes' first five games with a stretched ligament in her left knee. Lowry, who missed the team's

first five games is averaging 15 points per game and providing plenty of leadership.

ament.

Unlike the men's tournament, which consists of 64 teams, the

women only have 40 openings. Most of these openings are taken by league champions, meaning few at-large-bids are extended.

SPORTS

Lady Buckeyes face tough schedule

By Jack Renz
Lantern sports reporter

The 1989-90 OSU Women's Basketball schedule is officially out, and it proves to be an interesting and exciting season for the Lady Buckeyes.

The team, starting its fifth season under the direction of Head Women's Basketball Coach Nancy Darsch, last season compiled a record of 24-6 overall, and 16-2 in the Big Ten, which also included a trip to the NCAA tournament.

The eight letterwinners and six newcomers who will play on the court at St. John Arena, will take on a 31-game schedule which includes five nationally ranked teams from the 1988-89 season.

Starting November 16 the women open at home with some international competition. The

1989-90 OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 24-25 at Nebraska Tournament (Nebraska, St. Louis, Georgia); Nov. 28 Kentucky; Dec. 2-3 Buckeye Classic (LSU, Syracuse, Colorado); Dec. 9 at Illinois State; Dec. 14 at Texas; Dec. 17 at Marshall; Dec. 20 UCLA; Dec. 30 Penn State.; Jan. 5 at Northwestern; Jan. 7 at Wisconsin; Jan. 12 Michigan; Jan. 14 Michigan State; Jan. 19 at Purdue; Jan. 21 at Illinois; Jan. 26 Minnesota; Jan. 28 Iowa; Feb. 2 Indiana; Feb. 9 at Michigan State; Feb. 11 at Michigan; Feb. 16 Illinois; Feb. 18 Purdue; Feb. 23 at Iowa; Feb. 25 at Minnesota; Mar. 2 at Indiana; Mar. 8 Wisconsin; Mar. 10 Northwestern.

Lantern graphic by Steve Helwagen

Czechoslovakian Women's National Team enters the arena as a warm-up into a tough schedule.

"I don't know much about them, but I do know all the foreign teams are going to play a up-tempo, physical type of game," Darsch said.

"It will give us a chance to put on the uniforms for real and play against someone other than ourselves. Hopefully we can get

one good game under us before we enter the Nebraska Tournament with Georgia who is also some stiff competition."

The Lady Buckeyes compete with Kentucky at home on the 28th of November, and then contend with their own Buckeye Classic December 2-3 at St. John Arena. The Buckeyes will host LSU, Colorado and Syracuse in the Classic.

The Lady Buckeyes host two tough home games when UCLA and state neighbors Penn State enter St. John Arena on the 20th and 30th of December.

The ladies open league play as defending Big Ten Co-champions when they travel to Northwestern on Jan. 5.

The perennial state battle between OSU and Iowa, which attracted 10,461 fans to St. John Arena last year (the second-largest crowd in OSU history for a women's game), will be fought on Jan. 28. Ohio State visits Iowa on Feb. 23.



John Garwig/the Lantern

Pro golfer Nancy Lopez (holding the basketball sweatshirt) was in Columbus Wednesday and met with members of the OSU women's basketball team at Battelle Park in downtown Columbus.

1989

CAMPUS NIGHT!!!

OHIO STATE

Women's Basketball

VS.

Czechoslovakian National Team

Thursday

November 16

7:30 p.m.

St. John Arena

ALL SEATS \$1.00 WITH VALID OHIO STATE I.D.

The Ohio State Women's Basketball Team would like to extend the special \$1.00 ticket price to all OHIO STATE ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY, STAFF, and STUDENTS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 292-2624



CAMPUS NIGHT!!!

Seminars help athletes

By Joe Abraham
Lantern staff writer

Once a week, the players and coaches on the OSU women's basketball team attend a seminar on sports psychology. The seminar helps mentally prepare the players to play basketball, said Pam Highlen, an associate professor of psychology.

Highlen, who has been the team's sports psychologist for three years, said the team has worked with a psychologist for six years.

While physical conditioning and nutrition are important aspects of sports, the condition of a player's mind is just as important, said Highlen.

Performance and outcome goals are also important aspects of the seminars, she said. For example, winning the Big Ten is an outcome goal, but trying to out-rebound an opponent is a performance goal.

"If you focus on the performance goals it tends to make you achieve the outcome goals," Highlen said.

The seminars also focus on cooperation and communication.

"It emphasizes working together as a unit to be the best you can

be," she said. "And whether you are on the bench or in the starting lineup, you will have an important role to play.

"I think it is often times easy to avoid trying to deal with one another directly," said Highlen, "especially with negative or constructive feedback."

"We do a lot of work to keep the lines of communication open, which is important so that we don't have the team losing for the wrong reasons," she said.

Highlen said a lack of communication between the players and coaches can result in misunderstandings that might carry over onto the basketball court.

"To be able to talk directly in an appropriate way in terms of positive and negative things is a cornerstone of what we do," she said.

Each player uses the information differently, said OSU women's basketball Coach Nancy Darsch.

"Some of the players will transfer some of the things they learn in sports psych off the court for studying, for exams or relaxation or whatever," Darsch said. "But I think for the most part it benefits the players in the gym."

"I think it's really helpful when

we're trying to find out what role each member on the team plays," said senior Nikita Lowry.

The seminars have also helped the players to be more direct and honest with Darsch, Lowry said.

"We do stuff like mental imagery, said freshman Jai Jones. "If you're a bad free-throw shooter, picture yourself at the line in a pressure situation and shooting and making it 10 times in a row.

"And then you come in the next day and shoot the free throws and you're more relaxed," Jones said.

Sports psychology is now accepted as a legitimate part of sports, said Highlen.

"I think anyone who has watched the Olympics over the last 10 or 15 years has seen an increasing emphasis and respect given to the role of psychologists in working with teams and coaches," Highlen said.

"I think we have been a little bit slower than other countries to adopt it, but I think the bottom line is more and more professional and intercollegiate teams are using sports psychologists as they would team managers or doctors," Highlen said.

Sanchez only returning starter for OSU women

By Jack Renz
Lantern sports reporter

After coming off a highly successful 1988-89 season as Big Ten co-champions, the OSU women's basketball team must now adjust to having six new faces added to their roster.

The six new faces joining the team include sophomore Erica Floyd and freshmen Audrey Burcy, Nichole Keyton, Averill Roberts, Lisa Sebastian and Monica Taylor.

With an overall record of 24-6 and 16-2 in the Big Ten, the largest task for the Lady Buckeyes this season is replacing four starters that represented 65 percent of the total offense and 61 percent of the teams total rebounding.

Coach Nancy Darsch said the job of replacing players like Lisa Cline and Nikita Lowry, who averaged 19.7 and 19.1 points last season, will be hard to overcome.

"I really don't think you can replace people like that, you do the best you can with what you have," Darsch said. "I think we have some very exciting ball players on our team this season. It is just a matter of who will get the job done for us."

Darsch said her team is more balanced and well rounded this year.

"This season the team is faster and more diversified."

Darsch also said the Lady Buckeyes must learn to come together and doing this is going to take some time. She said all her players must be ready and willing to step in and take some responsibility for the team.

Darsch said that coming together is a growing process of getting to know each other and



Nicole Sanchez

File photo

learning to communicate as a team. She said the Lady Buckeyes must learn to respect each other on and off the court.

"It is going to require a lot of effort, from all of us," said Darsch. "Anytime you try to blend in six new personalities, it takes time to come together. Usually when you have growth you have pain involved, and there are definitely going to be some good times and some bad times."

Darsch said the need for these young players to gain experience is essential for this team to be successful and that the step between high school and college basketball is tremendous.

"It is a whole different intensity



Nancy Darsch

File photo

level, physically and emotionally," Darsch said. "The amount of physical contact, and the size of the players along with the quality of play is in an entirely different class."

Nicole Sanchez, a 6-1 senior who last season averaged 9.7 points and 4.5 rebounds per game is the only returning starter.

Darsch said Sanchez will definitely be one of the leaders on the team.

"She is like a coach on the floor," Darsch said. "She sees and analyzes things very well and has a good overview of the game. She is someone that I will turn to for input and opinion, to get the players perspective."

Darsch also feels that Sanchez will be the heart of the defense.

Coming off the bench this year is senior Mindy Smith, juniors Stacie Bruce, Cheryl Perozek and Vicki Pullie.

Darsch said she looks for these players to fight for playing time and improve their games this season.

"They all have had good games and they all have had impressive contests," she said. "Now they should be at the experience and maturity level where they should try to make every game their best game."

Darsch said she is going to keep her team's game plan simple due to all the new faces coming in. She said she was able to experiment with some new things when she coached the Women's Olympic Festival Basketball Team last summer.

"I think coaching the Olympic Festival team was a timely experience for me," Darsch said. "I was coaching 12 new faces and the emphasis had to be on teaching and explaining, something which I think is a strength of mine. It got me ready for this season in having the same approach for this team."

Darsch said she wouldn't make any predictions, but the goals for this season's team are going to be the same as they always have been.

"To win the Big Ten and be in the NCAA tournament," she said. "We are going after everybody on the schedule, because everybody is going to be coming after us."

Lowry, Cline win women's basketball MVP award

Perozek captures 6th player award

By Don Oda
Lantern sports writer

Lisa Cline and Niki Lowry were selected co-Most Valuable Players at the OSU women's basketball awards banquet at the Ohio Union Wednesday night.

Lowry, a senior from Detroit, and Cline, a senior from Millersburg, were both unanimous selections to the first team all-Big Ten squad and hold the No.3 and No.4 spots respectively on the Ohio State all-time scoring list.

Coach Nancy Darsch said both seniors were major contributors in the Buckeyes' 24-6 record (16-2 in the Big Ten) and the conference title shared with Iowa this season.

"It's tough to say more than what the award Most Valuable Player says," Darsch said. "We're going to miss their points and rebounds. They gave visibility and leadership to the team that is going to be difficult to even come close to replacing."

Lowry, 21, is no stranger to the MVP award. She also cap-

tured the honor last season.

Lowry, a Kodak Division I All-American, led the Big Ten scoring chart for the second consecutive year with an average of 18.9 points per game and had a NCAA tournament average of 30 points.

Lowry said winning the award this year gives her an extra sense of accomplishment because of the injuries she has had to overcome this season and commented on the difficulty of deciding on such an award for just one individual.

"I'm glad I got to share this honor with Lisa," Lowry said. "It's so hard to single out one person for an award like this. The award means even more to me this year after battling back from my knee injury early in the season."

Cline, 22, OSU's leading scorer averaging 19.7 points per game, was named Big Ten Player-of-the-Year. Cline said both her and Lowry put forth a lot of effort to earn such a prestigious award.

"The MVP is a great honor to win in my last year at Ohio State," said Cline. "We both worked really hard this year and I think the award is well deserved by both of us."

The Best Defensive Player of

the Year Award was also given to Lisa Cline for the third consecutive year in recognition of her 89 steals this season, bringing her career high to the No.3 position on the OSU all-time list with 237.

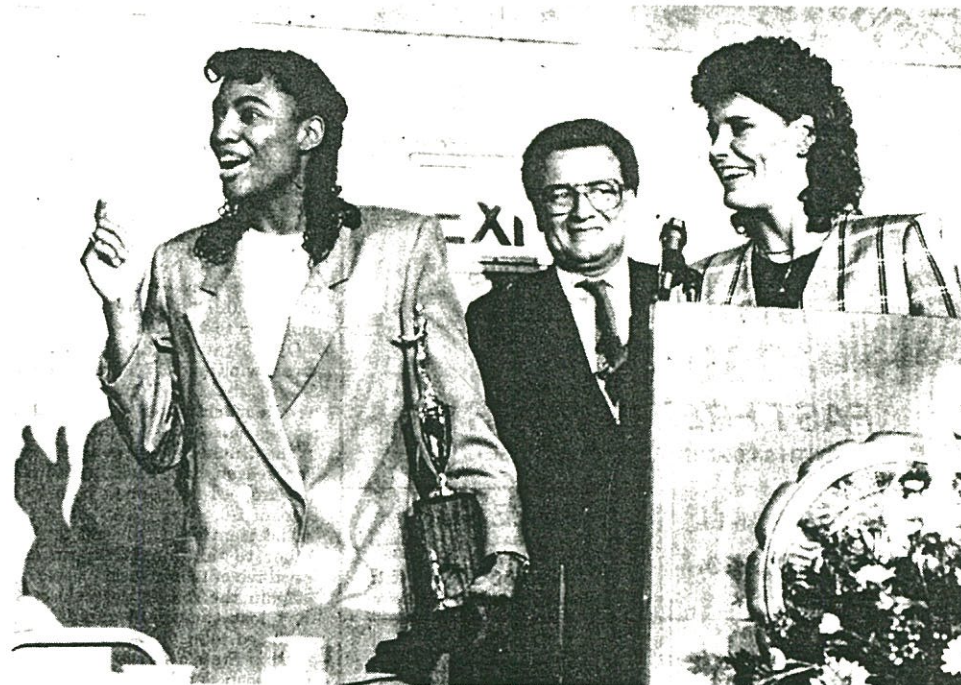
Senior team captain Geneva Sanford was also honored at the banquet with the William E. Brown Memorial Leadership Award. This award is given to the player who best embodies dedication, teamwork, unselfishness and leadership.

The Sixth Player Award, which recognizes the efforts of a non-starting player, went to sophomore Cheryl Perozek. She played in 29 games averaging 14 minutes.

Junior Mindy Smith walked away with the Most Improved Player Award for the second time in her career at Ohio State. Smith, who also won the award her freshman year, ranked fifth in the Big Ten this season in blocked shots with 17.

Ohio State finished the season with a loss in the NCAA tournament to Long Beach State after beating James Madison in its opening game.

The Buckeyes were ranked ninth in the final USA Today poll after being either left out of the poll or between 15th and 20th for most of the season.



Nikita Lowry, left, and Lisa Cline, share a light moment with Russell Spillman, vice provost for student affairs, after Spillman presented

Lowry and Cline with co-MVP awards at the Ohio Union Wednesday night.

William Outlaw/the Lantern

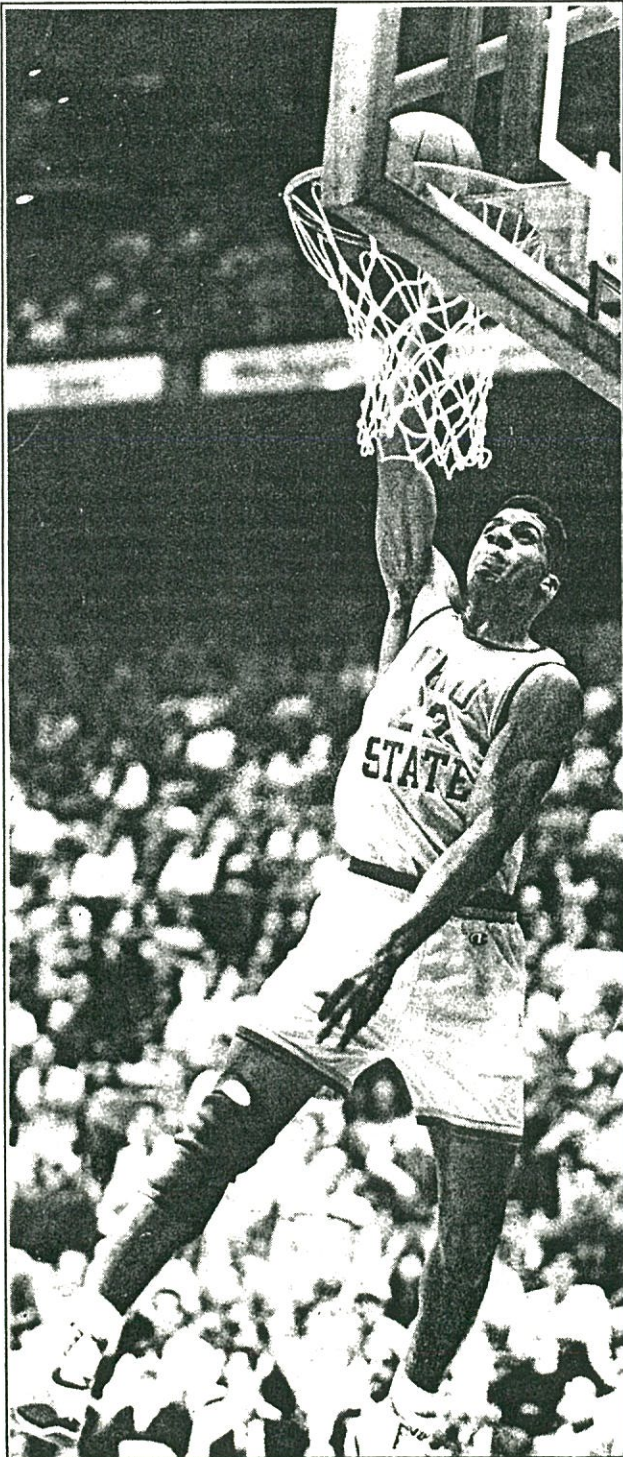


BUCKEYE ASKETBALL BULLETIN

The Lantern
Thursday, January 4, 1990

INSIDE

- OSU team previews
- Big Ten previews
- Player profiles on
Alex Davis and
Mindy Smith



Jim Jackson



Vicki Pullie

Women's team working for big year

Led by several improved veterans and an infusion of newcomers, the OSU women's basketball team built a 6-4 record in the non-conference season. OSU coach Nancy Darsch is not altogether pleased with where the Buckeyes stand, though.

"We're not really happy with 6-4," she said. "We wanted to be at least 7-3 heading into the Big Ten season. There are several parts of our game that need improvement."

Darsch is in her fifth season at Ohio State. She received her 100th career win in a triple overtime thriller over Kentucky early this season.

The Buckeyes opened the season with an 88-78 loss to No. 3 Georgia at the Nebraska Tournament. A four-game winning streak, which included wins over St. Louis, Kentucky, Syracuse, and No. 16 Louisiana State, followed.

The LSU win gave the Buckeyes their third Buckeye Classic tournament victory and has been the high water mark for Ohio State in the early going.

The prosperity did not last long as blow-out losses at Illinois State and No. 6 Texas followed. The rest of the OSU roller coaster ride has included wins over Marshall and UCLA and a 93-78 loss to Penn State last week.

The Penn State loss was particularly painful to accept as Ohio State played without its two leading scorers — Mindy Smith and Vicki Pullie — due to injuries.

Smith, a 6-5 senior center, averaged 14 points and just over six rebounds in the first nine games but has been sidelined due to a nerve problem.

Pullie, a 6-foot junior averaging 13.9 points and four rebounds, missed the Penn State game due to shin splints.

"They are day-to-day right now," Darsch said. "They have been able to practice some, but we know that they are conditions that are not going to go away."

Darsch has been happy with Smith's improvement — she averaged just five points and 2.5 rebounds last year.

"Mindy has really improved the last two seasons and has done a good job in maintaining that improvement this year," she said.

Senior Nicole Sanchez, a 6-1 forward, was the team's only returning starter. She is averaging 12 points and a team-high 7.6 rebounds per game.

"As our only returning starter, Nicole has added a certain experience quality on the floor," Darsch said. "She's working hard for her to be our leading rebounder. We would like to see her increase her offensive rebounding and her scoring total."

Several newcomers have made an im-

pression for the Buckeyes. Freshman guard Averill Roberts is averaging 10.5 points per game, while freshman Audrey Burcy is scoring 6.9 per outing.

"Averill Roberts has shown flashes of good play at times early in the season," Darsch said. "Audrey Burcy has done some nice things for us. She's capable of providing good defense pressure from the

point guard position."

Junior Stacie Bruce, a 6-2 center, had her best performance of the year against Penn State, scoring 25 points and grabbing six rebounds. Junior Cheryl Perozek (5-5) has started every game and is averaging 4.7 points and 5.3 assists per game.

Darsch sees a wide open Big Ten race and knows her team will have to play up to

its potential to compete for the title.

"We definitely have to try and beat everyone. With the way we've played so far, there are no 'gimmees' on our schedule," she said.

"The key teams appear to be Iowa and Purdue. Northwestern, Indiana and Michigan State also look like they'll have good seasons."



Nicole Sanchez

1989-90 OSU Women's Basketball Team

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	G	Pts.	Reb.
23 Mindy Smith	C	6-5	Sr.	9	14.0	6.4
34 Vicki Pullie	F	6-0	Jr.	9	13.9	4.3
25 Nicole Sanchez	F	6-1	Sr.	10	12.0	7.6
22 Averill Roberts	G	5-9	Fr.	10	10.5	3.2
20 Stacie Bruce	C	6-2	Jr.	10	7.1	5.6
15 Audrey Burey	G	5-6	Fr.	10	6.9	2.1
14 Cheryl Perozek	G	5-5	Jr.	10	4.7	2.1
30 Monica Taylor	F	6-0	Fr.	8	2.8	1.9
50 Nichole Keyton	F	6-0	Fr.	9	2.3	2.1
40 Erica Floyd	F	6-0	So.	5	1.4	2.0
35 Jill Snavely	G	5-8	So.	10	1.3	0.8
24 Lisa Sebastian	G	5-5	Fr.	7	0.0	0.4
12 Kelly Lang	G	5-8	Fr.	1	0.0	0.0

Smith consistent in senior season

By Mike Wachsman
Bulletin staff writer

Ohio State senior Mindy Smith has gone from nearly losing it all to doing it all for the OSU women's basketball team.

The 6-foot-5 native of Pataskala was the team's leading scorer through the first nine games this season, averaging 14.0 points per game and was second in rebounding with 6.4 per contest.

The Buckeyes sported a 6-3 record through those first nine games and Smith was a major reason for that start that included an upset of No. 14 LSU at the Buckeye Classic.

While things are definitely looking up for Smith, such was not the case last year. She averaged just 4.9 points and 2.5 rebounds, not bad statistics. But, she had been sidelined much of her sophomore year for academic difficulties.

When she thought she was going to be ineligible as a junior, she resigned herself to the possibility that her academic and basketball careers might be over.

She later found out that an instructor had made a grading error, and that she would indeed be eligible. But at the time, she was ready to pack it in.

"I felt like it was the end of the world," Smith said. "I felt like I had failed, like I hadn't tried and let everyone down. I let the coaches down, I let my family and my teammates down. I really felt like I had hit rock bottom. It was just drastic to me."

"I was ready to quit, to give it all up, both basketball and school. I got a lot of support from my teammates and I was able to pull it out. It's such a different feeling because I'm so happy now. Things are coming together now. I'm playing well and everybody on the team is getting along well. It's a completely different extreme."

She has put the past behind her and is looking only toward the goal of winning another Big Ten title. But had she followed through with her plan to throw it all away, she knows she would have regretted it the rest of her life.

"I had pretty much made up my mind that I was going to quit," Smith said. "I had it all planned out. I went in and told Nancy (Darsch) and she said, 'Well, you have to tell your teammates. I'm not doing it.'"

"I had to go into the locker room and there was a row of chairs there. I had to face everybody. It was not fun. It was very tough. I saw all the support and they were telling me why I shouldn't quit and why they wanted me to stay. I thought about it and said I can't leave these people, I can't turn my back on them. I decided that whether or not I'd be able to work it out with my teachers, I was going to stay."

It was at that moment that the 1989 Mindy Smith was born.

"It made me want it a lot more," Smith said. "I realized for the first time how important basketball was to me and how important these people were to me. It took on a whole new meaning for me."

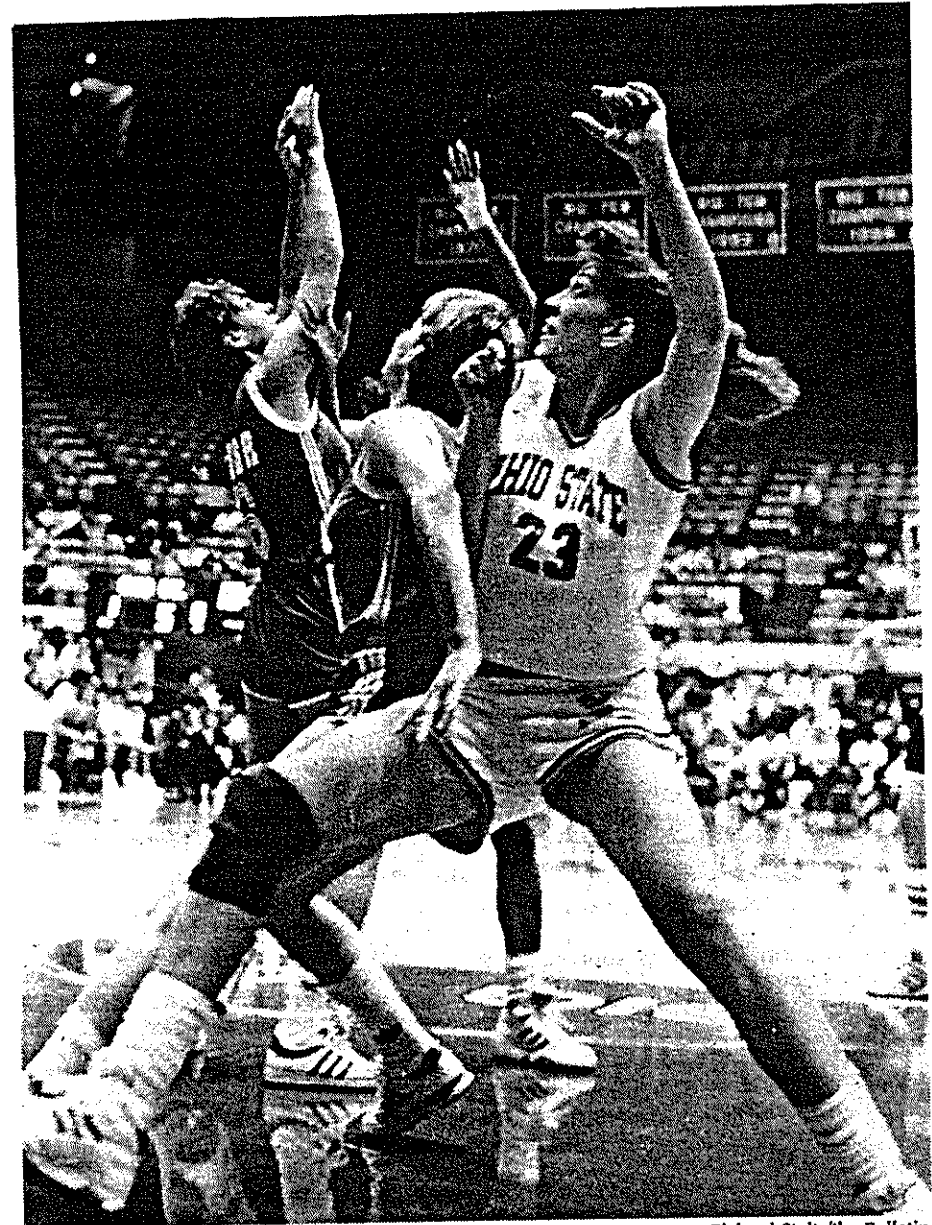
"I'm still close academically, but I think I'm all right. It's easy to bring your grade point down and hard to bring it back up. But I'm getting along better than I was before. I think my consistency and aggressiveness on the court have taught me to be the same way in my studies. I'm doing the best I can, that's all I can ask of myself."

Smith played in the shadows of stars like Tracey Hall, Niki Lowry and Lisa Cline during her first three seasons at OSU. Now she is on a mission to prove that she can play like people expect.

"I always pretty much knew I could do it," she said. "My problem was I was never consistent. That was because I let things get me down so easily. I just want to go out on a good note this year. I want to have a good senior season."

"Since we don't have one or two people we can count on each game, this team has to be more balanced. If I can be more consistent each game, we have a good shot."

See SMITH: page 11



OSU center Mindy Smith

Richard Steits/the Bulletin

Good shots are what Smith has been taking, leading the team with a 65.1 field goal percentage (54 of 83). She has always been a good shooter, never hitting less than 55 percent in any season. That consistency may have been a factor in her teammates choosing her as a tri-captain along with Nicole Sanchez and Cheryl Perozek.

"I was a little surprised that my teammates thought enough of me to vote me captain. I'm happy they feel they can turn to me if they need anything, on or off the court," she said.

Buckeyes head coach Nancy Darsch said that the coaching staff has always believed in the ability of Smith and felt this would be her year to shine.

"We've believed for two years that Mindy could play this way," Darsch said. "It was just a matter of seeing it happen. I've always found that Mindy plays better when she starts, so that has something to do with it."

Smith's expanded court time has made her approach to the game a little different than when she was a reserve. It has worked in her favor, as she has been named to two all-tournament teams and was given the most valuable player award for the Buckeye Classic.

"I'm pleased with my play, obviously," Smith said. "I just want to be able to keep it up. I'm not letting it go to my head or anything, because at any given time, it can all be gone. I have worked hard, so I've earned where I'm at. I've paid my dues. I think this is my time."

Smith honed her game by participating in summer camps. Some of the activities consisted of pickup games, sometimes against men. There were also other women of Smith's height there, something she doesn't encounter too often in her trips around the Big Ten.



Mindy Smith

"I worked at a camp in Kansas as well as one in Michigan," she said. "This is the second year in a row that I've worked at summer camps. The camp counselors are women who play professionally overseas and guys, too. It was a really competitive situation, which has ended up helping me this year."

Smith knows this year's team, which lost most of its offensive firepower to graduation, is not expected to do a whole lot. She said it is just fine that experts are overlooking the Buckeyes and are picking them as low as fourth in the conference.

"I am so sick of hearing all that preseason stuff," Smith said. "We lost 65 percent of our offense, but it's not like we've never played the game before. The people like Nicole and Cheryl and Vicki (Pullie) — people who didn't do a whole lot of scoring last year because of our starters — are capable of scoring. They just haven't had the opportunity until now."

"It's just going to be so much more balanced. We can have four or five people scoring in double figures consistently, which is what we're going to need."



OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



January 3, 1990

Dear Ohio State Faculty and Staff:

On Friday, January 12 our team will be hosting The University of Michigan in St. John Arena. This game, which begins at 1:30 p.m., will mark the first ESPN live broadcast of a Women's Basketball game in Ohio State's history.

The game will also provide us the opportunity to showcase the great fan support Women's Basketball has enjoyed over the years here at Ohio State! We are both appreciative and proud of the attendance at our home games. Some 58,000 plus fans came to watch us in action last season, placing the Buckeyes fourth in the nation in average home attendance. We give our loyal fans much of the credit for our 63-0 home record in Big Ten Conference games--in fact, we have never lost a conference game in St. John Arena!

To mark the event of our first home appearance on ESPN, I'd like to personally invite you to the game to help cheer us on to victory over the Wolverines. The Department of Athletics is offering a special \$1.00 ticket price to all Ohio State Faculty and Staff.

I hope that you will be able to join us for this Big Ten matchup. Your support would be greatly appreciated as we go after another Conference championship!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'Nancy Darsch'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Darsch
Head Coach
Women's Basketball

OSU women pass 1st test in tourney

Buckeyes top Salukis 73-61
with defense, balanced attack

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Defense prevailed again as the Ohio State women's basketball team clamped down for a 73-61 win over Southern Illinois in a first-round game of the NCAA Tournament last night in St. John Arena.

The Buckeyes (18-11) will face Texas at 8:30 p.m. Sunday in Austin, Texas, in second-round action. The Longhorns (25-4), seeded third in the Midwest Regional, defeated OSU 82-52 in Austin on Dec. 14.

The Buckeyes are seeded No. 6.

"It was definitely a win that we appreciate and we're glad to have," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "But it's obviously going to require a much stronger effort for us to give Texas a game down there on Sunday.

"Our defense certainly was a key for us tonight. We were able to somewhat contain Amy Rakers at times and also our rebounding seemed to be very important.

"We were getting second and third shots when we were struggling on our first shots. We also seemed to keep them from getting too many offensive second shots even though they had 17 offensive boards."

Thirteen of OSU's 39 rebounds were offensive.

Cheryl Perozek led OSU with 14 points and four assists. Vicki Pullie and Averill Roberts had 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Rakers paced Southern Illinois (21-10) with a game-high 22 points. The Salukis shot 40.6 percent from the floor, including 37.1 percent in the second half and had 19 turnovers.

"Ohio State did a great job on the offensive boards against us," Southern Illinois coach Cindy Scott said. "We were not as effective on the defensive boards as we needed to be.

"I thought our kids fought very hard to try and make a game out of it late. Plus they did a good job sinking and doubling up on Amy."

Perozek, a junior point guard averaging 4.6 points, emerged as the biggest surprise for the Buckeyes. She produced 14 points on 4-for-5 shooting, including 3 of 4 from three-point range.

It was Perozek's three-pointer that put OSU up to stay in the first half. She made it 29-27, and the Buckeyes continued on a 10-2 run to finish the half leading 33-29.

OSU opened the game with a full-court press but abandoned it as the shorter Salukis took a 21-18 advantage.

The Salukis' 2-3 zone also was limiting the taller Buckeyes to just one shot up to that point.

That's when Darsch decided to go with an even taller front line. She inserted 6-foot-2 reserve center Stacie Bruce to help out 6-5 Mindy Smith and 6-1 Nicole Sanchez.

The insertion of Bruce and Perozek's shooting enabled the Buckeyes to take control of the game.

"After seeing Southern Illinois on film, we felt that it was going to be important for our players to be able to step in and hit 16- and 18-footers. And Cheryl really delivered for us tonight," Darsch said.

It was all OSU in the second half as the Buckeyes put it away with a 19-4 run in the early minutes.

Basketball teams end seasons

Junior point guard Cheryl Perozek scored a career-high 14 points to lead

the Buckeyes, while Vicki Pullie added 13 points for OSU.

Freshman guard Averill Roberts scored all 11 of her points in the second half in keying a 22-4 OSU run that buried the Salukis. Forward Nicole Sanchez added 10 points and seven rebounds for OSU.

Forward Amy Rakers led SIU with 22 points.

Texas 95, Ohio State 66

Hot shooting by the third-seeded Longhorns (26-4) served to knock the Buckeyes (18-12) out of the tournament March 18 in Austin, Texas.

The Longhorns shot 73 percent (19 of 26) from the floor in the first half, while building a 44-29 halftime lead. The Buckeyes were unable to mount a challenge in the second half.

Vicki Hall led Texas with 26 points, while Cinietra Henderson added 24 for the Longhorns.

Senior Mindy Smith led the Buckeyes with 13 points. Sanchez and freshman Monica Taylor each added 12 points. Pullie scored 10 and Perozek had eight for Ohio State.

Texas routs OSU women in NCAA

Ohio State 73, Southern Illinois 61

The OSU women's basketball team was tabbed as the Midwest Region's sixth seed and defeated the Salukis 73-61 in a first-round NCAA tournament game March 14 in St. John Arena.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
1989-90
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
APPRECIATION BANQUET



Senior Nicole Sanchez, head coach Nancy Darsch, and senior Mindy Smith

Tuesday, April 3, 1990
The Ohio Union Ballroom

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Welcome Wendy Craver
Invocation Nicole Sanchez

DINNER

Opening Comments Wendy Craver
Administrative Comments Dr. Russell Spillman
Congratulations James L. Jones
Team Introductions Wendy Craver
Special Guests Wendy Craver
News Media Guests Liz Cook
Rebounders' Presentation Anita Casdorff
Team Awards Wendy Craver
 Most Improved Player
 Sixth Player Award
 Best Defensive Player
 Brown Memorial Leadership Award
 Most Valuable Player
The Coach's Comments Nancy Darsch
Visual Recap Of The 1989-90 Season Wendy Craver
Closing Remarks Wendy Craver

CARMEN OHIO

THE 1989-90 BUCKEYES

Overall: Won 18, Lost 12

Big Ten: Won 11, Lost 7

Big Ten Finish: Fourth

NCAA Midwest Regional Participants

SENIORS

Nicole Sanchez Pickerington, Ohio
Mindy Smith Pataskala, Ohio

JUNIORS

Stacie Bruce Kettering, Ohio
Cheryl Perozek Newark, Ohio
Vicki Pullie Wellsville, Ohio

SOPHOMORES

Erica Floyd Kent, Ohio
Sharon Geary St. John, Indiana
Jai Jones Columbus, Ohio
Jill Snavely Bellville, Ohio

FRESHMEN

Audrey Burcy Bellwood, Illinois
Nikki Keyton Lansing, Michigan
Averrill Roberts Boston, Massachusetts
Lisa Sebastian Avon Lake, Ohio
Monica Taylor Elyria, Ohio

THE BASKETBALL STAFF

Nancy Darsch Head Coach
Kathy Lindsey Assistant Coach
Mary Ostrowski Assistant Coach
Amy Pallay Graduate Assistant Coach
Linda Daniel Head Trainer
Debbie Noel Manager
Lori Phelps Manager
Liz Cook Sports Information
Lois Pettit Basketball Secretary
Brice Westfall Equipment Manager

1989-90 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- * NCAA Tournament Midwest Regional Participants
- * Advanced to the NCAAs for the eighth time in nine seasons and seventh year in a row
 - * 1989 Buckeye Classic Champions
- * Recorded the second largest crowd (11,301) in OSU women's basketball history vs. Iowa
- * Placed four players on the All-Big Ten team:
 - Cheryl Perozek, Academic All-Big Ten
 - Vicki Pullie, Honorable Mention
 - Averrill Roberts, Freshman of the Year, Honorable Mention
 - Nicole Sanchez, Second Team

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS

NICOLE SANCHEZ

- * OSU's career (.808) and single season (.864) free throw percentage leader
- * Holds the Big Ten record for consecutive free throws at 28
 - * Second team all-Big Ten honoree
 - * Season rebounding leader (6.8 rpg.)
- * Set career marks of 26 points and 14 rebounds

MINDY SMITH

- * Season leader with 30 blocked shots
- * Fourth career leader in blocks (66)
 - * Top field goal shooter (.562)
- * Named to the Nebraska Invitational all-tournament team and Buckeye Classic most valuable player
- * Reached career marks of 25 points and 12 rebounds

Combined Record: 93-28 **Big Ten Record:** 60-12
Two Big Ten Championships
Four NCAA Tournament Appearances

Pullie named women's hoops MVP

By John Kampf
Lantern sportswriter

Junior Vicki Pullie was named the Most Valuable Player of the OSU women's basketball team Tuesday night at the team's appreciation banquet in the West Ballroom of the Ohio Union.

Pullie, who was also honored as the team's best defensive player, led the Buckeyes in scoring with a 13.3 average. She pulled down 5.9 rebounds a game to go with her scoring output.

Other awards went to junior Stacie Bruce (the Sixth Player award); freshman Nikki Keyton (the Most Improved) and junior Cheryl Perozek (the Brown Memorial Leadership Award and academic all-Big Ten). This is the second consecutive year that Perozek was named to the academic team.

Averill Roberts was also honored for being named the Big Ten Freshman of-the-Year.

Also recognized were seniors Nicole Sanchez and Mindy Smith. While they were on the team, the Buckeyes compiled a 93-28 record (60-12 in the conference), had two Big Ten Championships and made it to the

NCAA tournament all four years.

"I love you guys and I'm going to miss you," a teary-eyed Smith said to her teammates in her farewell speech. "Even though we didn't win the championship this year, we were a family."

Smith averaged 12.2 points and 5.3 rebounds this season. She also led the team in blocked shots (30) and field goal percentage (.562).

Sanchez, the lone returning starter from last year's squad, averaged 12.4 points and 6.8 rebounds per contest. Her efforts made her a second team all-conference selection.

"Looking back, I'm very proud to have been part of this team," she said. "We got the most out of what we had. We had a few close ones, but you're going to have those."

"Good luck," she said to her teammates. "I hope you bring the Big Ten championship back. I know you can do it."

Coach Nancy Darsch gave her assessment of the season.

"Sometimes you can go from mountain top to mountain top via a bridge," she said while quoting a friend. "Sometimes you have to go



Vicki Pullie

File photo

down in those valleys to get back to the top. I think that is what our season was like.

"Our challenge for the future is to bring back a (championship) banner," she continued. "We have to make a commitment, individually, to work year-round to get the Buckeyes back on top."

Darsch and OSU player **Averill Roberts** will participate in the U.S. National Team trials next Wednesday through June 3 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Roberts will vie with 200 other players for spots on teams competing in the International Basketball Federation World Championships, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the Goodwill Games in Seattle. Former OSU players **Lisa Cline** and **Nikita Lowry** also will take part in the tryouts.

Darsch will coach the Junior National Team on a tour July 26-Aug. 31.

BUCKEYE ATHLETIC PREVIEW

Women's Basketball Team Aims For Consistency

By Liz Cook
OSU Assistant Sports Information Director

A little older, a lot more seasoned. That's how Head Coach Nancy Darsch assesses her Buckeye women's basketball squad as she looks toward the 1990-91 season.

The roster includes 10 returning letterwinners, including three starters, who helped Ohio State post its 10th consecutive winning campaign last season with an 18-12 record. The squad went 11-7 in the Big Ten (fourth-place tie) and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the seventh straight year before losing to Texas in the second round of the Midwest Regional.

Not only were two starters lost from that team, but the two graduated players were also proficient shooters with good size and quickness. Nicole Sanchez, OSU's career free throw percentage leader (.808), paced the Big Ten at the charity stripe, hitting 85 percent. The 6-1 forward was also the team's second leading scorer (12.4 ppg) and leading rebounder (6.8 rpg). Mindy Smith, at 6-5, was the tallest player in the league. Averaging 12.2 points and 5.3 rebounds on the year, she paced the team in field goal percentage (.562) and blocked shots (30).

"I think we'll still be a very young team, but our perimeter game will be a year older," Darsch says. "I expect to see a big improvement in our ball handling this year.

"Our biggest area for improvement has to be consistency," she adds. "There were only two times during the Big Ten season where we won back-to-back games in one weekend, and that has to change. In the few close games we had, the team shot poorly from the perimeter, and that is where we specifically have to be more solid."

Injuries also concern Darsch since four players, three in the

frontcourt, are mending serious knee injuries. Sophomores Audrey Burcy and Cynthia Dunnigan have undergone extensive rehabilitation, while junior Sharon Geary and freshman Lavona Turner underwent reconstructive surgery. All suffered torn anterior cruciate ligaments.

"Those injuries make it difficult to predict how many players we can count on at any one time," Darsch says. "The fact that three of those players are at the post could affect our depth if we run into problems."

Returning for their second season as starters are forward Vicki Pullie and point guard Cheryl Perozek, both seniors, and sophomore Averill Roberts in the two-guard spot.

Pullie, voted the team's MVP and Best Defensive Player last season, returns at the small forward position after leading the team in scoring (13.3 ppg) and reaching double figures in 22 of 29 contests. An aggressive rebounder, Pullie paced the Buckeyes in conference play with 7.1 boards per game and closed the season second in assists (97) and blocks (19).

Perozek is the floor leader at the point guard spot and dished out a team-high 151 assists last season.

Roberts, the 1990 Big Ten Freshman of the Year, returns with a wealth of experience following her participation in the U.S. Olympic Festival and the Junior National Team (coached by Darsch) last summer. She led OSU in Big Ten scoring (13.4 ppg) and paced the squad in steals with 43.

The post positions are up for grabs now that 6-2 senior Stacie Howard will sit out the fall quarter for academic reasons. She was the top reserve post player last season. Other post candidates are 6-0 sophomore Nikki Keyton, 6-1 junior Erica Floyd and Geary, a 6-2 junior.

Others who hope to see action are 6-1 Monica Taylor, who showed a lot of potential as a fresh-

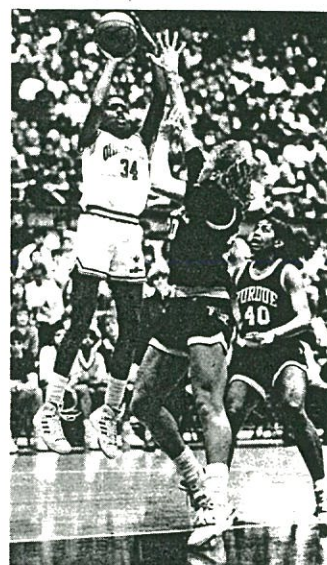
man last season, and Burcy, a 5-5 sophomore whose quickness should help her gain playing time at point guard. Other returnees are 5-5 sophomore guard Lisa Sebastian and 5-8 junior guard Jill Snavely.

Leading the newcomers is Dunnigan, a 6-0 sophomore. A product from basketball powerhouse Oak Ridge (Tenn.) High School, she was ineligible last season, but is expected to add more muscle under the basket this year.

The freshmen are a pair of 6-2 post players in Stacie Howard (Orrville, Ohio) and Turner. Howard was the Division III coplayer of the year last season after averaging 17.9 points and 8.0 rebounds a game. Turner averaged 18.1 points and 13.4 rebounds in seven games at Canton Timken High School before suffering a season-ending injury to her right knee in January.

The Buckeyes will take on one of the toughest schedules they have faced in several seasons, playing seven preseason Top 25 teams and NWIT champion Kentucky. Ohio State will participate in the

Hilton Head Shootout with Tennessee, Texas and defending national champion Stanford. Purdue, Iowa and Northwestern appear to be OSU's main challenges in the Big Ten.



Senior forward Vicki Pullie was Ohio State's Most Valuable Player Award winner last season after pacing the team in scoring.

1990-91 SCHEDULE			
(ALL TIMES EST)			
Nov. 4	ATHLETES IN ACTION*	2:00	
15	LATVIA NATIONAL TEAM*	7:30	
23	EASTERN MICHIGAN	7:30	
28	at Kentucky	7:30	
Dec. 1-2	BUCKEYE CLASSIC		
1	PITTSBURGH	4:00	
2	NEBRASKA or HOUSTON	2 OR 4	
8	at Penn State	7:30	
11	AKRON	7:30	
15	GEORGIA	7:30	
18	at Louisiana State	4:45	
29-30	at Hilton Head Shootout		
29	vs. Tennessee	3:00	
30	vs. Stanford or Texas	TBA	
Jan. 3	at Purdue	1:00	
6	at Illinois	12:00	
11	at Indiana	7:30	
18	MINNESOTA	7:30	
Jan. 20	IOWA	12:00	
25	at Michigan	7:30	
27	at Michigan State	2:00	
Feb. 1	NORTHWESTERN	7:30	
3	WISCONSIN	6:00	
8	INDIANA	7:30	
15	at Iowa	8:30	
17	at Minnesota	12:00	
22	MICHIGAN STATE	7:30	
24	MICHIGAN	2:00	
Mar. 1	at Wisconsin	8:00	
3	at Northwestern	3:00	
7	ILLINOIS	7:30	
9	PURDUE	2:00	

* Exhibition Times Subject To Change
Tickets: \$3.00 public; \$2.50 OSU faculty/staff; \$2.00 students

OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
FACULTY &
STAFF NIGHT
WITH THE BUCKEYES



O.S.U.

VS.



INDIANA

7:30 PM
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 1991
ST. JOHN ARENA

ALL TICKETS \$1.00 EACH!
LIMIT: 4 PER VALID I.D.

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$1.00 WITH A VALID FACULTY OR STAFF
I.D. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE OR AT THE GATE.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL THE ATHLETIC TICKET OFFICE 292-2624**

Darsch finds many reasons for OSU woes

Women's coach cites effort, injuries, depth

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Everyone is taking their turn these days at deciding who's to blame for a disappointing 4-9 record and one of its worst starts ever by the Ohio State women's basketball team.

Coaches, players, lack of communication on both sides, negative attitudes, injuries and a tough road schedule top the list of scapegoats.

The Buckeyes bottomed out with a six-game losing streak but got back on track by defeating Indiana 72-63 Friday night in Bloomington.

It was the Buckeyes' worst losing streak since they dropped a school-record seven straight during the 1979-80 season. They finished that season 16-18.

"It's been a variety of things," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "Obviously, as the head coach, I have to assume most of that responsibility."

"But it's a combination of several things: leadership, effort, depth and injuries. All those things have played a part in creating the situation that we're in right now. Plus, the



Nancy Darsch
... takes blame

difficultly of our schedule has hurt us rather than helped us thus far. We have suffered confidence loss and a morale problem from it. But the players by no means are ready to give up, nor are we as coaches."

The season got off to a sour start long before the first practice. Senior center Stacie Bruce was declared academically ineligible for the fall quarter, stripping the Buckeyes of their only experienced post player from last season's 18-12 squad.

When she returned for the Indiana game, the 6-foot-2 Bruce made an immediate impact on the team, which had been shooting poorly (34.9 percent) and being outrebounded consistently (52.5 to 36.5).

Then there was the loss of Vicki Pullie, after just four games.

Pullie, a 6-1 senior forward who led the team in scoring (13.3 points) last season, underwent arthroscopic surgery on her right knee Dec. 13.

It forced Darsch to start three sophomores — Averill Roberts, Nikki Keyton and Monica Taylor — along with senior point guard Cheryl Perozek and Sharon Geary, a redshirt junior. Geary missed the entire 1988-89 season and played in 13 games last year while recovering from reconstructive (left) knee surgery.

Pullie is expected to return to action when the Buckeyes face Minnesota on Friday in St. John Arena.

In her four games, she averaged 11.5 points and five rebounds.

"We definitely suffered from the absence of Stacie Bruce and Vicki Pullie," Darsch said. "There has also been a struggle with some of our players responding to staff changes and making adjustments in that area with three new coaches."

Kathy Lindsey, who was Darsch's top assistant for five seasons, is the head coach at Illinois. Mary Ostrowski, who also spent the past five seasons as Darsch's assistant, went into private industry. Amy Pallay served as a graduate assistant while completing her master's in athletic administration last season.

Yvette Harris and Melissa McFerrin are the new assistant coaches. Jodi Roth, who played for the Buckeyes from 1984 to '87, is

Please see **DARSCH** page 2C

the graduate assistant while pursuing her master's in sports psychology.

But getting acclimated to Darsch's new staff proved much easier than enduring the toughest non-conference schedule in school history — without Bruce and Pullie.

OSU battled nationally ranked Penn State, Georgia, LSU, Tennessee, Texas and Purdue.

"Two years ago when we made this schedule, I was looking at us having a class of four seniors which dwindled to one during the toughest part of our schedule," Darsch said. "It forced us to rely on many of our sophomore players, many of which are very talented, but they haven't quite performed up to their expectations at this point."

"Yet, we somehow managed to overcome those odds and put together solid back-to-back efforts against Tennessee and Texas. I think we were on our way to finally jelling as a team until we had the incident during the Texas game. So instead of leaving there on a high note after giving a

good effort in two consecutive games, we shot ourselves in the foot and left there with a cloud hanging over us."

Roberts and Keyton had a heated exchange during and after the Buckeyes' 98-73 loss to Texas in the consolation game of the Hilton Head (S.C.) Super Shootout on Dec. 30. Darsch benched them in the next game, Jan. 3 at Purdue.

Taylor gave a lackluster effort in practice the day before the Purdue game and also was benched.

The result was an embarrassing 105-45 loss to then-third-ranked Purdue. It was the first time the Boiler-makers had ever defeated OSU, and the 60-point beating was the worst in school history.

Taylor later was suspended indefinitely after leaving practice unexcused last week. She did not play against Indiana.

Darsch doesn't regret her decision to bench three starters or the suspension.

"There have been times when I've mellowed in terms of what is acceptable in terms of discipline,"

Darsch said. "As probably most people know that have children, once you do that it's difficult to pull the reins back in."

"But I think we can do that and still not lose sight of the compassion and feeling that we have for one another as people. Plus I have to be encouraged by looking at programs like Penn State and other schools that already experienced some of the same problems that we're going through now."

"Two years ago, they had a losing record and it was the only losing record in their program. Now two years later, they're No. 1 in the country. Three years ago, North Carolina State experienced their worst season ever and were able to turn that around, and they're in the top 10 in the country this year. Northwestern, two years ago, had a losing season and were able to turn it around and win the Big Ten last year, and they're in the top 10 this year. So I have to look at those kind of situations as the direction in which we will head."

OSU women work for united ways

Players say infighting is root of team's disappointing record

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

The need for cohesion may be the lone topic members of the Ohio State women's basketball team are willing to agree on this season.

"I know that each and every one of us has a totally different personality and a different upbringing," sophomore forward Nikki Keyton said. "But you're always going to experience conflict in your life and no matter what, you should always be able to make the best of the conflict."

"It just doesn't seem like we've been able to overcome conflict that we've had on our team. It lingers forever. The most important thing should be the team and not yourself. So forget your attitude and make the team happy. We must learn to play together as teammates."

The Buckeyes (4-9) are suffering through one of their worst starts ever. They were a game shy of tying a school-record seven-game losing streak when they posted a 72-63 win at Indiana last Friday.

The program has endured only two losing seasons in its 26-year history. The Buckeyes went 3-4 their initial season of 1965-66 and 16-18 in 1979-80. The latter was the season they dropped seven straight.

"It's the players ... definitely," senior center Stacie Bruce said of the losing record. "Our coaching staff has done everything in their power to try different angles for us to win."

"They've tried everything, and nothing has worked. I think it's the players. We have to get our acts together and decide that we want to win and get our attitude straight. That's the biggest problem on our team right now, is our attitude problem. If we get that worked out, then everything will be fine."

What was expected to be a good season for the Buckeyes has slowly turned sour. OSU returned three starters among 10 returning letter-winners from an 18-12 squad last season. Included in that bunch were senior forward Vicki Pullie, last year's leading scorer (13.3 points) and sophomore guard Averrill Roberts, the Big Ten freshman of the year.

Darsch era

Season	Record	Big Ten	NCAA
1985-86	23-7	16-2 (1st)	Final 16
1986-87	26-5	17-1 (T-1st)	Final 8
1987-88	25-5	16-2 (2nd)	Final 16
1988-89	24-6	16-2 (T-1st)	Final 16
1989-90	18-12	11-7 (T-4th)	2nd round
1990-91	4-9	1-2 (T-6th)	

"We started the season with a good team and practice attitude," Pullie said. "Somehow it dwindled."

"I think that our practice attitude has had a severe effect on our performance. We just haven't found our chemistry, in practice or in games. Until we can do that, it doesn't look like things are going to get any better."

When the Buckeyes wasn't struggling against opponents, they had bigger battles among themselves.

Roberts, Keyton and Monica Taylor — all starters and the team's top three scorers — were benched for disciplinary reasons during a 105-45 loss at Purdue Jan. 3.

Roberts and Keyton were benched for their heated exchanges during and after a 98-73 loss in the consolation game at the Hilton Head (S.C.) Super Shootout.

"I don't really know where it started," Keyton said. "Maybe it's the frustration of not winning, because no one's in a good mood when they're not winning."

Taylor, who was benched for her negative attitude during practice the day before the Purdue game, was suspended for one week and missed the Indiana game after leaving practice unexcused last week.

"I think it was a lot of miscommunication and misperception," Taylor said. "I wasn't having a very good practice, and I just left."

"I think that I'm a hard worker and I want to be the best that I can be. That's basically it. I don't want to be perceived as a person with an attitude."

■ Cheryl Perozek was named the most valuable player for the Ohio State women's basketball team during its appreciation banquet in the Ohio Union.

Perozek, a senior guard from Newark Catholic, also received the Brown Memorial Leadership Award. She averaged 8.3 points and 4.2 assists. Perozek set school records for most three-pointers (three) in a game and most three-pointers (48) in a season, and is No. 3 on the all-time assist list.

Other honorees included Vicki Pullie, best defensive player; Stacie Howard, most improved; and Jill Snively and Stacie Howard, sixth player.

7C

Buckeyes set menu for '91-92

*Women's schedule
should be easier*

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Collegiate powers Penn State and Georgia will headline the 1991-92 Ohio State women's basketball schedule.

The Buckeyes will play 28 games, including 18 in the Big Ten.

OSU, which posted an 11-17 record last season, opens the season against James Madison at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 23 in St. John Arena.

The Dukes, 26-5 last season, gained national attention by upsetting No. 1-ranked Penn State in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.



Nancy Darsch

The Buckeyes visit Georgia on Nov. 30 and could meet Penn State in the Buckeye Classic, to be played Dec. 7-8, in possibly the first of two meetings this season.

OSU visits Penn State, which joins the Big Ten in 1992-93, on Jan. 26.

"We are one of the few teams in the conference that are going to Penn State this year," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said.

"Although they are coming into our schedule next year, we think it's good experience to have an opportunity to play them twice this year."

The Buckeyes host Athletes in Action on Nov. 3 and the Cuban national team on Nov. 17 in exhibitions. Other non-conference opponents include Kentucky and UCLA, along with in-state rivals Dayton and Miami University.

Darsch said the non-conference schedule is not as strong as last season's, which proved to be the toughest in school history. But she welcomes the opportunity to battle nationally ranked teams Penn State and Georgia and renew some in-state rivalries.

"This year's schedule is very strong and competitive," Darsch said. "But we just don't have as many top teams on the road like last year."

"The in-state games will give some of our players chances to carry on some high school rivalries. Those are the kind of games where emo-

Schedule

The 1991-92 OSU women's basketball schedule (home games in CAPS):

- Nov. 3 — ATHLETES IN ACTION (exhibition)
- Nov. 17 — CUBAN NATIONAL TEAM (exhibition)
- Nov. 23 — JAMES MADISON
- Nov. 25 — DAYTON
- Nov. 30 — at Georgia
- Dec. 7-8 — BUCKEYE CLASSIC (Penn State, Louisville, Boston College)
- Dec. 18 — at UCLA
- Dec. 20 — at Cal-Fullerton
- Jan. 3 — MIAMI UNIVERSITY
- Jan. 7 — KENTUCKY
- Jan. 10 — NORTHWESTERN
- Jan. 12 — WISCONSIN
- Jan. 17 — at Minnesota
- Jan. 19 — at Iowa
- Jan. 24 — at Indiana
- Jan. 26 — at Penn State
- Jan. 31 — MICHIGAN
- Feb. 2 — MICHIGAN STATE
- Feb. 7 — at Purdue
- Feb. 9 — at Illinois
- Feb. 14 — IOWA
- Feb. 16 — MINNESOTA
- Feb. 21 — INDIANA
- Feb. 28 — at Michigan State
- March 1 — at Michigan
- March 6 — ILLINOIS
- March 8 — PURDUE
- March 12 — at Wisconsin
- March 14 — at Northwestern

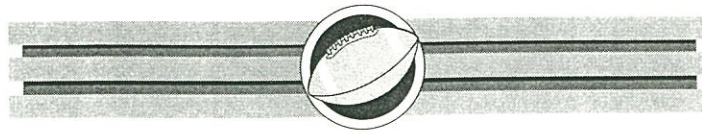
tions can run high and where it's anybody's guess as to what's going to happen."

OSU opens the Big Ten season against defending champion Northwestern on Jan. 10 in St. John Arena. Iowa, Michigan State and Purdue are expected to join OSU in trying to dethrone the Wildcats.

Darsch, whose team was 8-10 in conference play last season, said the addition of Penn State will help the Big Ten gain even more national prominence.

"The growth and improvement in the Big Ten have really been impressive," she said. "To go from having one team invited to the NCAA Tournament in 1983 to having five and six teams being invited to the tournament during an eight-year span is remarkable."

"The Big Ten has to be considered one of the top three conferences in the country. I'd also like to think we can compete for the championship and share some of that national recognition. But in order for us to get back into national contention, we have to beat some of these teams in our conference."



BUCKEYE ATHLETICS

Women's Basketball Team Gets Back To Basics

By Liz Cook, OSU Assistant Sports Information Director

The Ohio State women's basketball team posted an 11-17 overall record a year ago, a season which marked the school's worst record in 10 years and snapped the Buckeyes' string of NCAA Tournament appearances at seven.

This season, however, the Buckeyes aim to get back to basics — incorporating the teamwork, dedication and desire it has taken to capture seven of the past 10 Big Ten titles.

"There are a lot of different reasons for last season's outcome," says head coach Nancy Darsch. "The ineligibility of our starting center, injuries and the transition of a new staff were all contributors.

"Our sophomores were asked to carry a lot of the load. In addition to our own problems, the fact that nearly half of the opponents we played advanced to the NCAA Tournament may have been too much to ask of such a young group which played half the season with only one of three starting seniors."

The good news is those hardships allow Darsch to reload with 11 well-seasoned letterwinners, including two starters. The bad news is the Buckeyes must recover from the loss of three starters in point guard Cheryl Perozek (8.3 ppg/2.6 rpg), forward Vicki Pullie (7.6/3.6) and center Stacie Bruce (14.4/7.7). Also gone from last season is reserve forward Cynthia Dunnigan (2.8/2.3).

Experience rests in juniors Averrill Roberts, a 5-9 guard, and 6-0 power forward Nikki Keyton. Sharon Geary, a 6-2 senior center,



Junior Averrill Roberts is Ohio State's top returning scorer.

also will play a significant role, having been a part-time starter in '90-'91.

Roberts, a two-year starter at the two-guard position, is a proven scorer with 22-of-28 double-digit performances a year ago. The Buckeyes' top-returning scorer (14.9 ppg) and steals leader (50) should reach the 1,000-point plateau this season with 778 career points already to her credit.

Keyton's debut as a starter last year was nothing short of regal. Versatility is her stronghold and contributed greatly to her becoming the Buckeyes' third-leading scorer (10.1 ppg) in '91 and their top-returning rebounder (5.9 rpg).

Geary will be the favored candidate for the starting job inside, having started in 18 of 28 games last year, replacing Bruce in the first 15. Completing her first collegiate season without injury, Geary had ca-

reer-best averages of 4.7 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

Another veteran back is junior Monica Taylor (6.8/3.9), who brings experience to the wing after compiling the most minutes among all reserves last season. Taylor posted five consecutive starts (six overall) for the injured Pullie and staged impressive numbers of 11.4 points and 6.6 rebounds during that stint.

Without a doubt, the point guard position is one of question. Vying for that spot are junior Lisa Sebastian (0.9/0.6) and freshman Alysiah Bond, both 5-5. An understudy to Perozek the past two seasons, Sebastian touts experience and game knowledge as a competitor in 20 games a year ago. Bond capped her prep campaign at Reynoldsburg (Ohio) High School averaging 19.7 points, 5.6 steals and 4.8 assists per game. Junior Audrey Burcy (2.0/0.6), 5-5, will enter the mix in January. She underwent total reconstructive knee surgery in March.

Other veterans back are 5-8 senior Jill Snavey (2.3/1.6) and 5-10 sophomore Ginger McGuire (0.2/2.0) at off-guard, and 6-2 sophomore Stacie Howard (5.0/3.3), 6-1 junior Erica Floyd (3.3/2.7) and 6-2 sophomore Lavona Turner (1.6/1.2) inside.

The other newcomer is 6-0 Erin Ingwersen, who is expected to battle Taylor for the wing spot. She led Hoffman Estates (Ill.) High School to a 27-6 record last year, was a first team all-state selection and averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds per game.

1991-92 SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

3	ATHLETES IN ACTION*	2:00
17	CUBAN NATIONAL TEAM*	2:00
23	JAMES MADISON	7:30
25	DAYTON	7:30
30	at Georgia	7:30

DECEMBER

7	BOSTON COLLEGE#	4:00
8	PENN STATE OR LOUISVILLE#	2 or 4
18	at UCLA	10:00
20	at Cal State Fullerton	10:30

JANUARY

3	MIAMI (OHIO)	7:30
7	KENTUCKY	2:00
10	NORTHWESTERN	7:30
12	WISCONSIN	2:00
17	at Minnesota	8:00
19	at Iowa	2:30
24	at Indiana	7:30
26	at Penn State	2:00
31	MICHIGAN	7:30

FEBRUARY

2	MICHIGAN STATE	2:00
7	at Purdue	7:30
9	at Illinois	3:00
14	IOWA	7:30
16	MINNESOTA (SportsChannel)	12:00
21	INDIANA	7:30
28	at Michigan State	7:30

MARCH

1	at Michigan	2:00
6	ILLINOIS	7:30
8	PURDUE (SportsChannel)	12:00
11	at Wisconsin	8:00
14	at Northwestern	3:00

* Exhibition

Buckeye Classic, Columbus

Starting times are EST and subject to change

Women's basketball team looking to improve

By Todd Brooks
Lantern staff writer

The OSU women's basketball team began fall practice this week looking to erase the memory of last season's disappointing 11-17 record.

The Buckeyes finished fifth in the Big Ten last year, their worst finish since the 1979-80 season, and missed the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years.

The Buckeyes return only two starters from last year's team, juniors Averill Roberts and Nikki Keyton. Both Roberts, a 5-foot-9 guard from Boston, and Keyton, a 6-foot forward from Lansing, Mich., averaged double figures in scoring last year.

Roberts has been a two-year starter and is the team's top returning scorer. She likes to run the floor and is expected to be a threat from the perimeter this year.

"The running game is something I like to do," Roberts said. "It should be easier for me to get open shots and make passes to my teammates for easy scores."

OSU Head Coach Nancy Darsh said the team has made a commitment to the running game this year.

However, a tougher defense will be necessary to allow the team to run, Darsh said.

"Defense is the first place to start," Darsh said. "Last year our defense wasn't very good."

She said the Buckeyes are going to play a tighter man-to-man defense and try to deny passing lanes. This will create turnovers and lead to fast-break opportunities.

The Buckeyes are looking to control the boards with Keyton and senior center Sharon Geary up front. Keyton led the team in rebounding last year with an average of 5.9 rebounds per game, and Geary averaged 3.4 per game.

Stacie Howard, a 6-foot-2-inch sophomore forward from Orrville, played in 23 games last year and was impressive toward the end of the season. She averaged 5 points and 3.3 rebounds in the final seven games.

The point guard is a critical part of a successful running game, but long-time starter Cheryl Perozek finished up her eligibility last year. Lisa Sebastian, a 5-foot-5 junior from Avon Lake, and Alysiah Bond, a 5-foot-5 freshman from Reynoldsburg, will work to fill Perozek's shoes.

Sebastian played in 20 games last year and will count on her experience to run the team. Bond averaged 19.7 points per game at Reynoldsburg High school a year ago.

"Any way you look at it, we are going to be young at point guard," Roberts said. "The rest of us just have to encourage them."

Darsh said the team will use two or three point guards a game as long as they are running. The third point guard will be Audrey Burcy, a 5-foot-5 junior from Bellwood, Ill., who is recovering from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee.

Sebastian seems to have an advantage at point guard because she has been in the program longer, but Bond's speed and quickness will help the team.

The wing position will feature two-time Olympic Festival participant



Nancy Darsh

Colin King/the Lantern



Averill Roberts

Colin King/the Lantern

Monica Taylor, a junior from Elyria, and freshman Erin Ingwersen, from Hoffman Estates, Ill.

Taylor played in five games last year as she filled in for an injured Vicki Pullie. She averaged 11.4 points and 6.6 rebounds in those games.

Ohio State, which has the best record in the Big Ten since 1982, is looking to be back in the hunt for the conference title.

The Buckeyes began their quest to regain their Big Ten dominance last spring with weightlifting and a tough long-distance and sprint training workout.

"We have come back in awesome shape," Keyton said.

The team has seemed to come together this year with a unified goal.

"We are tired of losing," Keyton said. "I think this year will be totally different because our attitudes are different."

"I think all of us took a hard look at ourselves after last year," Darsh said.

Darsh said the staff is attempting to be more positive and give more feedback to the team.

"We have to feed off each other and play as a team," Roberts said. "We have to work together to be contenders in the Big Ten."

The battle for the Big Ten will be interesting because most of the schools lost key players. Darsh said all the Big Ten teams are getting stronger and four or five teams should battle for the conference championship.

By Derek Monroe • Columbus Dispatch

OHIO STATE *Buckeyes*

● ● ● ●
S T A T E

BIG TEN
CONFERENCE

The future of Ohio State women's basketball has arrived.

She stands 5-11 and flaunts a reputation that is preceding her without having competed on the collegiate level.

Katie Smith, the recipient of several national high school player of the year honors last season, heads an incoming class of five freshmen that has been tabbed the No. 1 recruiting class in the country. Smith, out of Logan, Ohio,

should help transform the Buckeyes into legitimate contenders in the Big Ten Conference race.

"She's our Jimmy Jackson," Ohio State coach Nancy Darsch said of Smith. "I see her in that kind of mold.

"She has the three-pointer or she can post anybody up. She can run the floor in transition. She can make assists. She can rebound. She is already a well-rounded player. A player of that

caliber doesn't come along very often. There's probably one like her that comes along every four or five years. But our country is so big that they're usually spread out all over the place. So to have a player of her caliber just an hour down the road (in Logan, 60 miles south-east of Columbus) was pretty remarkable."

Smith is an odds-on favorite to crack the Buckeyes' lineup at small forward, despite being heavily recruited at shooting guard. Averill Roberts, an all-Big Ten performer last season and (expected) four-year starter at shooting guard, undoubtedly weighed heavy in Darsch's decision to play Smith at small forward.

That should

Location: Columbus, Ohio
Enrollment: 54,000
Colors: Scarlet and Gray
Head Coach: Nancy Darsch
Years at School, Record: Eighth, 142-65
Arena: St. John Arena (13,276)
1991-92 Record: 15-13, 9-9
Big Ten Finish: Fifth
Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1

prove a mild transition for Smith, who has the physical attributes to play outside or in the paint. She was the Division I state champion in the shot put and discus throw. Her 157-6 effort in the discus was a state meet record.

Smith comes to Ohio State as the third-leading scorer in Ohio high school girls' history. She averaged 30.2 points, 7.2 assists, 7 rebounds and shot 56.7 percent from the floor her senior season. She finished with a 25.4 career-scoring average and led Logan to a 90-14 record, including four straight appearances in the state final four.

"Sure, there is pressure on me to do well," Smith said. "But I feel most of the pressure is coming from me, because I want to do well for myself.

"I want to come in and play as a freshman, and I plan on doing whatever I can do to help the team win. I guess you can say that I play a lot like Jim Jackson, because I am pretty versatile. I'm not just a guard and I'm not a post player, either. But I can do all three, depending on whatever situation they need me for."

Smith and fellow recruit, Kelly Fergus of Brunswick, Ohio, gave a preview of their potential by leading their Ohio AAU 18-and-under team to the national championship in June.

Other incoming freshmen include Lisa Negri of Flint, Mich.; Adrienne Johnson of Louisville, Ky.; and Gigi Jackson of Columbus, Ohio. All five recruits were all-state selections. Smith and Negri were named Ms. Basketball in their respective states. Fergus and Johnson were finalists.

Darsch believes that Jackson, the lesser-known of the recruits, will be the most surprising among the group. She boasted the best all-around statistics, averaging 20.5 points, 17.5 rebounds, 7 assists, 6 steals and 4 blocked shots, and shooting 58.5 percent from the field for Mifflin High School.

"People are going to be surprised by Gigi Jackson," Darsch said. "She has come from a program where she had to play a lot of different positions and do a lot for her team.

"I think people will really be surprised by



Ohio State Sports Information

Averill Roberts returns as the Big Ten's top scorer (19.9 ppg.). The only Buckeye to start all 28 games last year, she led the team in steals, with 82.

● ● ● ●

ROSTER

10	Alyshah Bond	G	5-5	So.	Reynoldsburg, Ohio
15	Audrey Burcy	G	5-5	Sr.	Bellwood, Ill.
22	Averrill Roberts	G	5-9	Sr.	Boston, Mass.
23	Gigi Jackson	G/F	5-10	Fr.	Columbus, Ohio
24	Lisa Sebastian	G	5-5	Sr.	Avon Lake, Ohio
25	Erin Ingwersen	F	6-0	So.	Hoffman Estates, Ill.
30	Katie Smith	G	5-11	Fr.	Logan, Ohio
31	Adrienne Johnson	G	5-10	Fr.	Louisville, Ky.
43	Stacie Howard	F	6-2	Jr.	Orrville, Ohio
44	Lisa Negri	F/C	6-2	Fr.	Flint, Mich.
50	Nikki Keyton	F	6-0	Sr.	Lansing, Mich.
52	Layona Turner	C	6-2	Jr.	Canton, Ohio
55	Kelly Bergus	F/C	6-3	Fr.	Brunswick, Ohio

her abilities and her skills. They will also be impressed by her enthusiasm for the game."

While teams are busy devising a strategy to defense Smith and other newcomers, Roberts is still their biggest concern. She has consistently proven to be the Buckeyes' most lethal weapon against Big Ten opponents over the years.

Roberts, 5-9, is one of four returning starters from last season's 15-13 squad. She averaged a team-leading 19.5 points and was the only Buckeye to start all 28 games.

Other returning starters include Nikki Keyton, Audrey Burcy and Erin Ingwersen. Keyton, who averaged 13.7 points and a team-leading 8.3 rebounds, was a second-team all-Big Ten selection. Burcy averaged a team-high 2.8 assists and Ingwersen, a sophomore, was the Buckeyes' three-point specialists with a team-best 35.7 percentage.

Roberts, Keyton and Burcy are seniors, as well as point guard Lisa Sebastian, who started the first six games before suffering a season-ending knee injury.

The return of Sebastian and Johnson, who plays both guard positions, gives the Buckeyes

guards," said Darsch, who was forced to start Roberts at point after injuries to Sebastian, Burcy and Bond. "But overall, having that many point guards is just going to give us more strength and versatility. I expect them all to contribute, especially early on."

Yet, it's the senior class that Darsch is looking to carry the load for the Buckeyes.

"We have big numbers in our senior class," Darsch said. "But we have even bigger numbers in our freshman class.

"By virtue of those numbers, we also have the most talent in those two classes. So it'll be important that they blend. It will also be important that the four people in between, the junior and sophomore classes, work to shorten that gap in terms of age and experience."

Roberts has shouldered the brunt of the Buckeyes' offense since coming to Ohio State and the same will be expected this season. But defense hasn't been too bad either for Roberts, who has earned a reputation as an intimidator on defense because of her overly-physical and aggressive play.

Heading into the 1992-93 season, Roberts is within arm's reach of becoming Ohio State's career scoring leader and finishing No. 2 in steals. Roberts, eighth in career scoring (1,324 pts.), needs to average just under 22 points in 27 regular-season games to pass Tracey Hall, the all-time leader with 1,912 points. Roberts, who ranks fifth in career steals (175), needs 85 to move ahead of Hall (259) for the No. 2 spot, behind Yvette Angel (326).

Roberts amassed a team-leading 82 steals last season.

"Things like that I haven't really thought about," Roberts said. "That's not really one of my goals.

"I'd rather have a Big Ten championship over any of those goals. That's most important to

much needed depth at point guard, which should shore up the Buckeyes' struggling offense.

Alyshah Bond, a sophomore, played surprisingly well as a reserve point guard last season (5.5 ppg./2.8 apg.) and is expected to challenge for a starting spot.

"We learned last year that you can never have too many

me. Although we made some progress last season, we still have a ways to go if we want to win the championship.

"This is my last season and that means that I'm going to have to take charge more and help out my teammates as much as I can on and off the court. We have some talented young players ... very talented young players coming in. So it's going to be up to some of the older players like myself to help them to contribute, because that's the only way we're going to become a better team."

Although Roberts showed her versatility at point guard, Darsch admits she feels more comfortable having Roberts concentrating on what she does best — scoring.

"Averrill is a scorer and we're looking for her to continue to do that," Darsch said. "During the past two summers, we've talked about her becoming a better passer and she showed some of that last year.

"I think Averrill likes being the focal point of the offense most of the time and I really don't expect that to change."

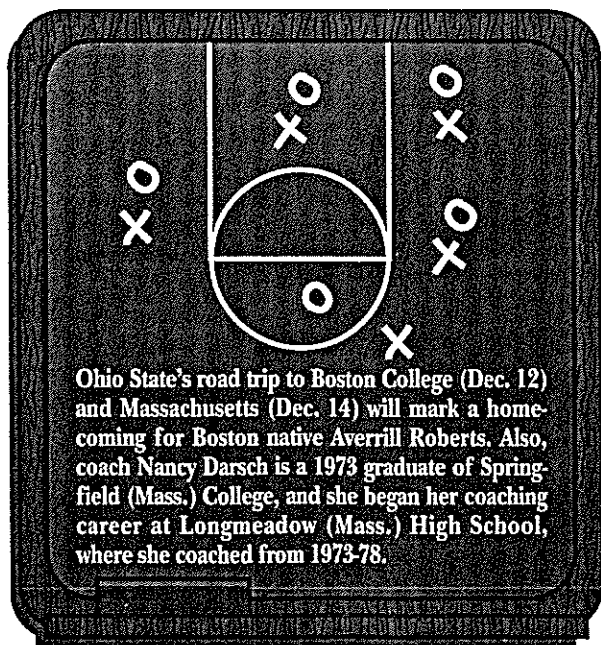
SCHEDULE

Nov. 23	FINLAND NATIONAL TEAM *
Nov. 27	CHICAGO CHALLENGERS *
Dec. 4	BOWLING GREEN
Dec. 12	at Boston College
Dec. 14	at Massachusetts
Dec. 18	CENTRAL MICHIGAN #
Dec. 19	GEORGIA or MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY #
Dec. 22	UCLA
Dec. 30	SYRACUSE
Jan. 2	VIRGINIA ^
Jan. 8	at Vanderbilt
Jan. 10	ILLINOIS
Jan. 15	at Purdue
Jan. 17	at Indiana
Jan. 22	MICHIGAN
Jan. 24	MICHIGAN STATE
Jan. 27	at Penn State
Jan. 29	at Wisconsin
Feb. 5	at Iowa
Feb. 12	INDIANA
Feb. 14	PURDUE
Feb. 19	at Michigan State
Feb. 21	at Michigan
Feb. 24	PENN STATE
Feb. 26	WISCONSIN
Mar. 4	MINNESOTA
Mar. 7	IOWA
Mar. 11	at Northwestern
Mar. 13	at Illinois

* exhibition

Buckeye Classic

^ Big Ten-ACC Challenge, Columbus



Taylor's running for job with Ohio State women

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Monica Taylor is feeling the effects of a new conditioning program being used by the Ohio State women's basketball team.

The junior forward from Elyria, Ohio, is discovering that conditioning is a requirement for playing time.

Taylor must complete a 3-mile run in 25 minutes, the required time for small forwards.

If not, Erin Ingwersen, a freshman from Hoffman Estates, Ill., might start when the Buckeyes host Athletes in Action at 2 p.m. Nov. 3 in St. John Arena.

"It's really difficult for me, personally," Taylor said. "It's caused me to work a lot harder this year ... a lot harder and a lot tougher.

"But I think I'm going to pull through it."

Guards must complete the run in 23 minutes, 30 seconds, power forwards and centers in 26:30.

OSU coach Nancy Darsch said building up endurance is necessary because the Buckeyes will be running more on offense.

"About six weeks before school started, the players were put on a conditioning program," Darsch said. "But we were not always seeing the proper results being mailed in to us, in terms of times and distances.

"So we instituted a 3-mile run that they would be tested on when they came back to campus. ..."

If the player met her prescribed time, Darsch said, she would be released from running the 3 miles. Otherwise, she must continue to run until she meets it.

Taylor, who averaged 6.8 points and led the team in blocked shots with 16 last season, and Stacie Howard, a sophomore forward-center, are the only players still trying to make their required times.

"The times given for the (small forwards) are a lot tougher than they were in the past," Taylor said. "So it's really been a struggle. ... But I'm confident I'll eventually make it.

"If not, then I'll do the best I can do and that's the most important thing. Everybody on this team feels we all have to do the best we can."

Darsch said she was satisfied with the team's effort during conditioning.

"We were very pleased to see their improvement and the condition that most of them came back in," she said. "The sprint times for the people that are in shape have also been very good.

"So we just need to continue to monitor that and just make sure that the other players that didn't make their times continue to work hard at that."

Taylor isn't bitter over her dismissal

Forward, Darsch disagreed on role

By **Derek Monroe**
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Monica Taylor has no hard feelings toward Ohio State coach Nancy Darsch for dismissing her from the **women's basketball team.**

"I was a little angry at first," said Taylor, who was kicked off the team Thursday for what Darsch cited as irreconcilable differences. "Now it's all behind me.

"Although I'm still a little bit disappointed and hurt, I still wish Nancy and the team the best. But everything just came as a shock to me because I've been playing basketball since I was in the fifth grade and I've never had a coach give up on me before.

"But things happen for a reason and all I can do is just keep trusting in God that everything works out for the better."

Darsch also has no hard feeling toward Taylor.

It may be the only time Darsch and Taylor have agreed on the same subject.

"I don't know what Monica is going to say, but it's not a thing where I'm angry with her or anything," Darsch said. "It just was not a good match.

"It was just a buildup of events over a period of time that in the best interest of all parties involved that the situation . . . relationship or whatever be severed."

Taylor, a junior from Elyria, Ohio, will remain on scholarship.

"How much did you miss Monica Taylor and what exactly are personality conflicts," a reporter from Iowa asked Darsch after the Hawkeyes defeated OSU 73-56 yesterday in Iowa City, Iowa.

Darsch said, "I don't know how much we miss Monica Taylor, and personality conflicts are personality

conflicts . . . Two different people not able to agree."

One significant disagreement was Taylor's role as a starter.

Taylor said she was often chastised by Darsch, who thought she was looking to score more than rebound.

Taylor, 6 feet 1, played 11 games and started four. She was averaging 9 points and 4.3 rebounds.

As a starter, she averaged 14 points, 4 rebounds, 2.5 assists and shot 52.3 percent from the floor. As a reserve, she averaged 6.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, 1.4 assists and shot 28.8 percent.

"I was willing to try and do what she wanted me to do," Taylor said. "She wanted me to play defense and rebound.

"I guess those were the main things. But I have to score, because scoring is a part of the game and if I'm open why not shoot it. She kept drilling to me how she wanted me just to concentrate on defensive rebounding and I really did try. Unfortunately, scoring wasn't supposed to be my forte."

Taylor, the team's third-leading scorer and rebounder, leaves the Buckeyes thin at small forward. Erin Ingwersen, a freshman from Hoffman Estates, Ill., is the only small forward. She is averaging 4.2 points, 2.6 rebounds and shooting 31.9 percent.

Darsch plans to move Nikki Keyton, a 6-foot junior who normally starts at power forward, to small forward.

Keyton says the loss of Taylor was a shocker.

"I was hurt and confused," Keyton said. "Because I know that Monica is a big asset to our team.

"It's difficult to say what the season is going to be like without her. But we're just going to have to find a positive out of the negative and keep moving forward."

OSU basketball banners stolen

Four OSU championship banners, valued at \$1400, were recovered a few hours after being reported stolen from St. John Arena early Sunday morning, OSU police said.

The stolen items included a 1971 men's, a 1991 men's, a 1987 women's and a 1989 women's championship banner, OSU Police Deputy Chief Ronald Michalec said.

The banners were cut down, but *the Lantern* could not confirm any damage.

A caller told police he saw two men running from St. John Arena carrying trash bags. The caller reported the license number of the vehicle the two men left in and the police were able to trace it, Michalec said.

The vehicle was traced to a fraternity house's parking lot, where it was found unlocked, with the stolen banners draped across the front seat, Michalec said.

Michalec would not name the fraternity because the identity of the caller is under investigation and there is a chance that the fraternity was set up.

St. John banners removed as safety precaution

By Amy Keller
Lantern staff writer

Spring is in the air, but the OSU men's and women's basketball championship banners aren't.

All of the banners that once decorated St. John Arena have been taken down as a safety precaution after four banners were stolen April 26, said Richard Sloan, assistant to the athletic director.

Police still have no leads about the banners that were recovered after being reported stolen from St. John Arena Sunday morning, OSU Deputy Police Chief Ronald Michalec said.

The banners were damaged when they were cut down from the top ledge of a balcony, assistant men's basketball Coach Dave Cecutti said. If the banners are replaced, they will probably be put in a spot unreachable by the general public, he said.

Sloan said the banners cannot be repaired and must be replaced by the athletic department at about \$400 each.

The banners were the 1971 men's, 1991 men's, 1987 women's, and 1989 women's championship banners, Michalec said.

An unknown caller gave OSU police the license plate number of a car he saw two men with trash bags run toward after they left St. John Arena.

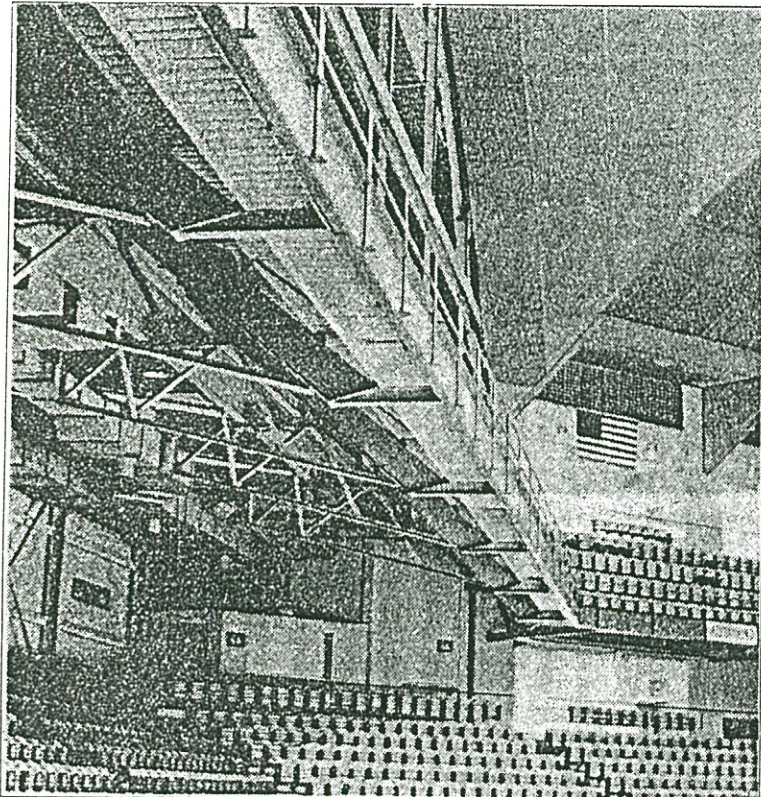
The vehicle was traced to a fraternity house parking lot, where it was found unlocked with the stolen banners draped across the front seat, Michalec said.

Michalec would not name the fraternity because the identity of the caller is under investigation, and police said there is a chance the fraternity was set up.

Cecutti said the 1991 men's basketball championship banner was also stolen last year at this time.

Sloan said the 1991 banner that was stolen last year was never recovered and the 1991 banner stolen Sunday was the replacement from the first theft.

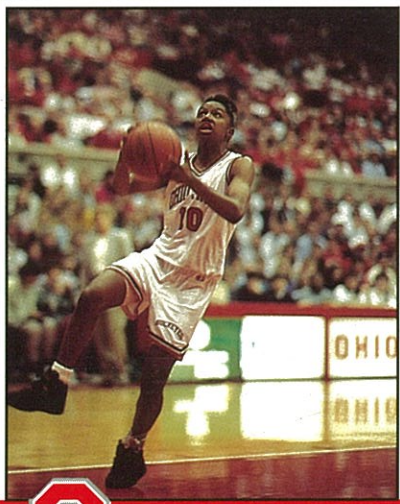
Sloan said he does not know if there is a connection between Sunday's incident and last year's theft.



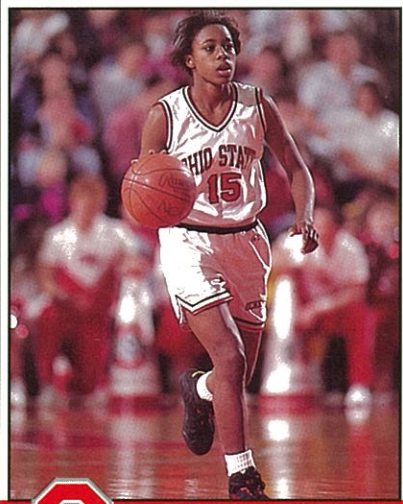
Jessica Vines/the Lantern

The balcony of St. John Arena, minus the championship banners that usually decorate it.

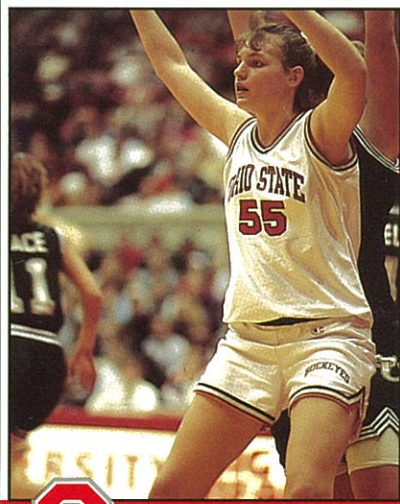
1992-93



OHIO STATE GUARD #10
Alysiah Bond



OHIO STATE GUARD #15
Audrey Burcy



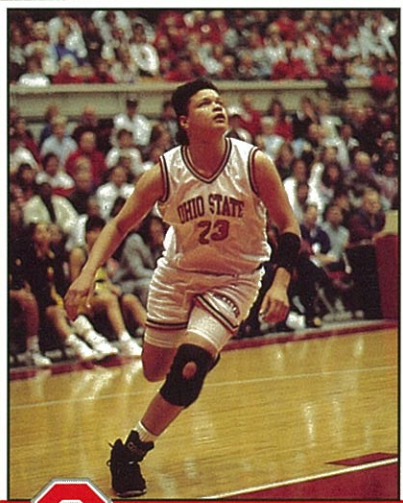
OHIO STATE F/C #55
Kelly Fergus



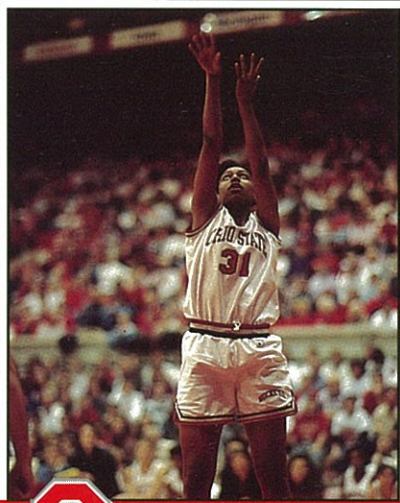
OHIO STATE CENTER #43
Stacie Howard



OHIO STATE FORWARD #25
Erin Ingwersen



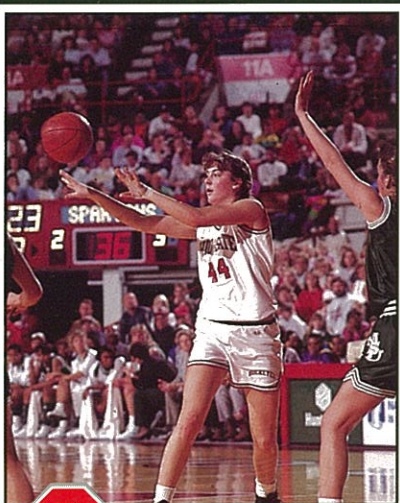
OHIO STATE G/F #23
Gigi Jackson



OHIO STATE GUARD #31
Adrienne Johnson



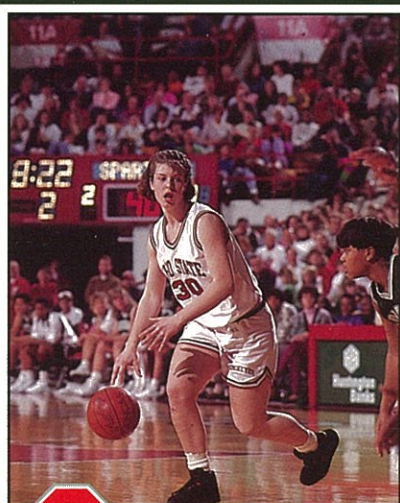
OHIO STATE FORWARD #50
Nikki Keyton



OHIO STATE F/C #44
Lisa Negri



OHIO STATE GUARD #24
Lisa Sebastian



OHIO STATE GUARD #30
Katie Smith



OHIO STATE CENTER #52
Lavona Turner



OHIO STATE GUARD #22
Averill Roberts

Catch



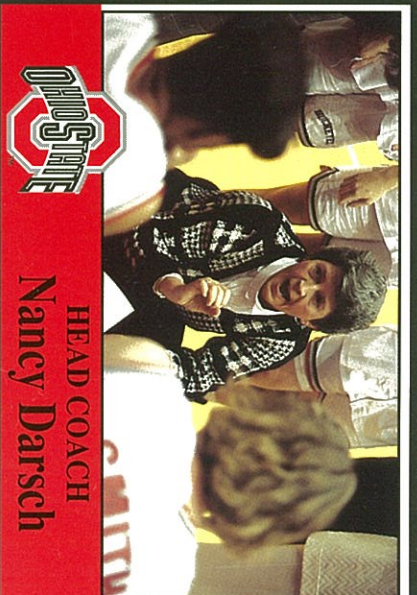
**Ohio State
Women's
Basketball!**

On
NEWS 820
WOSUAM



**BIG
BEAR**

Proud
Sponsor of
Ohio State
Women's
Basketball



OHIO STATE HEAD COACH
Nancy Darsch

43 STACIE HOWARD

C • 6-2 • Jr.
Orrville High School
Orrville, OH

Competing for the starting center position . . . sophomore campaign was riddled with injuries . . . intimidating at the top of her game . . . chalked up time in 24 games last year . . . averaged 3.6 points and 2.7 rebounds per contest . . . scored a career high 14 points in the second game of last season . . . majoring in pre-med.



50 NIKKI KEYTON

F • 6-0 • Sr.
Eastern High School
Lansing, MI

A starter at power forward the past two seasons . . . Earned second team all-Big Ten honors . . . named to SportsChannel's inaugural all-conference squad (second team) . . . Buckeyes' leading rebounder last year . . . second-leading scorer . . . only missed one game last year because of an injury . . . in high school captured first-team all-state honors in her last two years . . . senior year averaged 25 points and 15 rebounds per game . . . member of the National Honor Society.



52 LAVONA TURNER

C • 6-2 • Jr.
Timken High School
Canton, OH

Out this season with a knee injury . . . will be back next season to continue her Ohio State career . . . was second-leading rebounder last year . . . starter the first six games . . . averaged 3.9 points and 4.5 rebounds per outing . . . high school's top Female Student-Athlete her senior year . . . two-year member of high school's track and volleyball squads . . . set school shot put record of 36'6" in 1989.



NANCY DARSCH

Head Coach
Eighth Year
Springfield College '73

In her eighth year as Ohio State's head basketball coach . . . led the Lady Bucks to a 23-7 record in her first season and a Big Ten championship . . . was National Co-Freshman Coach of the Year . . . five of her teams have advanced to the NCAA tournament . . . was assistant coach in the 1984 Olympic Games, helping the U.S. win its first-ever gold medal in women's basketball . . . prior to accepting the head coaching position at Ohio State in June 1985, was assistant coach at Tennessee.



55 KELLY FERGUS

F/C • 6-3 • Fr.
Brunswick High School
Brunswick, OH

The tallest member of the squad . . . a physical player who is relentless on the boards . . . her high school campaign gained her MVP of the Pioneer Conference the last two years . . . tallied 1,688 points and 1,293 rebounds . . . averaged 20.0 points and 16.0 rebounds guiding her team to a 23-2 record . . . first team all-state honoree and *Parade Magazine* All-America third-team member . . . member of the National Honor Society.



31 ADRIENNE JOHNSON

G • 5-10 • Fr.
Butler High School
Louisville, KY

An excellent ballhandler who knows how to score . . . polished at both guard positions . . . was her high school's all-time leading scorer (1,892) . . . averaged 22 points and 6.0 rebounds per game in her final season . . . first team all-state selection and a candidate for "Ms. Basketball" . . . majoring in pre-med.



30 KATIE SMITH

G • 5-11 • Fr.
Logan High School
Logan, OH

The most decorated athlete to play under head coach Nancy Darsch . . . third-leading scorer in Ohio High School girls history with 2,740 points . . . in high school was the Gatorade and Dial National Female Student-Athlete of the Year . . . unanimous first team All-America choice . . . Ohio's "Ms. Basketball," averaging 29.2 points, 6.7 rebounds and 7.2 assists per game . . . member of the National Honor Society who carried a 4.0 GPA her four years in high school.



GIVE'EM A
BIG BEAR HUG!



15 AUDREY BURCY

G • 5-5 • Sr.
Proviso West High School
Bellwood, IL

A natural leader who is quick and daring . . . made an early return to the roster last season after reconstructive surgery on her right knee . . . took over starting duties at point guard . . . was a starter in 22 of 28 games . . . averaged 5.7 points and 2.9 assists per game . . . notched a career-high five steals in her first start of the season . . . majoring in journalism.



23 GIGI JACKSON

G/F • 5-10 • Fr.
Mifflin High School
Columbus, OH

An excellent rebounder and passer . . . perhaps the strongest player on the team . . . comes from a family of athletes . . . selected as high school's MVP in her last two seasons . . . averaged 20.5 points and 17.5 rebounds per outing . . . a second-team all-state, and first-team all-district and all-city choice her senior year . . . two-time member of the National Honor Society.



24 LISA SEBASTIAN

G • 5-5 • Sr.
Avon Lake High School
Avon Lake, OH

Returned to the lineup this season after surgery on her right knee . . . starter at point guard in six of the first seven games last year . . . established career highs of 10 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals . . . averaged 4.9 points and 2.4 rebounds per outing . . . in high school was first team UPI all-Ohio selection in 1989 . . . named the Southwestern Conference MVP her junior and senior years . . . school record-holder for career points (1,230) . . . majoring in broadcast journalism.



LADY BUCKEYE PLAY-BY-PLAY!

For all the fast-paced action of Ohio State Women's basketball, tune your radio to News 820, WOSU-AM!

News 820 Sports Director Herb Howenstine has all the play-by-play and is joined courtside by guest analysts.



10 ALYSIAH BOND

G • 5-5 • So.
Reynoldsburg High School
Reynoldsburg, OH

Acclimated early in her rookie campaign . . . emerged as the Buckeye's No. 1 scorer off the bench . . . knows how to ignite the offense . . . last season competed in 26 of 28 games, scoring in all but three . . . averaged 5.5 points and 2.8 assists per outing . . . recipient of the team's Sixth Player Award for the '91-'92 season . . . an Ohio State Scholar-Athlete honoree.



25 ERIN INGWERSEN

F • 6-0 • So.
Hoffman Estates High School
Hoffman Estates, IL

Earned her stripes early as a starter in 17 of 28 games her freshman year . . . versatile . . . one of the best stand-up shooters on the squad . . . last year averaged 4.6 points per game and 2.7 rebounds . . . career-high 11 points against Michigan State that included three treys . . . in high school earned first team all-state honors . . . member of National Honor Society.



44 LISA NEGRI

F/C • 6-2 • Fr.
Powers Catholic High School
Flint, MI

Michigan's "Ms. Basketball" for 1991-92 . . . first left-hander to play under head coach Nancy Darsch . . . brings good size and excellent talent to the Buckeyes' inside game . . . Michigan's Gatorade Female Player of the Year for '91-'92 . . . led high school team to the state title her senior year . . . averaged 19 points and 12 rebounds . . . All-America choice and two-time all-state selection . . . won all-region laurels for volleyball and academic all-state honors for softball.



22 AVERRILL ROBERTS

G • 5-9 • Sr.
Latin High School
Boston, MA

A starter at the off-guard position the past three seasons . . . was first team all-Big Ten in '92 . . . Buckeyes' top point producer and top returning scorer in the league . . . toured Australia and New Zealand on the Big Ten Women's All-Star Team last summer . . . ranks eighth on the Ohio State all-time scoring list (1,324 points) and fifth in steals (175) . . . recipient of the team's MVP and Best Defense awards last season.



NCAA rule brings AIDS prevention to basketball

By Tracey Ward
Lantern sports writer

Along with the recent NBA attempts for a new ruling to enforce mandatory AIDS testing, a new Big Ten Conference and NCAA ruling prevents any player with an open wound to play until cleared by a team physician or trainer.

The ruling affects Division I, II and III men's and women's basketball.

Big Ten Assistant Commissioner Rich Falk said the clarification of the rule, published Nov. 16, states, "an official who sees an open wound on a player or uniform can stop play, so that the wound will be attended to or sit out until next dead ball."

Because any player with a sign of a cut or blood on a uniform can be removed from the game at any time, the rule can be competitively advantageous and disadvantageous.

"There is a concern for key players being removed at key times of play which could be a disadvantage for the team," said OSU Men's Basketball Coach Randy Ayers.

"The NCAA will be coming out

with more clarification on these types of situations later this week," Ayers said.

Players in all sports are being lectured on the risks of AIDS and the HIV virus. Because the cost of mandatory AIDS testing is \$40 a person, mandatory testing is not seen as a possibility in the near future.

"The expense is incredible," said Dr. Robert Murphy, OSU's team physician.

Other problems are that the HIV virus cannot be detected until six months after initial infection, Murphy said. He said that in order for mandatory testing to be effective, players would have to be tested every six months.

The solution for the NCAA is for players to avoid any kind of contact with blood during play.

"The chance of having contact with blood is infinitesimal," Murphy said.

A new solution has been provided by the NCAA that dries blood instantaneously on uniforms.

"There is definitely a need to take some extra jerseys on away games," Ayers said.

Schools will have the choice to change a uniform without penalty.

Players share four years of memories

By Jarrod Ulrey
Lantern sports writer

A series of ups and downs would be a good way to describe the careers of the four seniors on the OSU women's basketball team.

Starters Audrey Burcy, Averill Roberts and Nikki Keyton, and reserve Lisa Sebastian, anchor a team that will likely finish this season with a better record than in any other of their collegiate careers.

"(The seniors have) been extremely important this year," head coach Nancy Darsch said.

The Buckeyes currently hold a 14-3 overall record, 6-2 in the Big Ten. To achieve the goal of winning

"I know if I can go through four years of collegiate basketball, I can go through anything, because it's not as easy as what people think it is."

— Nikki Keyton

the conference championship, the team has stressed playing a tough defense, while playing together and staying focused for the rest of the season.

"I think the main reason why we're playing so well is because we play together," said Keyton, who is the team's second-leading scorer. "Our defense is so much more intense than in previous years."

Sebastian said she feels the key for the Buckeyes' title run is for the team to stay focused on their goals.

"There's a lot of competitive teams in the Big Ten — anyone can beat anyone at any given time," she said. "It's just gonna be the team that stays focused and continue to concentrate all through the season."

Looking back on the Buckeyes' 11-17 finish two years ago, Darsch said it was a difficult period for the team.

Roberts, the Buckeyes' leading scorer the last two seasons and current leader in assists, attributed troubles in the past seasons to bad breaks.

"At times we've had losses that

we should have taken, lost some close games, never seemed to get the right rolls, just got bad breaks," she said. "This year, things are just kind of clicking for us and we're on the upside of a lot of these breaks. We're playing good basketball right now."

Keyton feels that this year's team is much deeper than past seasons.

"In previous years, it's always been one or two people taking the majority of the scoring. Now we depend on more people," she said.

Burcy, who is the Buckeyes' starting point guard and second in assists, said a combination of things must go right for OSU to win the Big Ten.

"It'll definitely take a lot of hard work, a lot of good team chemistry, a lot of good team defense, everyone giving their all, giving 100 percent," she said.

While things are going well now for the Buckeyes, Sebastian said that she expects things to only get better for the team down the road.

"I think that in the future, we can only look to be a better team," she said.

All four seniors agree that playing basketball at Ohio State has been a significant factor in helping each to grow as individuals.

Burcy said she learned a lot during the past four years, especially when she injured her right knee last season.

"It's taught me things about life and why certain things happen," she said. "There are things that are going to happen that you don't understand, that you just have to take what you can get from it and learn."

"I think it definitely has been an experience, both good and bad, probably more good points than bad points," she said.

Noting that the pressures of big-time college basketball can sometimes get the best of you, Keyton said that the experience made her a stronger individual.

"I know if I can go through four years of collegiate basketball, I can go through anything, because it's not as easy as what people think it is," she said.

Looking back over the past four seasons, Sebastian said that the peaks and valleys of the sport is sometimes unexpected.

"It's made it easier to deal with diversity, to be at the very bottom and, hopefully, to feel what it's like to be at the very top," she said.

With just a few weeks remaining in the season, Darsch said she is proud of the accomplishments that the seniors experienced.

"It's very satisfying to see them go through personal growth. Individually and collectively, they're all very good people," she said.



Sayuri Inoue/the Lantern

Second childhood

Jo Jo Gehl, 86, from a senior cheerleading group called Ginger Snap, revs up the crowd during halftime of Friday's women's basketball game at St. John Arena.

Fan support growing for women cagers

Program has come a long way since Pomerene Hall days

By Kevin Williams
Lantern sports writer

The OSU women's basketball team has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1965, when it used to be housed in Pomerene Hall and play to only 50 fans, to its national fame in St. John Arena, where it currently plays for occasional sold-out crowds of 13,276.

"We couldn't put more than about 50 spectators in the facility (Pomerene)," said Phyllis Bailey, associate director of athletics and the first OSU women's basketball coach. "It was a case of setting up chairs along one side and along one end, we often had the gym full but that wasn't very many people."

Presently, only one of the basketball hoops is in playing condition. The court is not NCAA-regulation size, and there is no room for fan bleachers.

It wasn't until the 1975-76 basketball season that the team played their first game in St. John Arena.

How times have changed. On Sunday, 13,276 filled St. John Arena to watch the Buckeyes beat second-ranked Iowa.

It was the second sellout in OSU women's basketball history. The 1988 Iowa-Ohio State game was also sold out.

"It's tremendous to have that kind of support," OSU Coach Nancy Darsch said. "There aren't very many teams in the country that can talk to their recruits and their families about St. John Arena and sellout crowds. It's a tribute to the people in Ohio and the kind of basketball fans they are to come to this game today and give us a piece of history with another sellout crowd."

Ohio State, like many other schools, has seen a continuous rise in attendance for women's basketball games. In 1987, the

total attendance for all Division I women's games was 1,667,470. Five years later, attendance jumped to 2,886,936.

Bailey said she believes fans are now becoming more aware of women's basketball.

"It's hard to believe that five years ago there were still people that didn't realize that the rules of the game had changed and that women were playing with five players," Bailey said.

Using the top-20 ranked teams in attendance as a sample, the last three years have seen a steady increase. In 1991, the top-20 teams had an average of 3,193, with Ohio State ranking ninth. Last year, the figure rose to 3,773, but the Buckeyes fell to 15th. This season, the number has risen even higher, with the top-20 teams in attendance averaging 4,079.

In 1991, the Buckeyes averaged 3,197 fans per game. That number fell to 2,795 last year.

With the Buckeyes home season complete, this year's total attendance of 86,328 eclipsed the previous mark of 69,727 set in the 1987-88 season.

Ohio State ranks third nationally, with an average attendance of a 5,755. The University of Tennessee is second with an average of 5,896 and Southwest Missouri State University ranks first averaging 7,203. Although unranked in the polls, Southwest Missouri State always ranks among the top in women's attendance figures.

"This area is a major basketball hotbed," said John Rippergr, associate sports information director at Southwest Missouri State. "We did a lot of promoting and a lot of success comes from our past performance, especially last year's final four team, did a great deal on getting attention of fans."

The Ohio State-Michigan State game is second in attendance to the sellout Iowa crowd with 9,551.

"The attention and the crowd support we get is absolutely tremendous," Darsch said. "To



Sayuri Inoue/the Lantern

A 10-year-old Katie Smith fan, Matthew Shaw from Logan, cheers on the women's basketball team against Iowa at St. John Arena Sunday.

have almost 10,000 people here really gave our team a big lift and I think it really fed our enthusiasm in the second half. It's great."

Earlier this season, Ohio State received national exposure as a host site for the first ACC-Big Ten Challenge. The team matched Big Ten team Ohio State against ACC team Virginia. The game was televised on CBS and drew a crowd of 9,177. Making this figure even more impressive, the game took place during Winter Break, so many students were not on campus.

Weather has not been kind to the basketball team this season, as games against Wisconsin and Minnesota followed nights of heavy snow and very hazardous road conditions. This did not

keep the fans away. The Wisconsin game drew 5,172 fans and Minnesota brought 5,144 out of the cold to watch the team battle the Golden Gophers.

Senior Nikki Keyton said she was not surprised by the fan turnout at the Wisconsin game. "Our fans are pretty faithful, and that's one thing that OSU is known for," Keyton said. "The strong tradition here is that we get good fan support."

The turnout against Minnesota was a call for Minnesota Coach Linda Hill-MacDonald to give the Buckeye supporters a lot of credit. "It's a great crowd because it's a basketball crowd; it's a crowd of fans," Hill-MacDonald said. "It's not a crowd that's going after the visiting team. They just appreciate women's basketball."

Ex-college athletes ease off but don't forsake exercise

By Julia Osborne
Dispatch Accent Reporter

College athletes who play team sports think nothing of training two or more hours a day, then scrimmaging for hours longer. Those who turn pro continue their intense schedules.

Sooner or later, however, the real world beckons. Hours behind a desk replace hours in a gym. Regular workouts become one more engagement to crowd into a full schedule.

Here's how some former college athletes stay in shape today:

- The stationary bike is popular with Nicole Sanchez, who played basketball for OSU before graduating in 1991.

"When I graduated, I realized I had never worked out on my own," she said. "That was a big change for me."

The Hilliard resident, an account manager for Kraft General Foods, exercises at her condominium's fitness center for one hour several times a week. She uses the treadmill and the bike.

"I really enjoy running," she said. "It's relaxing and gives me time to think."

She plans to move her 2-mile runs outdoors in warmer weather. Sanchez also plays basketball in a league with other former college players.



Chris Russell/Dispatch
ABOVE: Nicole Sanchez, who played basketball for Ohio State, exercises on a treadmill.

The Columbus Dispatch

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1993

Bucks make Final Four

p. 1A

OSU women's trip to semifinal is Big Ten first

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

RICHMOND, Va. — It's on to the Final Four this week for the Ohio State women's basketball team, which held off a late comeback to beat Virginia 75-73 yesterday in the East Regional final.

The victory made the Buckeyes the first Big Ten team ever to reach the NCAA women's national semifinals. About four hours later, Iowa became the second, beating Tennessee 72-56 in the Mideast Regional in Iowa City, Iowa.

Ohio State and Iowa will play at noon Saturday in the first semifinal at the Omni in Atlanta. The winner of that game will go to the championship game at 4 p.m. next Sunday.

Ohio State and Iowa shared the Big Ten conference title with 16-2 records and split their two games, with each team winning at home.

Senior Audrey Burcy scored 20 points to lead Ohio State past Virginia and was named the East Regional's most valuable player. Joining her on the all-tournament team were teammates Averill Roberts, a senior, and Katie Smith, a freshman.

More than 200 supporters were on hand last night when the OSU players arrived at Port Columbus about 8 p.m.

Coach Nancy Darsch said, "This is just great. It's just another example of how good the people of Columbus have been to this team. It's a real warm feeling to share it with so many people."

Darsch has guided the Buck-



Chris Russell/Dispatch

Coach Nancy Darsch hugs Nikki Keyton as an elated Erin Ingwersen, No. 25, and Lisa Sebastian cheer. Details on Pages 1,3D.

eyes to 27 victories in 30 games this season.

Tickets for the OSU-Iowa game go on sale at 7:30 a.m. Monday at the OSU athletic ticket office in St. John Arena. Tickets cost \$36 for the semifinals, and the final and can be

ordered with a Visa or MasterCard by calling 292-2624 or 1-800-GO-BUCKS.

A local travel agency also is giving Lady Bucks fans a chance to follow the team to Atlanta. Hoffman Travel of Powell has lined up five

buses to take fans to Atlanta and back next weekend.

The \$309 weekend travel package includes one night of lodging at The Clarion Hotel, transportation and tickets to both games.

Buses will leave at 8 p.m. Friday

and arrive in Columbus early Monday morning. Travel time is about 11 hours each way.

For information, call Hoffman Travel at 885-5553 during business hours or 436-5131 after 5 p.m. and on Sundays.

OSU women heading to Final Four



Chris Russell/Dispatch

Ohio State's Katie Smith (30) battles Virginia's Amy Lofstedt for a rebound.

Burcy, Roberts spark 75-73 win over Virginia

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

RICHMOND, Va. — The Ohio State women's basketball team fought off a second-half comeback to claim the NCAA East Regional title and a trip to the Final Four with a 75-73 victory over Virginia yesterday in Richmond Coliseum.

The Buckeyes (27-3) became the first team in Big Ten history to reach the Final Four. They will face Midwest champion Iowa (27-3), a 72-56 winner over Tennessee yesterday, Saturday in the Omni in Atlanta.

"I don't know if it's destiny or quiet confidence," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said of reaching the Final Four. "You have to have breaks, I don't care how good you are."

"I've said all year long that our timing has been good. I feel luck has been on our side at times, but I also think we have taken advantage of our opportunities. We've made good things happen for us."

OSU point guard Audrey Burcy finished with 20 points, five rebounds, four assists and three steals and Averill Roberts had 25 points.

Heather Burge paced Virginia (26-6) with a game-high 30 points and 13 rebounds.

Burcy and Roberts showed great poise in helping OSU dodge several bullets, including untimely substitutions late in the first half and horrid free-throw shooting late in the game.

OSU was sitting on a 38-27 lead with 2:59 left in the first half when Darsch pulled all five starters. The Cavaliers finished with a 7-2 run and trailed 40-34 at halftime.

"I didn't intend to take all of them out," Darsch said. "I started to rotate them and get everyone some rest."

"I looked around and realized that they were all on the bench with me. We really didn't have a major weapon, offensively, on the floor for us at that point."

"That's where we spluttered. . . . on the offensive end. . . . Even though we gave up some momentum going into the half, it gave our starters a couple extra minutes of rest and helped them refocus more in the second half."

The Cavaliers' biggest lead was three points in the second half. OSU took over for good on a Roberts free throw with 7:10 to go.

With OSU leading 74-70 with 31.5 seconds to play, Smith missed the front end of a 1-and-1. Wendy Palmer's layup pulled Virginia within two with 20.5 seconds left.

Smith missed the front end of another 1-and-1 and Nikki Keyton hit only the front end of another to make it 75-72 with 15.7 seconds left.

Smith fouled Jenny Boucek, who rebounded Keyton's miss, with 9.8 seconds left. Boucek hit the first free throw, but missed the



Chris Russell/Dispatch

Audrey Burcy of the Buckeyes drives to the basket during the second half.

second and Smith rebounded. She was quickly hacked by Dena Evans with eight seconds remaining.

After an OSU timeout, Smith missed the front end of a third 1-and-1.

But Cavaliers coach Debbie Ryan made what proved a costly mistake, signaling for a timeout just before Evans buried a three-pointer in front of the Virginia bench with 0.6 seconds to play. The basket was waved off.

"I actually called timeout long before the ball got into Dena's hands," Ryan said. "I was calling timeout all the way upcourt, and nobody would give me a look."

After the timeout, Amy Lofstedt threw the ball out of bounds over Evans' outstretched arms, giving OSU possession in front of the Virginia bench. Roberts took the inbounds pass from Keyton and stepped out of bounds, giving Virginia the ball with 0.1 second left. Smith swiped that inbounds pass as time expired.

Seniors reach high point of their careers

In two seasons, they've gone from 11-17 to Final Four

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

RICHMOND, Va. — Finally.

Ohio State's 75-73 victory over Virginia in the East Regional final yesterday in Richmond Coliseum enabled it to become the first Buckeye women's basketball team to reach the Final Four.

"I just have to credit our seniors," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "They believed in themselves.

"Not only have they become confident, they've become determined. We've also just kept a low profile. We never talked negative or about how this could be their last practice or game. It's all been positive. . . . think good things and good things will happen. So we all had a

quiet confidence that we were going to be able to do well this season."

It also was the most remarkable turnaround in OSU history. The Buckeyes suffered through the worst record (11-17) in school history just two seasons ago.

"I don't think you could write a script any better than this," OSU senior forward Nikki Keyton said. "It's the perfect ending.

"We won the Big Ten championship and made it to the Final Four. It just seems like it was meant to be. Everything has gone our way since the beginning."

Keyton and fellow seniors Audrey Burey, Averill Roberts and Lisa Sebastian began the season in jeopardy of becoming the first OSU class to leave without a Big Ten championship since the conference went to round-robin play in the 1982-83 season.

But the Big Ten co-title was just one of several accomplishments this squad has achieved.

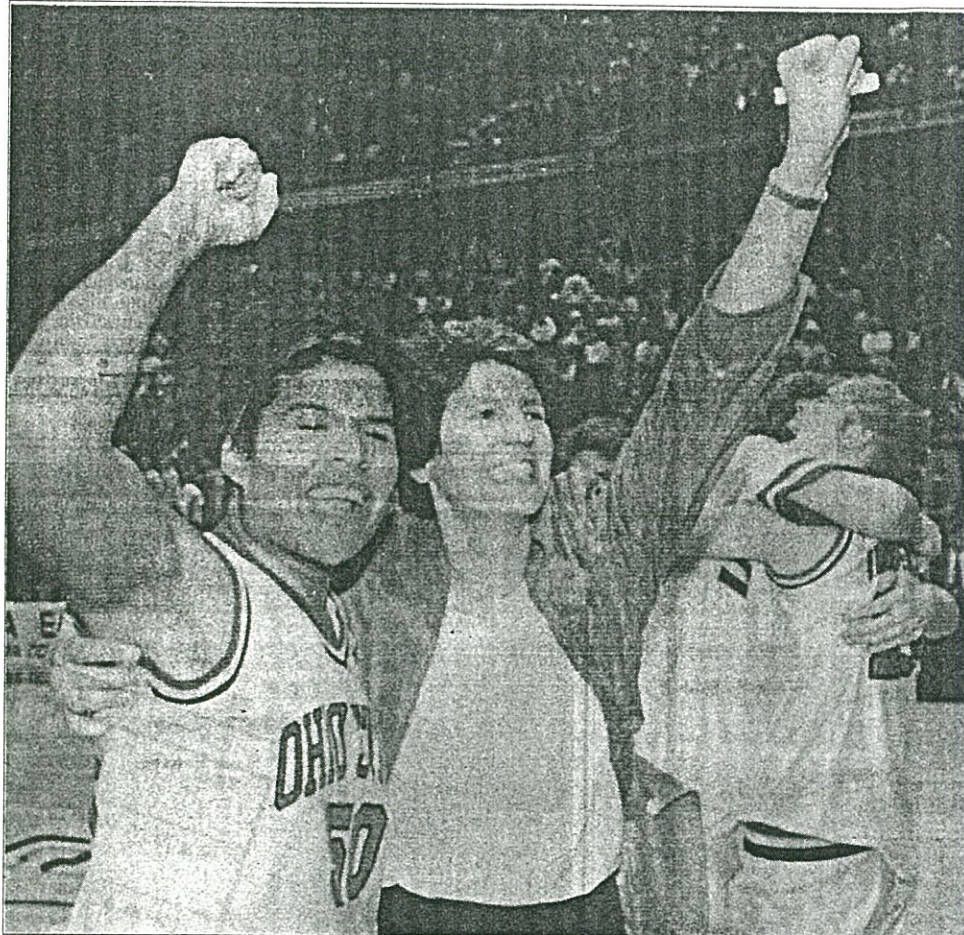
Other milestones include 1) the second-best start in

school history (8-0); 2) the highest national ranking in school history, third in the Associated Press poll; 3) the highest jump in the AP poll's history, going from unranked in preseason to No. 3; 4) first OSU team seeded No. 1 in an NCAA regional; 5) first OSU squad to capture a regional title; 6) school record for attendance (5,755 average during the regular season); 7) first OSU team to play before back-to-back sellout crowds of 13,276 in St. John Arena (vs. Iowa and Rutgers).

The Buckeyes (27-3), riding a 13-game winning streak, have a chance to tie a season record for victories when they face Big Ten rival Iowa (27-3) on Saturday in Atlanta in a national semifinal. The 1984-85 OSU team, coached by Tara VanDerveer, finished 28-3.

"It feels great to know that we all played hard as a team and finally get rewarded for your hard work," Burey said. "It's just a great feeling.

"We all went and gave a good effort and tried to do the things that we've been doing all year. We came away with a win."



Associated Press

OSU women's basketball coach Nancy Darsch celebrates the Buckeyes' NCAA East Regional win along with Nikki Keyton in Richmond, Va., Saturday.

Off to Atlanta

Win over Virginia gives OSU its first Final Four berth

By Kevin Williams
Lantern staff writer

RICHMOND, Va. — Feeling as though it was the invisible team in the East Region and not getting the respect of a No. 1 seed, the OSU women's basketball team silently became the first Big Ten team in history to reach the Final Four.

The Buckeyes (27-3) beat third-seeded Virginia 75-73 Saturday in the NCAA East Regional Finals and will move on to Atlanta to face Iowa (27-3) in the national semifinals next Saturday. The Hawkeyes became the second Big Ten team to make it to the Final Four by defeating top-seeded Tennessee, 72-56.

"It's extremely rewarding," OSU Coach Nancy Darsch said. "I'm still not sure I believe it yet, that we're going to the Final Four. To take a team that wasn't even ranked in the preseason and to end up in the Final Four, it's really overwhelming and just absolutely tremendous."

Senior guard Averill Roberts led the four Buckeyes that were in double figures with 25 points, including 17 in the first half. Senior point guard Audrey Burcy had 20 points and five rebounds. Burcy was named Outstanding Player in the East Region.

In a nip-and-tuck second half, the Buckeyes went up 74-70 on the

Cavaliers as Roberts hit a jumper with one minute left in the game. Ohio State got the ball back, still leading by four with 31 seconds remaining. Virginia (26-6) fouled Smith as she missed the front end of a one-and-one. The Cavaliers' Wendy Palmer made a layup with 20 seconds left to pull within two, 74-72.

After a Virginia timeout, they once again fouled Smith, who again missed the front end of the one-and-one. The Buckeyes rebounded the ball, forcing Virginia to foul them again with 15 seconds left to

play. Senior forward Nikki Keyton hit the first free throw, but missed the second. Jenny Boucek was fouled by Smith with 10 seconds left. She made the first shot but also missed the second.

Smith was immediately fouled by Dena Evans. For the third time in less than 20 seconds, Smith, who shoots better than 80 percent from the free-throw line, missed the front end.

"Usually I make them," Smith said. "I wasn't that nervous and I knew that our defense would get it done no matter what."

Virginia rebounded the miss and quickly brought the ball up court. Evans hit a three-pointer with less than a second to play that would have given the Cavaliers the lead, but Cavalier Coach Debbie Ryan had signaled for a timeout before the shot. The bucket did not count.

See FINAL FOUR/ Page two

"I actually called the timeout long before the ball got into Dena's hands," Ryan said. "I was calling for a timeout all the way up court and nobody would look at me."

With six-tenths of a second left on the clock, Virginia tried a lob pass that went untouched out of bounds, giving Ohio State the ball. Keyton inbounded to Roberts, who

stepped out of bounds with one-tenth of a second left. Smith stole the inbound pass as the buzzer went off, giving the Buckeyes the two point win.

The last 30 seconds of the game lasted more than 20 minutes. Darsch reinforced what she has been saying all year that the team just will not give up.

"I think basically that this team refuses to lose," Darsch said. "We got some key rebounds and made some key buckets and we were able to hang on in spite of our free throw shooting the last minute and a half."

In the opening 20 minutes, the Buckeyes raced out to a 38-25 lead before Virginia clawed back to close

the gap to six at halftime, 40-34. Just before the comeback, Darsch took out all five starters at once to give them a break, but the "strategy" backfired.

"I knew Katie and Averill needed a break but I didn't intend to take them all out," Darsch said. "I looked over and saw all five starters on the bench with me."

A compilation of local, state,
and national stories about
The Ohio State University
and issues concerning
higher education.

NEWS DIGEST

Published by the Office of
University Communications

Mary Lindner,
News Digest editor

The Columbus Dispatch

MAR 30 1993

BUCKEYES HOT TICKET

Hoffman Travel of Powell is offering a weekend bus trip to Atlanta for the OSU women's basketball appearance in the NCAA Final Four.

Five busloads sold out yesterday. A second allocation of tickets goes on sale today.

The travel package includes one night of lodging at The Clarion Hotel, transportation and tickets to the two semifinal games Saturday and Sunday's championship game. Ohio State plays Iowa in the second semifinal about 2:30 p.m. Buses leave at 8 p.m. Friday and return to Columbus early Monday.

Atlanta bound

OSU President E. Gordon Gee will be going to Atlanta on Saturday to support the OSU women's basketball team in its first-ever Final Four appearance.

Dave Kelch of the OSU Alumni Association said there will be a "team fanfare and reception" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, hosted by the OSU Atlanta Alumni Association. Kelch said there is no "official" group representing the university because the NCAA has total control of the tickets, allotting only 540 tickets to each university.

Chuck McMurray will be the OSU Alumni Association representative in Atlanta.

Coach Nancy Darsch said the team received a lot of support while they were in Virginia and was pleased that the team was able to stay focused amid all the attention.

"The players are used to being around alumni clubs and the media, and it does help to have that support, but it's no big deal," she said. "We know what we have to do."

— Rita George

A compilation of local, state, and national stories about The Ohio State University and issues concerning higher education.

NEWS DIGEST

Published by the Office of University Communications

Mary Lindner,
News Digest editor

The Columbus Dispatch

MAR 31 1993

WSYX long committed to OSU women's team

By Julia Keller

Dispatch Television Critic

Oh, sure. Now *everybody* wants a seat on the bandwagon.

Now that the Ohio State University women's basketball team is a proven winner, heading to the Final Four in the NCAA Tournament in Atlanta, all three local stations are jumping aboard with player profiles and live reports from game sites.

But it was WSYX (Channel 6) that followed the team long before the hoopla began, both in regular newscasts and in *The Nancy Darsch Show*, the coach's postgame show that airs during the season.

Thus, Friday's live show from Atlanta, *The Dream Season*, is simply a continuation of Channel 6's commitment to the plucky OSU squad.

"We've been involved with the women's basketball program for years," said Bill Payer, WSYX news director.

Wendy Craver, WSYX weathercaster, is a prime reason: She moonlights as the public-address announcer at OSU home games and supervises the videotaping of games for coaching and recruiting. Craver

also will be the announcer for the Final Four and championship game in Atlanta, the first time a woman has held the job.

Payer said OSU's success in this year's tournament may inspire increased news-media recognition of women's sports. "This is a breakthrough event," he said.

The Dream Season, featuring WSYX sports anchor Mark Cooper and Craver, will be produced by Judy Mulder, who produces Channel 6's 11 p.m. newscast.

Mulder has an additional qualification, Payer said: "She was once offered a basketball scholarship to Kent State University." And she's a fierce competitor in the pickup basketball games in the WSYX parking lot, he added.

FINE-TUNING

■ *The Dream Season* airs at 8 p.m. Friday on WSYX (Channel 6).

A compilation of local, state,
and national stories about
The Ohio State University
and issues concerning
higher education.

NEWS DIGEST

Published by the Office of
University Communications
Mary Lindner,
News Digest editor



APR 01 1993

Three-pointers now rage at Ohio State

Ohio State doesn't hesitate to put up a three-point shot. But that wasn't always the case.

Coach Nancy Darsch became a fan of the three-pointer when she was an assistant to Stanford's Tara VanDerveer on the 1991 World University Games team. The Cardinal have two national titles, partly on their three-point prowess.

"When you spend a summer with Tara you gain an appreciation of what the three-point shot can do for you," said Darsch, whose players average 4.2 three-pointers a game.

— Debbie Becker



APR 01 1993

Buckeyes have fiery practices

It's not that the Ohio State's players don't like each other, but there are times when coach Nancy Darsch has to stop practice and insist her players quit fighting.

Freshman Katie Smith explains, "We have these spats sometimes because in practice the losing team has to run so it gets pretty competitive. Practices are a lot rougher than games."

— Debbie Becker



Damien A. Guarnieri/the Lantern

The crowd showed a lot of spirit and gave the OSU women's basketball team an enthusiastic send-off.

Rally held for OSU team

Women's basketball team cheered on the road to Final Four

By Chris Blackburn
Lantern staff writer

The OSU community gathered Wednesday morning at St. John Arena to give a spirited send-off to Coach Nancy Darsch and her basketball team before their trip to Atlanta for the women's NCAA Final Four Tournament.

The Student Events Committee and the Ohio Union sponsored the rally, which was attended by about 150 friends, fans and family members of the team.

The Columbus media was out in full force. WNCI-FM, a local radio station, hired an airplane to pull a sign that said, "Zoo sez OSU poke their Hawkeyes out!"

Although the OSU cheerleaders were unable to attend the rally, the OSU pep band was on hand to play Buckeye favorites such as "Hang on Sloopy."

Scarlet and gray pompons and signs were given to the fans.

Darsch said in her remarks to the crowd that her team was going to, "chew some feathers."

"We'd really like to thank you all for coming out here today to wish



Mark Gsellman/the Lantern

The OSU women's basketball team watches fans perform a rap song Tuesday before the bus left for the NCAA Final Four Tournament in Atlanta.

us well and to help and inspire us to go to Atlanta and play very well. Hopefully, we'll come back with some good news," Darsch said.

When Darsch was introducing the players to the cheering fans, one team member, freshman Katie Smith, paused on the stage to take a picture of the people who had come out to wish her and her teammates well.

At the conclusion of the rally, the team boarded the bus and was

ready to leave. But Darsch had one more thing to do before she was ready to go — she took pictures of the fans who had gathered to wish the team well.

The Buckeyes play the Iowa Hawkeyes at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. The game will be televised by CBS-TV.

A welcome-back rally is planned for the team at 11:40 a.m. Monday at Port Columbus International Airport.

FINAL FOUR



Averrill Roberts



Nikki Keyton



Audrey Burcy



Lisa Sebastian

Big Bear congratulates Nancy Darsch and the OSU Women's Basketball Team on an outstanding season!

We would also like to salute the four seniors as they play their final games together, at the Final Four.

Good Luck and Go Bucks!



Nancy Darsch, Head Coach

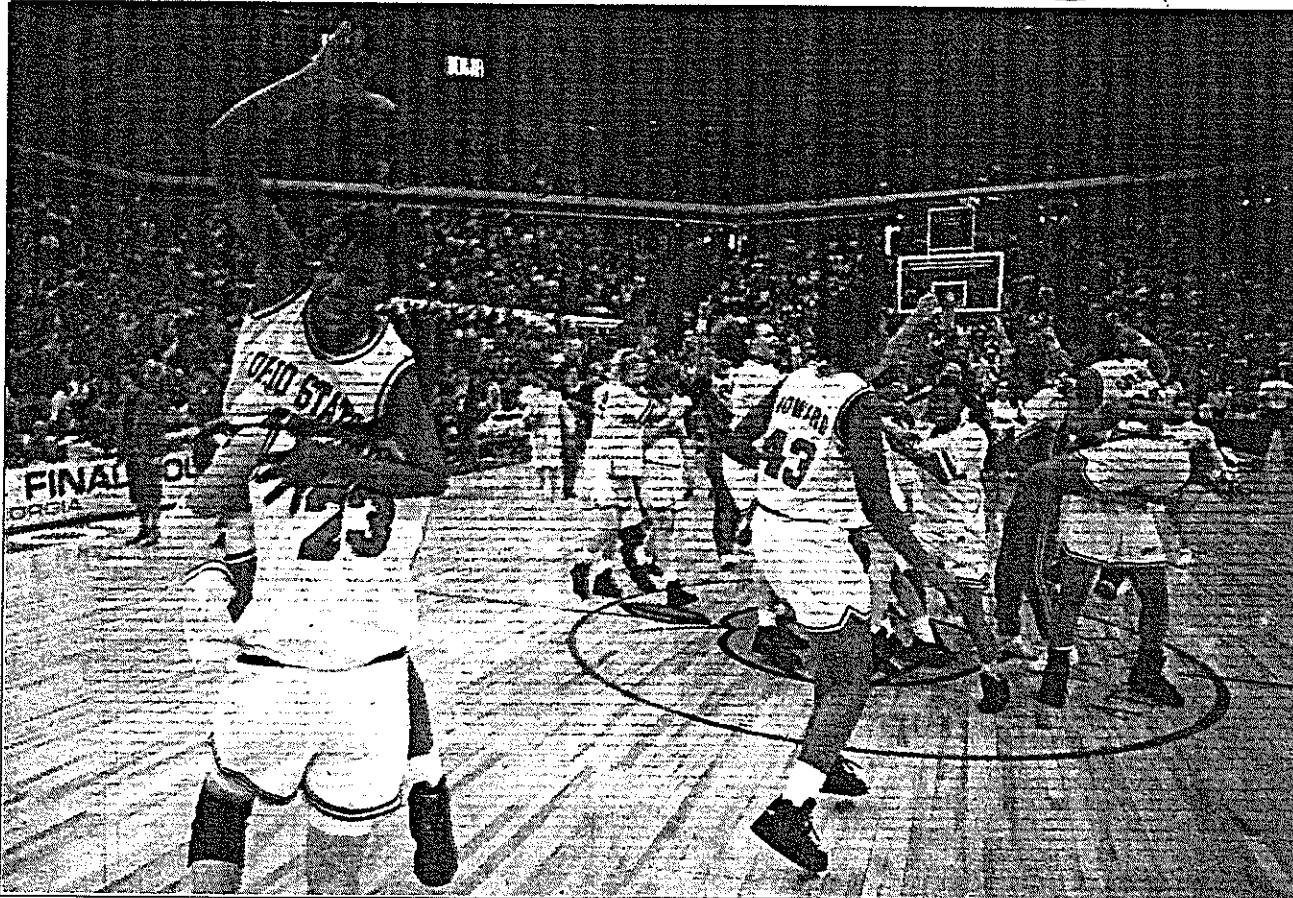


The Columbus Dispatch

Section 1A

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1993

It's down to one game for OSU



Chris Russell/Dispatch

Ohio State's Gigi Jackson (23) gives teammate Audrey Burcy a victory ride as other teammates celebrate behind them after beating Iowa.

Buckeyes top Iowa in overtime, will play Texas Tech for crown

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

ATLANTA — The Ohio State women's basketball team advanced to the NCAA championship game with a 73-72 overtime win over Iowa yesterday before a sellout crowd of 16,141 in the Omni.

The Buckeyes (28-3) are one win away from their first national title, and the first for a Big Ten team. OSU will meet Texas Tech (30-3) at 4 p.m. today. Texas Tech defeated Vanderbilt 60-46 in the other semifinal.

It was the Buckeyes' 14th straight victory and tied a school record for most wins in a season. The 1984-85 squad finished 28-3.

"It feels great, just great," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "I think that you saw two very prepared teams play an outstanding basketball game ... a game that could have gone either way."

Averill Roberts led OSU with 16 points and a career-high eight steals. Nikki Keyton contributed 14 points and tied her season high for rebounds with 13. Both were key factors down the stretch.

Keyton, a 6-foot senior forward, sealed the win by making the second of two free throws with 33.5 seconds left in overtime for a 73-72 advantage. Roberts, a 5-9 senior guard, stole the ball when Iowa guard Lau-

rie Aaron tripped with 2.5 seconds left and smothered it as the clock expired.

OSU, which led by as many as eight points in the second half, needed a layup from freshman Katie Smith with 10 seconds left to send the game into overtime, knotted at 61. It was the first overtime game this season for OSU.

Though the Buckeyes' defense helped force a season-high 25 Iowa turnovers, Darsch said it won't be as easy to contain high-scoring Texas Tech.

The Red Raiders, who have won 18 straight games, are led by Sheryl Swoopes, a two-time All-American and the 1992-93 national player of the year. She is averaging 32.4 points in tournament play, including 31 points against Vanderbilt.

Swoopes, a 6-1 senior forward, averaged 27.4 points during the regular season.

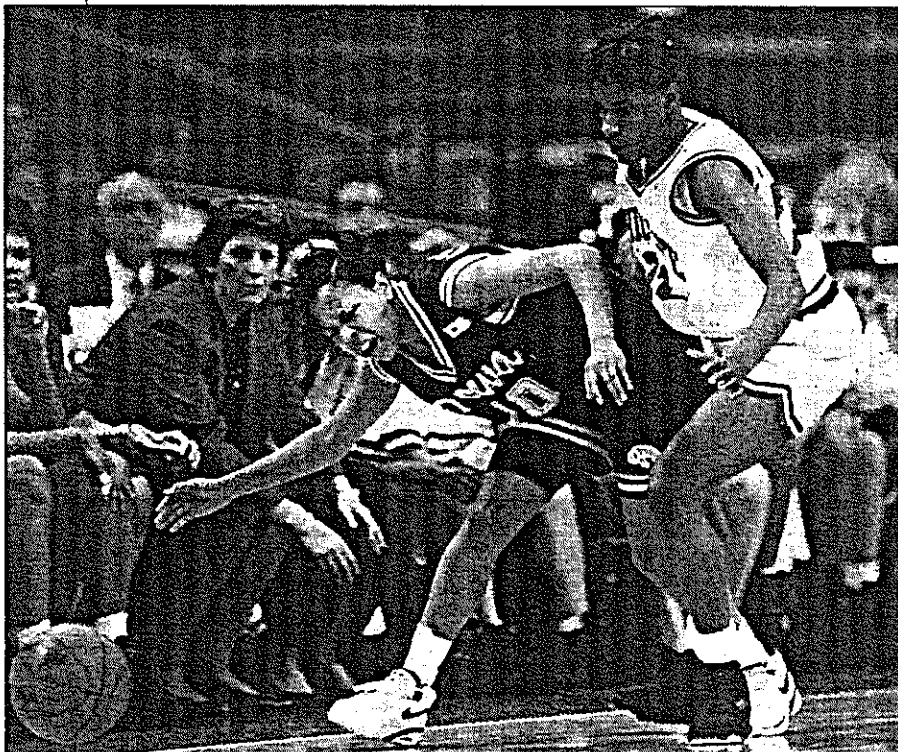
"Texas Tech looked very good in the first game, at times," Darsch said. "I think Vanderbilt did a good job of slowing them down; but who can stop Swoopes? ... I don't know."

"She may be unstoppable. It may be that everybody around her has to be contained. My assistants have prepared a scouting report on them, and we'll be prepared to play."

OSU women 73, Iowa 72

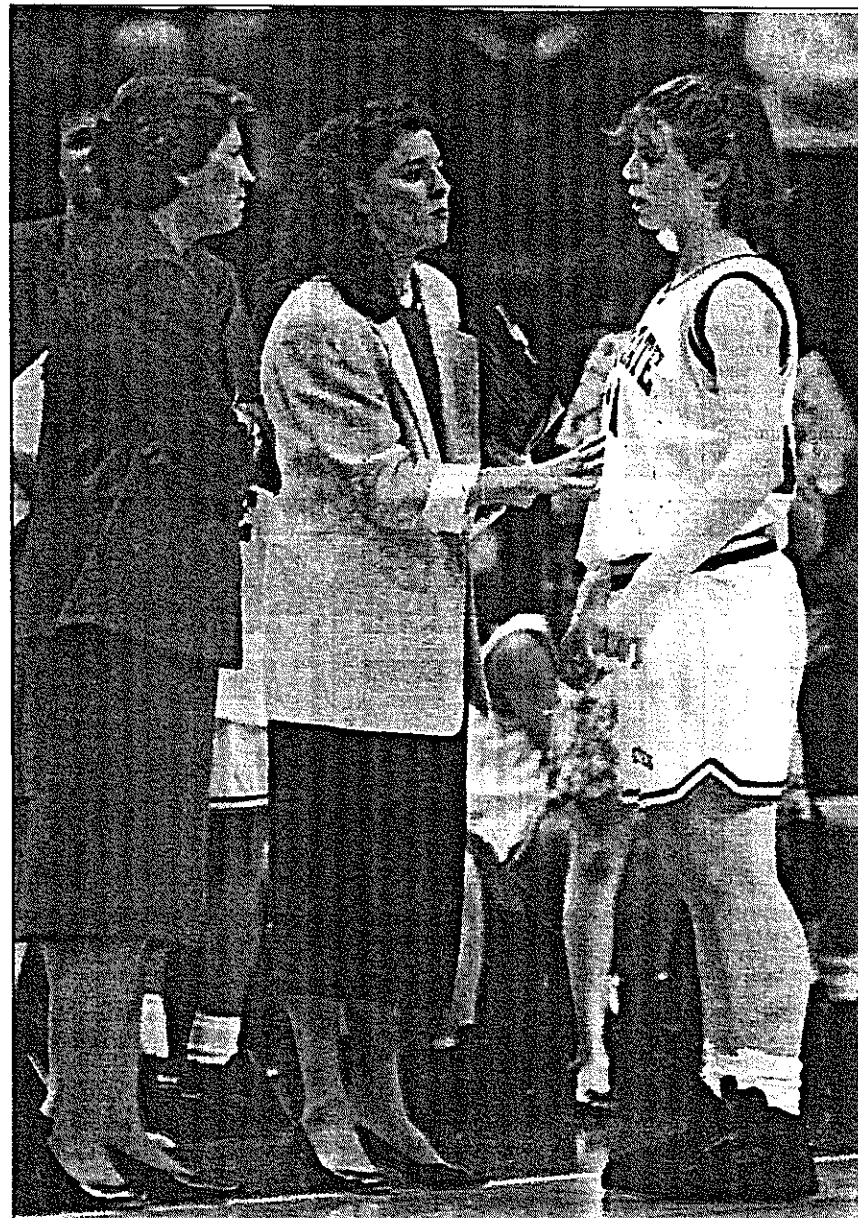


Audrey Burey (15) of Ohio State gets up in the air to sink a basket over Laurie Aaron of Iowa.



Above: Arnedo Yarbrough of Iowa loses the ball while under heavy pressure from OSU's Averrill Roberts.

Right: OSU head coach Nancy Darsch, left, and assistant Melissa McFerrin talk to Katie Smith before Smith's free throw late in overtime.

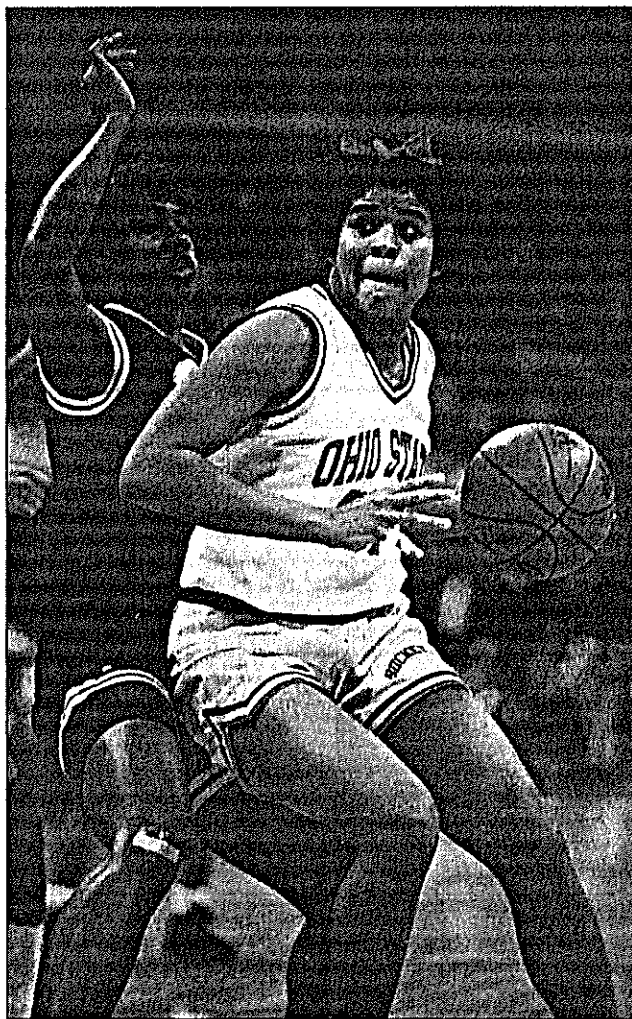


Photography by **Chris Russell** /Dispatch

Right: Nancy Darsch has some instructions for the Buckeyes.



Below: Nikki Keyton of Ohio State makes a determined move to the basket.



Smith came through for OSU at right time

Stats weren't great, but she made plays

By Craig Merz
Dispatch Sports Reporter

ATLANTA — "The Franchise" came through when Ohio State needed her most.

Katie Smith shook a subpar effort against Iowa on the score sheet to make the biggest shot of her young Ohio State career with 10 seconds left in regulation to tie the second semifinal game in NCAA Women's Final Four at 61.

The Buckeyes went on to win 73-72 in overtime to advance to its first championship game at 4 p.m. today, against Texas Tech.

"I didn't know how many seconds were left," the freshman All-American said of the shot.

As usual, she drew a crowd around her at the baseline near the OSU basket. With her back to the basket, she faked left then pivoted the other way and sliced through two Hawkeye defenders for the score.

"On certain plays they (the coaching staff) want me to post up," Smith said. "I knew there were people around me, but I thought I had the best opportunity to score."

Smith's 11 points were seven below her season average.

"It was a team effort. People are keying on me a lot more," she said. "I'm getting bumped, held and fouled and not getting many calls."

Going to the foul line has been an adventure of late for her.

Hitting 81 percent from the line this season, she was 3 of 5 against Iowa. She made two free throws with 1:47 left in overtime to give the Buckeyes a 72-70 lead.

However, she missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with 14.7 seconds left and OSU up 73-72. The Hawkeyes got the rebound but squandered an opportunity to win the game when Laurie Aaron lost the ball to Averill Roberts with 2.5 seconds to play.

Smith also missed the front end of three 1-and-1s in the last 31 seconds against Virginia in the East Regional final, with the game in doubt.

"I have not lost any confidence in Katie's shooting ability and I hope that she has not," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "She takes a great deal of pride in her free throw shooting and has been at the line so many times during her career and has always come through. Right now I want her to stay confident. She does so many good things for us and put us into overtime."

Smith said, "I think it's mechanics. All the free throws the last two weekends have been long. I don't know if it's because I'm excited and putting a little extra on it. I don't think it's mental."

■ Smith didn't feel any bragging rights were on the line in the matchup with Iowa, which shared the Big

Ten championship with Ohio State.

"It was a battle," Smith said. "The teams split two regular season games. "We both deserve to be co-champs. Look at this, it went down to the last second. I thought both teams struggled. It wasn't pretty."

Iowa coach Vivian Stringer praised the play of OSU's Adrienne Johnson and Lisa Negri off the bench. Johnson had four points while Negri was 3 of 3 from the field and 2 of 2 from the line for nine points.

"They have a lot of different weapons," Stringer said. "Everyone made a positive type of contribution."

Negri hit a key three-pointer from the corner to tie the score at 58 with 2:48 left in regulation.

■ After an on-court celebration at the conclusion of the game, the Buckeyes retired to a more subdued locker room.

"I think it's because it's a new experience," junior forward Stacie Howard said. "We don't know how to react. We've never been here before. This is one of the happiest moments in my life."

Senior guard Audrey Burey said OSU has accomplished only half its goal in Atlanta.

"Part of it was to get to the championship game," she said. "Now we can finish our dream; it will be a dream season."

■ Smith is looking forward to the matchup with Texas Tech's Sheryl Swoopes, also an All-American. Swoopes scored 31 in the Red Raiders' 60-46 semifinal win over Vanderbilt.

"We have some athletic people, too. At some point I'm going to match up with her," Smith said. "We match up real well with them as a team. Our post players can dominate. They will have trouble stopping all of us. They're like a one-man team. It's going to be a great game."

Texas Tech has won 18 games in a row, OSU 14 straight.

"We know it will be very difficult to stop Swoopes," Burey said.

Swoopes needs five points to break the tournament record of 134 points in five games. Swoopes set the record for most free throws made in the tournament (46) as well as attempts (50) this year.

■ Playing two games in two days should not be a problem, the Buckeyes said.

"We're in good enough condition," Howard said. "We need to slow it down and save our legs."

The Buckeyes watched film of Texas Tech last night. The team will have a light practice this morning.

"Both teams will be pumped up so we won't feel the fatigue," Smith said.

Burey said she expects an up-tempo game. Texas Tech averaged over 86 points per game this season.

The Columbus Dispatch

Section 1A

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1993

Buckeyes fall just short of national title

Swoopes powers Texas Tech to 84-82 victory

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

ATLANTA — The most successful season in Ohio State women's basketball history ended with an 84-82 loss to Texas Tech in the NCAA championship game yesterday in the Omni.

The Buckeyes, who had their 14-game win streak snapped, were hoping to become the first Big Ten women's team to win a national title.

"I really believed that it was going to end with a national championship," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "So we have to look to the good things that happened to us this year, and look at what we have accomplished.

"But it's still a disappointment to come in second after all the good things that have happened and all the hard work that has gone into this season."

Katie Smith led OSU with 28 points, 20 in the second half, and a game-high 11 rebounds. Nikki Keyton contributed 19 points.

But those efforts couldn't offset the record-setting performance of Sheryl Swoopes, Texas Tech's two-time All-American. She scored 47 points to help the Red Raiders (31-3) capture their first national title.

The most notable among several records established by Swoopes yesterday was most points in an NCAA championship game, men's or women's. It broke the previous mark of 44 points set by Bill Walton of UCLA against Memphis State in 1973.

But not even Swoopes could entirely

dampen what has been a remarkable season for the Buckeyes, who finished 28-4.

Their accomplishments included a Big Ten co-championship (with Iowa); a No. 3 ranking in the final Associated Press poll, highest in school history; and tying a school single-season record for most wins.

They also recorded the best turnaround in school and Big Ten history, after posting an 11-17 record in the 1990-91 season, the worst in school history; the biggest climb in the history of the AP poll,

going from unranked to No. 3; and having the first freshman (Katie Smith) in school and Big Ten history to earn All-American status.

"It's kind of unbelievable," Darsch said. "It's been a great ride.

"Maybe we didn't have the expectations on us. But I thought we did a great job, all season, of answering every challenge and coming up with the wins since Feb. 5th (OSU's last loss, at Iowa).

"To accomplish all the things that we did this year, to be playing for the national championship will always provide us with some very, very positive memories and just some great feelings. But right now, the loss does put a little bit of a damper on things.

"In a couple of weeks when we have our appreciation banquet (April 21), we'll all be able to sit back and be very, very proud of what this team has accomplished."

WELCOME HOME

The OSU women's team is scheduled to arrive at Port Columbus at 11:50 a.m. on a flight from Atlanta. Fans who want to greet them have been asked to gather at the former AmeriFlora remote parking lot at the airport on the south side of International Gateway.



Chris Russell/Dispatch

Ohio State's Kelly Fergus, left, consoles Nikki Keyton after the Buckeyes' loss to Texas Tech.

NCAA WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR

Buckeyes say they're proud of their success

Loss in NCAA final won't dampen season

By Craig Morz
Dispatch Sports Reporter

ATLANTA — One loss, no matter how painful, cannot diminish a season of good memories.

"It was still a great year. We have nothing to be ashamed of," said Averill Roberts, one of four Ohio State seniors who suffered through an 11-17 season two years ago. "To go from there to where we were today in just a couple of years is a big accomplishment."

For the seniors — Roberts, Nikki Keyton, Lisa Sebastian and Audrey Burey — the 84-82 loss to Texas Tech in the NCAA women's championship game yesterday was their last game in an Ohio State uniform.

"Hopefully we gave the team a little bit of hope and a lot of determination to go this far," Burey said. "It hurts a little bit right now. But I'll look back and it will be pleasant memories. We did the best we possibly could."

Keyton said she thought the team started flat.

"I came out in a daze. It's such an indescribable feeling like 'I really don't believe I'm here.'"

Coming off a 15-13 record last season, Roberts doesn't even remember watching the 1992 women's Final Four. A year later, the Buckeyes beat two of last year's semifinalists — Western Kentucky and Virginia — in the East Regional to advance to Atlanta.

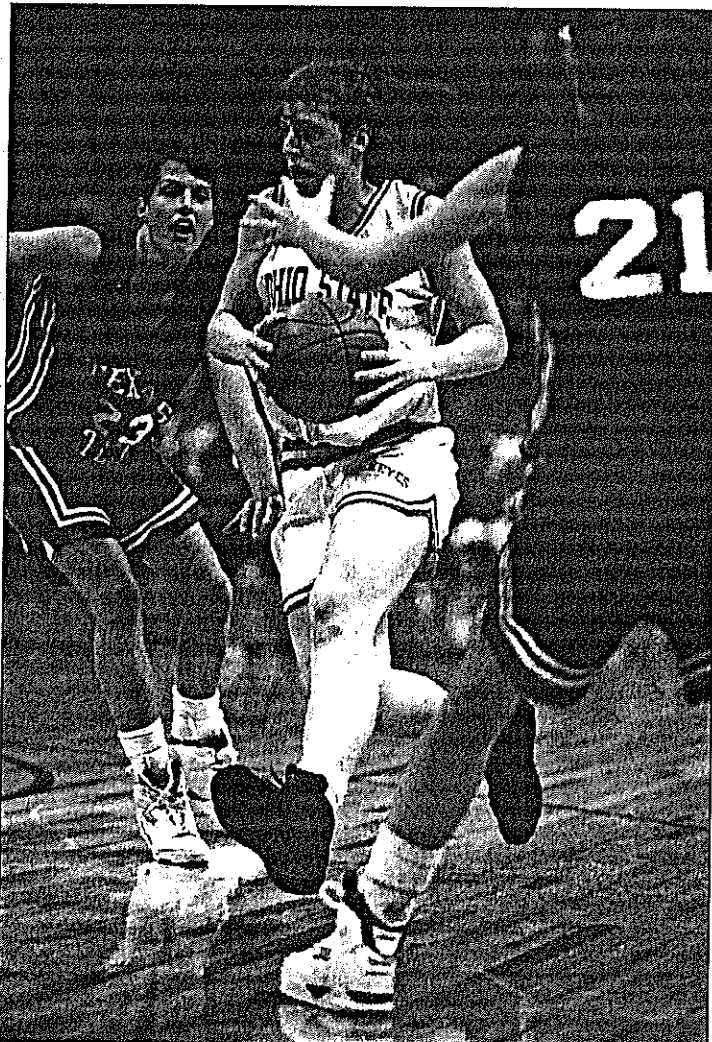
"We weren't even thinking about the Final Four this year until we got into the season and got on a roll," Roberts said. "When we beat some big teams I had a feeling this was a Final Four team."

■ Roberts grudgingly paid tribute to Texas Tech.

"They were the better team tonight," she said. "I wouldn't say they were the best team we faced all year. They got us on a day when we weren't on top of our game. But give them credit."

Roberts thinks Iowa — with whom the Buckeyes were Big Ten co-champs and whom OSU beat, 73-72 in overtime Saturday — was better than Texas Tech.

But there's one huge advantage Texas Tech has — No. 22, Sheryl Swoopes.



Chris Russell/Dispatch

OSU's Katie Smith drives by Texas Tech's Noel Johnson (23) and Krista Kirkland (21)

"They're a good team with a great player," Roberts said. Swoopes drilled the Buckeyes for a championship game record 47 points despite persistent coverage by Ohio State.

"She was in a zone. I tip my hat to her," Roberts said. "She's one of the top

players I've seen in awhile."

Swoopes was an unanimous pick for outstanding player in the tournament.

"It was a great honor to coach her," Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp said. "I'm just pleased the whole nation got to see her play. She's a great player and an

even greater person. She will help the sport by being a great ambassador, a great role model."

One of the pioneers of women's basketball — Nancy Lieberman-Cline, a star for Old Dominion in the late 1970s and now an ESPN analyst — may have paid Swoopes the ultimate compliment.

"She just took the history of the (women's) game to another level," she said.

■ The superstar to replace Swoopes may be Ohio State's Katie Smith. Only the fourth freshman to be named All-American, Smith rebounded from a so-so first half (eight points) to pour in 20 in the second half to keep OSU in the game.

"I'll never be like her (Swoopes). I'm not really a total scorer," Smith said. "She can flat-out shoot. She's a great player, a great shooter, a great scorer. We knew what we were going against. All you could do was hope she wasn't hot."

Hope never had a prayer. Swoopes was 16 of 24 from the field and 11 of 11 from the line.

Smith blamed herself, not the Texas Tech defense, for her hitting just 3 of 8 shots in the first half.

"It was me," she said. "I was a little antsy in the first half. It was easy to get caught up in the game. It was a little frustrating because I felt like I was fouled a few times and not getting it called and I missed the shots."

She hit 8 of 12 shots from the field in the second half.

"I touched the ball a little bit more in the second half," she said. "I got myself into the game."

However, she was held without a shot from the 6:15 mark to the final 30 seconds.

■ OSU's 28 wins ties the school record set in 1984-85. The loss prevented Ohio State from winning its first NCAA women's championship in any sport.

■ Among the records Swoopes set were the most points in the tournament (177 in five games; the previous mark was 134); most field goals (56; 53) and most free throws made (57; 41).

She scored the most points in a championship game, men's or women's (47). The previous women's record, 28 by Dawn Staley of Virginia and Dena Head of Tennessee in the 1991 final, was tied by Smith yesterday.

■ Roberts tied the Final Four record for steals (11).

Storybook season ends in defeat

Texas Tech star Swoopes too much as Bucks fall in title game, 84-82

By Kevin Williams
Lantern sports writer

ATLANTA — It was a dream season that fell two points short of perfect.

The Texas Tech Red Raiders (31-3) proved that one player can beat an entire team. National Player of the Year Sheryl Swoopes erupted for an NCAA record 47 points, leading the Red Raiders to their first-ever National Championship with an 82-80 victory over the OSU women's basketball team.

"I don't know if I've ever seen a player dominate a game as much as Sheryl does," Texas Tech Coach Marsha Sharp said. "I think she's the best player to play in her time."

For the entire NCAA tournament, Swoopes set a total of 15 NCAA records, including 177 points in five games, shattering the previous record of 139.

Ohio State Coach Nancy Darsch put Swoopes' game into perspective, "You really don't appreciate the game of Swoopes until you have to stop her," Darsch said.

Senior Nikki Keyton said she felt nothing she did was enough to stop the six-foot forward. "No matter what I did, she would shoot over me."

Ohio State started out slowly, allowing Texas Tech to build an early lead. The Buckeyes (28-4) went into the locker room with a nine-point deficit.

The Buckeyes crawled back, as freshman Katie Smith, who exploited the Tech baseline for numerous baskets in the second half, hit a bucket and was fouled. Her free throw brought the Buckeyes to within two, 52-50, with 11:54 left in the game.

Ohio State took its first lead since being up 15-14 when sophomore Alysiah Bond

rifled a pass to Keyton, who made the shot and was fouled. Following suit, Keyton converted the free throw, giving the Buckeyes a 55-54 lead.

At the point, Darsch felt that the Buckeyes might take control.

"I thought once we tied it up and went ahead that we were going to take care of things," Darsch said. "But then they went to the line the next three possessions."

The game went back and forth over the next five minutes. A Roberts three-pointer brought the Buckeyes to within one, 70-69, with 4:19 left to play. This is as close as the Buckeyes would get, as the Red Raiders answered every basket with a score of their own.

Despite the loss, Ohio State once again had balanced scoring with four players in double figures, led by Smith, who had 28 points and a game-high 11 rebounds. Keyton had 19 points and 8 rebounds. Roberts and Burcy added 13 points and 12 points, respectively.

The Buckeyes outrebounded the Raiders 41-24. The problem came in the turnover department, in which Ohio State committed 18 turnovers to 13 for Texas Tech.

• Ohio State's Smith and Keyton earned All-Final Four honors. Smith's 28 points ties her for second in a Championship game. Twenty-eight was the record before Swoopes' 47-point barrage Sunday.

• Sunday's attendance of 16,141 is the second largest attendance for a women's final, surpassed only by the 20,023 in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1990.

• Texas Tech and Ohio State were riding the two longest winning streaks in the nation, with 18 and 14 respectively. The Red Raiders end the season having won their last 19 games.



Mark Gsellman/the Lantern

Lisa Sebastian wipes a tear from her eye after the Buckeyes loss in the NCAA Champion Game against Texas Tech.

See related stories pages 4 & 5

Overtime victory puts OSU in position for NCAA title shot

By Kevin Williams
Lantern sports writer

ATLANTA — It took overtime to settle matters between the OSU and Iowa women's basketball teams in the second National Semifinal Saturday. The Buckeyes' victory set up the Championship game with Texas Tech.

After making only three three-pointers in the first 40 minutes, the Buckeyes scored their first nine points in overtime on the two three's by Audrey Burcy and one by Averrill Roberts. The third tied the game at 71.

Burcy said it was not a planned thing to take the three-pointers. "It just happened, I was open so I took them," she said.

Two Katie Smith free throws put Ohio State ahead 72-70 with 1:47 left in the five minute overtime period. Iowa's Tia Jackson made a layup tying the game at 72 with less than a minute left.

Nikki Keyton made the second of two free throws to put the Buckeyes up 73-72 with 33 seconds left in overtime.

Smith rebounded a Jackson miss and was immediately fouled with 14 seconds left on the clock. She missed the front end of the one-and-one. Keyton rebounded the miss but threw it away, giving the Hawkeyes 11 seconds to drive the length of the court and score.

Laurie Aaron penetrated but lost the ball near Ohio State's foul line. Roberts came up with the loose ball and time expired giving the Buckeyes a 73-72 victory.

Roberts, who hasn't played extremely well against Iowa in the past, came up big, scoring 16 points. But it was her tenacious defense, as she came up with eight steals, that proved to be the difference. The eight steals is the second highest in a National Semifinal game.

Iowa coach C. Vivian Stringer was quick to point out the play of Roberts.

"Averrill Roberts was long overdue and she was certainly capable," Stringer said. "What we did see was that Averrill Roberts did come to the show and she came to it in a big way. She sure

"What we did see was that Averrill Roberts did come to the show and she came to it in a big way. She sure saved it for the right time."

— C. Vivian Stringer

saved it for the right time."

Leading 33-29 at halftime, the Buckeyes built the lead to eight on a Burcy to Roberts pass for a layup, but the Hawkeyes would come back.

Iowa went on a 8-0 run to tie the game at 45 with 11:52 left in the second half. The Hawkeyes took a 55-51 lead on two free throws by Aaron with five minutes left to play.

Ohio State's Lisa Negri, who had made only two three-pointers all season, buried a three that put the Buckeyes ahead 58-55 with 2:48 to play.

A driving layup by Aaron put Iowa ahead 61-59 with only 1:28 left in regulation. This is the way it stayed until Smith made an acrobatic layup to tie the game at 61 with six seconds left. Smith

basket sent the game into overtime.

The overtime game was just the second in the history of the women's Final Four. This was also only the second in this year's NCAA tournament.

The attendance of 16,141 is the second largest for a semifinal game. The record is 19,467 at Knoxville, Tenn., in 1990.

Smith, who missed the front end of the one-and-one near the end of overtime as well as three front ends that could have put Virginia away in the East Regional Final, did not lose the confidence of OSU coach Nancy Darsch.

"She takes a great deal of pride in her free throw shooting and has been at the line so many times during her career and has always come through," Darsch said. "Right now I want her to stay confident."

Iowa committed a season-high 25 turnovers. Aaron thought the turnovers were more their own fault than the pressure defense of Ohio State.

"I think we caused most of our turnovers, they were not pressure turnovers, we just made our own mistakes," Aaron said. "The seniors had 11 turnovers, which is uncharacteristic of us."

Iowa's only four losses this season came when the opponent scored more than 70 points. Two of those came at the hands of the Buckeyes.

The Buckeyes thought they were the underdog in both games in the East Regional, and they were vocal in speaking of the lack of respect. But the Buckeyes might have used the underdog role to their advantage. For the first time in women's basketball history, there were betting odd's in Las Vegas for both Final Four games. The Buckeyes were 3 1/2 point underdogs against the Hawkeyes.



Mark Gsellman/the Lantern

Ohio State's Katie Smith (30) tries to get a shot off between two Texas Tech players in the National Championship game Sunday at the Omnidome in Atlanta.

Buckeye fans gather to rally behind team

By Viviane Mao
Lantern sports writer

The women's basketball game attracted a crowd of enthusiastic fans in front of the television at Ohio Union Sunday afternoon. Even housekeepers at the Union took a few minutes off to cheer for the Buckeyes.

Scott Minnie, a freshman working in Ohio Union, was with his co-workers in the back of a crowd of about 20 people. Though the Buckeyes were trailing, he remained optimistic that they would win.

"Katie Smith is a good player. The Buckeyes still have a chance to beat Texas Tech," he said.

Michel Mikelly, a senior in engineering, was studying in the food court and watching the game too.

"The game is good and exciting. It's quite good they can be in the final. But they have to contain Swoopes," he said.

At the end of the first half, the Buckeyes were nine points behind. There were about 15 calm, quiet people watching the game in the Union.

But once the Buckeyes began scoring in the second half, they were clapping and cheering for them. As the score got closer, more people came to join the crowd.

Matt Gingrich, a junior in criminology, was sitting in the front of the crowd. He had been watching the game from the beginning.

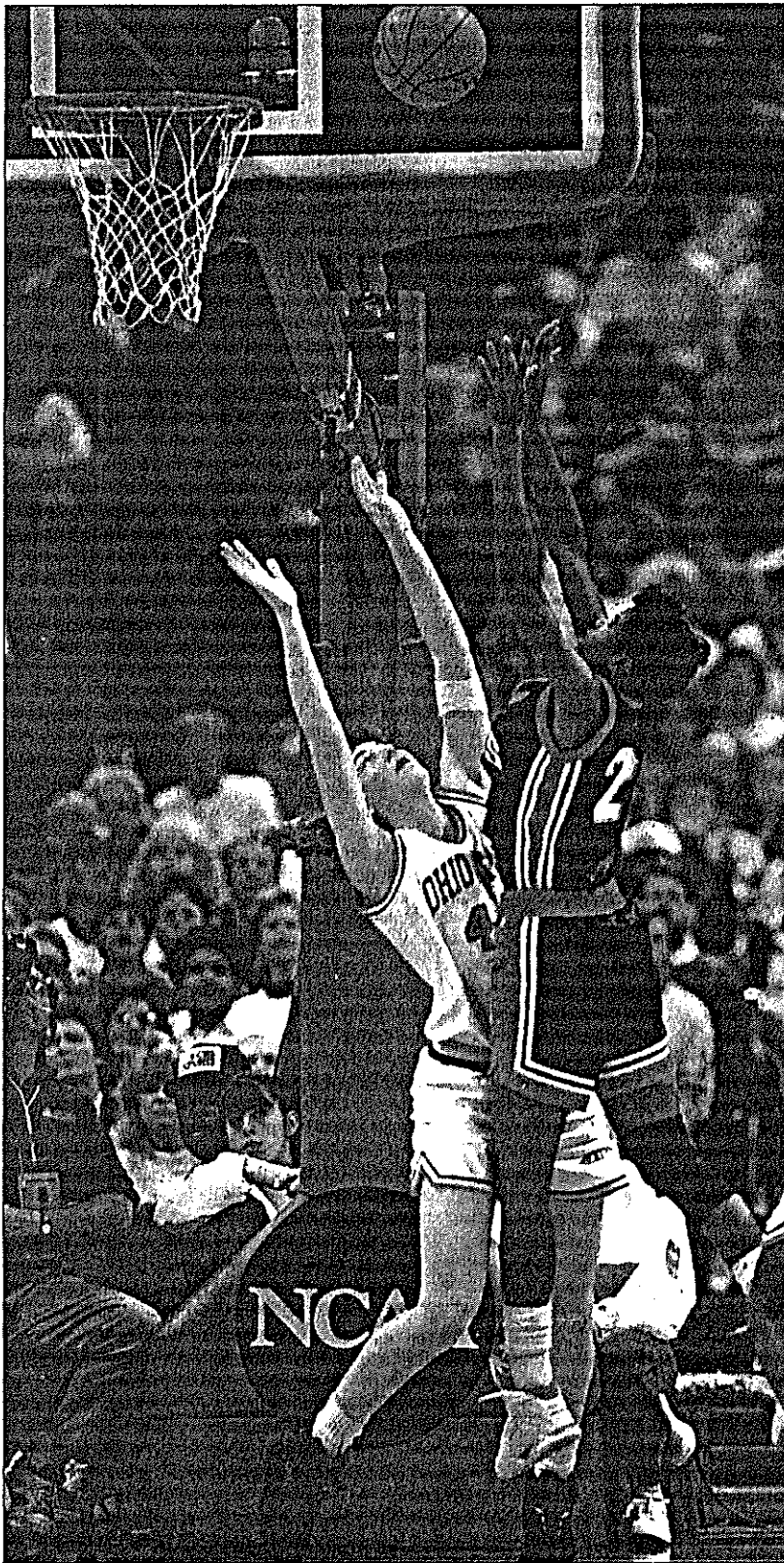
"They are playing pretty well," he said, as the Buckeyes trailed by a few points. "But OSU has trouble guarding (Texas Tech star) Sheryl Swoopes."

"No matter whether the Buckeyes win the game or not, they are still good."



Chad Rose/the Lantern

Fans high-five each other at BW3 in celebration after a OSU women's basketball team score in Sunday's NCAA final.



Texas Tech's Sheryl Swoopes, right, shoots over Ohio State's Lisa Negri

Swoopes takes it to Buckeyes in 84-82 sizzler

Texas Tech sensation scores 47 in final

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

ATLANTA — A record-setting season by the Ohio State women's basketball team was stopped cold by a record-setting performance by the nation's top women's player.

Sheryl Swoopes, one of the most electrifying players in NCAA history, scored 47 points to lead Texas Tech past OSU 84-82 in the NCAA championship game yesterday in the Omni.

"You don't really appreciate Sheryl Swoopes until you have to try to stop her," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "She was absolutely tremendous and showed why she is the player of year."

"She hurt us, but not just by scoring. We take such pride in our defense and I saw us get a little dejected when she scored some tough shots against us. She attacked our heart and I thought it was difficult for us to come back from so many tough shots that she took."

Swoopes, a 6-foot senior forward, averaged 35.4 points in tournament play and was the unanimous choice for the Final Four's most valuable player. She was joined on the all-tournament team by teammate Krista Kirkland, OSU's Katie Smith and Nikki Keyton and Vanderbilt's Heidi Gillingham.

Smith, the Buckeyes' freshman sensation, paced OSU (28-4) with 23 points and a game-high 11 rebounds. Keyton added 19 points and eight rebounds. Smith tied a tournament record for second-most points in a championship game — equaling marks set by Dena Head of Tennessee and Virginia's Dawn Staley in the Tennessee-Virginia game on March 31, 1991.

Averrill Roberts, who finished with 13 points for OSU, tied the Final Four record for most steals with 11. She had a career-high eight against Iowa on Saturday and three against Texas Tech. She joins Auburn's Ruthie Bolton, who amassed 11 thefts in the 1988 Final Four.

But no Final Four performance had been more impressive than Swoopes. She scored the most points in a championship game, men's or women's, surpassing a 44-point effort by Bill Walton of UCLA against Memphis State in 1973.

Other Final Four accomplishments by Swoopes this weekend included: most points (78), most field goals made (27) and most field goals made in championship game (16).

Swoopes had 23 points on 10-of-14 shooting to help the Red Raiders (31-3) take a 40-31 halftime lead.

OSU, which outscored Texas Tech 51-44 in the second half, rallied to take the lead twice in the second half. The latter was 62-61 on a three-point play by Smith with 8:30 to play.

But the Red Raiders responded with five unanswered points and never looked back. Kirkland, who finished with 14 points, converted the second of two free throws to put Texas Tech up 66-62 with 6:39 remaining.

Swoopes accounted for 14 of her team's final 18 points.

"We wanted to make her work hard for her shots and not just get layups," Darsch said. "We tried to keep somebody fresh on her."

"We also tried trapping her when she had the ball. She answered everything we tried."

With OSU trailing 77-73, Swoopes delivered a fatal blow when she drove past Smith and Keyton and was fouled by Alysiah Bond while scoring on a layup. Swoopes converted the free throw to give Texas Tech an 80-73 advantage with 53.1 seconds left.

"I was hoping after she went by me that someone would step up and take a charge," Smith said.

Keyton said, "I didn't realize she was driving the lane until she went by me. When I turned around, she was already at the hoop."

The Buckeyes finished the final 30 seconds with a 9-4 spurt, including two three-pointers by Audrey Burey.

"I think it was a great game," Darsch said. "I was very, very proud of our players, not only for today, but for the whole season for what they've accomplished."

"We fought very hard and played very hard. But Texas Tech just had a little bit more in them today."

Buckeye seniors leave with sweet memories

By Kevin Williams
Lantern sports writer

ATLANTA — The disappointment of Sunday's loss might last for some time, but compared to the long-lasting memories this season brought four OSU seniors, that time will seem like seconds.

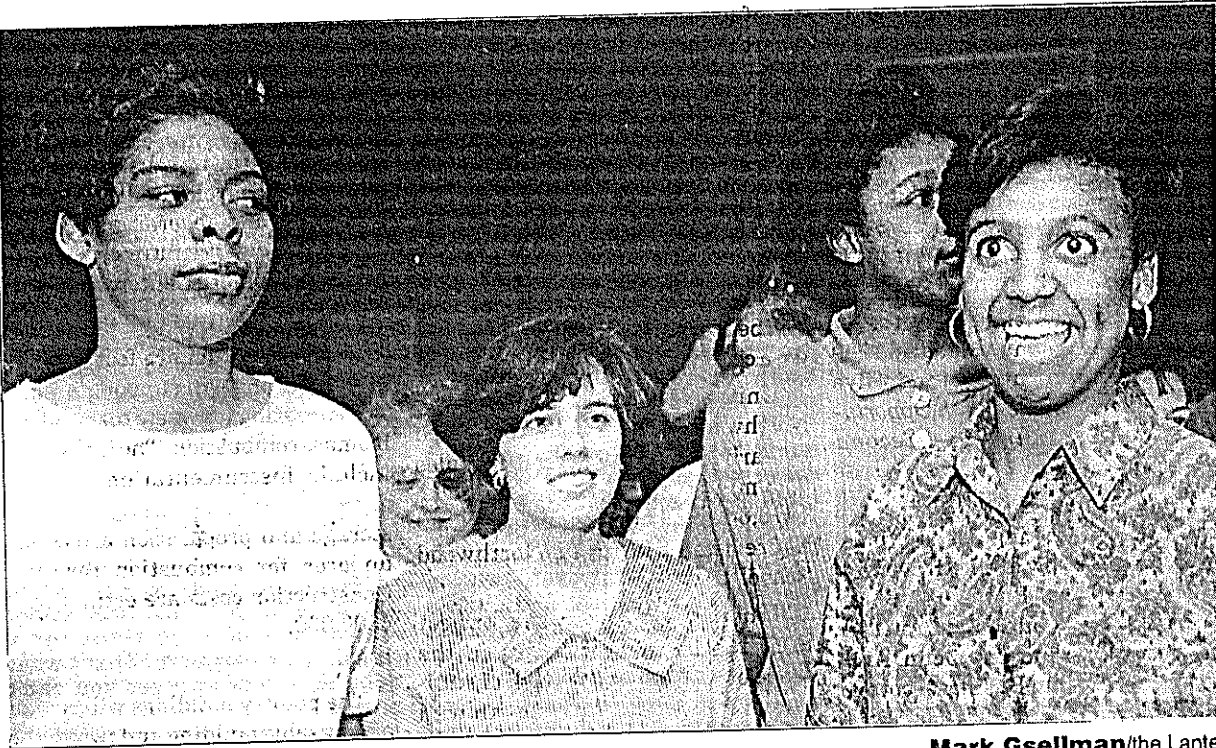
Just last season the OSU women's basketball team suffered through an 11-17 season. In the biggest turnaround in Big Ten history, the Buckeyes, (28-4), came within two points of being National Champions. The 28 victories ties a team record for wins in a season.

Seniors Averrill Roberts, Nikki Keyton, Audrey Burcy and Lisa Sebastian have been through ups and downs over the course of four seasons. The defeat at the hands of Texas Tech is certainly hard to swallow, but they know what they have accomplished in this their last season as collegiate athletes.

"I think that in a week when we look back we'll realize how much we have accomplished," Sebastian said. "I know that this season has exceeded many people's expectations, we've made everyone in Columbus proud so we shouldn't hang our heads."

Keyton said, down the road when she looks back, she'll be proud that she was a part of a team that will hopefully put Ohio State back on the map in terms of women's basketball.

"It makes me feel good to know that I could be part of the rebuilding year," Keyton said. "To be part of the team that made it to the Final Four



Mark Gsellman/the Lantern

Seniors Averrill Roberts, Lisa Sebastian and Nikki Keyton at the Alumni Banquet in Atlanta.

and the Championship game."

Burcy said she hopes that this will help to continue the great tradition that Ohio State has.

"We hope that this will help recruiting and to get good quality players and intelligent players that want to come to Ohio State and be a Buckeye and carry on the tradition," Burcy said.

OSU Coach Nancy Darsch said this team is unique to any she has coached in the past.

"This team has been extremely fun to work with, very pleasant to be around whether it be practice or anywhere," Darsch said. "This has been the team that I have personally allowed myself to be the closest to and I really respect each and

everyone of them. It's taken some time to develop and I think it's been a very special team in many ways."

Roberts said despite the loss, this is a season that will be remembered forever. "You don't make it this far and lose the Championship Game and think you can chuck the season, I don't feel like that at all," Roberts said.

Correction

In a photo in Tuesday's *Lantern*, two members of the women's basketball team were identified incorrectly. Those pictured were Lavona Turner, Lisa Sebastian and Adrienne Johnson. In the corresponding story, the Buckeyes' record should have been 15-13.

Fans give Buckeyes exuberant welcome

By Todd Lamb
Lantern staff writer

More than 800 people gathered at the former AmeriFlora parking lot Monday to welcome the OSU women's basketball team back to Columbus.

The "Welcome Home Rally," sponsored by the Student Events Committee and the Ohio Union, was attended by OSU President E. Gordon Gee, members of the OSU pep band, and the fans.

Some fans were so excited about welcoming home the Buckeyes that they arrived at the parking lot more than two hours before the rally's start.

Lorraine Hageman, one of the early-birds and a season ticket holder since 1987, came out to show her support.

"I am just so darn proud of them," Hageman said.

When the Buckeyes finally made it to the stage, nearly 40 minutes behind schedule, Gee led the fans in welcoming back the best basketball team in America.

"Today we're here to celebrate this great team and what they've accomplished, and all of the things they do on behalf of the university,"

he said. "We want them to know how much we love them and how much we appreciate what they're doing."

Gee recognized the senior team members before introducing Coach Nancy Darsch.

Darsch, who was greeted with the loudest applause, thanked the crowd for coming out and showing its support for the team.

"We are very proud of what this team has done this year," Darsch said. "We are very proud to represent Ohio State."

Darsch said the team members were very excited they were able to accomplish a lot of their dreams this season and said they were a little disappointed they were not able to finish it off.

"Somebody has to lose, and somebody has to win," Darsch said. "These young ladies gave everything."

Darsch concluded the rally by thanking the fans for their support.

"I'd like to thank the university, the athletic department, the city, the state, and most importantly, you fans," Darsch said. "You helped us accomplish everything that we did this season. Thank you."

Fans welcome Buckeyes home

1,000 on hand to greet women at airport rally

By Steve Stephens
Dispatch Staff Reporter

They staggered off the bus from Atlanta at 6 a.m. after an overnight ride, then waited another six hours for their favorite team to arrive home.

The most die-hard of fans, the Clems and Schmidts of Columbus were the first of almost 1,000 people who gathered to welcome the Ohio State University women's basketball team at Port Columbus yesterday.

The Buckeyes lost 84-82 in the NCAA championship game to Texas Tech on Sunday in Atlanta. No Ohio State women's team had ever gone so far in the tournament. Big Ten co-champions, the team finished 28-4, tying a team record for most victories in a season.

Jeannie and Don Schmidt and Rose and Jack Clem went to Atlanta to see the women's Final Four and were happy even with the close loss.

"The girls did a fabulous job," Mrs. Schmidt said. "We love them, win or lose."

The Clems became fans of the women's team because they couldn't get tickets to the men's games, they said.

"One Sunday, Jack said 'Let's go see the girls play,'" Mrs. Clem remembered.

That's all it took.

"We were fascinated with the way they played," Mr. Clem said. "They were as good as the boys."

Mrs. Clem said she even took her granddaughter's entire school basketball team to a game this year.

Hooch Haynes, Janet Patton and Diane Warner, all Columbus residents and former basketball players, also went to cheer the Buckeyes.



Fred Squillante/Dispatch

Buckeye Nikki Keyton shakes a hand while fans try to get her autograph.

Women's basketball didn't exist in her high school days, Patton said. "We were born about 50 years too soon. It's hard to believe they're doing this kind of thing now."

Haynes, who once ran a women's amateur league at Capital University's Alumni Gym, said she likes all sports but prefers the OSU women's basketball team.

"The guys are getting too much

like the pros, where women have more of a finesse game," she said. "We like the men's game, but not like we like the women's."

When the Buckeyes' plane touched down shortly before noon, the crowd roared. About 20 minutes later, a bus brought the team to the parking lot where their fans cheered, waved pompons and signs and clamored for autographs.

"They might be a little down," worried 12-year-old Kelly Phillips, a fan from London, Ohio, who was with her father and younger sister. "But they'll get back if they practice a lot."

The team seemed pleased with the reception.

Coach Nancy Darsch introduced the team and spoke briefly.

"We're very proud to represent

Ohio State University," Darsch said. "You fans ... helped us accomplish everything we did this season."

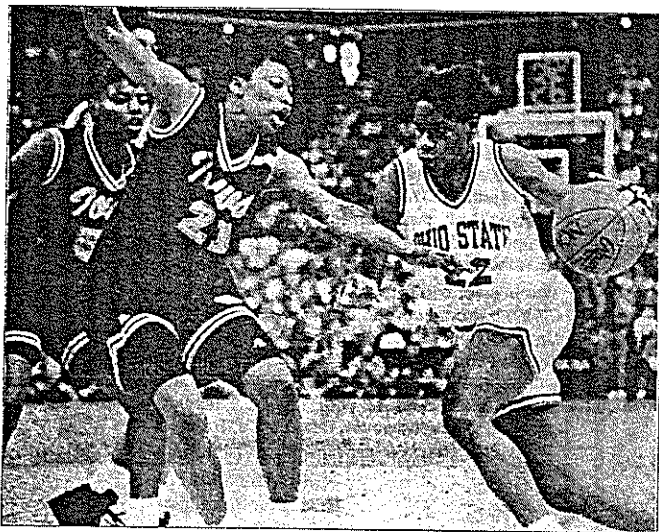
"We have some great fans," All-American Katie Smith said after the rally. "They were very boisterous today."

"We have done a good job, and a lot of people appreciate what we've done," the freshman guard/forward said.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM



OSU women's basketball team at alumni banquet (from left to right): Kelly Fergus, Averrill Roberts, Katie Smith, Erin Ingwersen, Nikki Keyton, Lisa Sebastian, Stacie Howard, Lavona Turner, Audrey Burcy, Adrienne Johnson, Gigi Jackson and Lisa Negri. (Alysiyah Bond not pictured)



Averrill Roberts driving for the basket in the NCAA Final Four victory over Iowa in Atlanta.

What a season!

ATLANTA—It was a season people will be talking about for years to come. The 1992-93 OSU women's basketball team filled the hearts of Buckeye fans with four months of pure jubilation.

Late last autumn, four determined seniors, four eager freshmen and a supporting cast of sophomores and juniors came together — all wishful of a common goal, a Big Ten title.

Unranked in the preseason, the Buckeyes started out by winning their first five games before even being recognized. After an upset of then No. 20 Georgia in the annual Buckeye Classic came a glimmer of hope as Ohio State peeked into the Top 25, coming in at No. 23.

After two more wins and up three more spots in the rankings, OSU would face a test to show what they were really made of.

National powerhouse Virginia came into town for the first ACC-Big Ten challenge — a game nationally televised by CBS.

In front of a crowd of more than 9,000, Buckeye fans saw what they remembered from past OSU teams, great Buckeye basketball. The Buckeyes upset No. 5 Virginia 91-84, jumping them to No. 13 in the country and making the nation take notice.

The game also brought attention to the presence of an 18-year-old from Logan, Ohio. Katie Smith treated the national audience to a spectacular performance, scoring 35 points. Following the game, Virginia Coach Debbie Ryan called Smith the best woman ever to play college basketball.

After a last-minute loss to No. 1 Vanderbilt, the Buckeyes headed into the Big Ten season on a roll.

At then- No. 12 Purdue, the team passed a big test as Averrill Roberts scored a season-high 29 points in a mild upset of the Boilermakers.

After three more victories, the Buckeyes took their No. 4 ranking, the highest in school history (at the time) to Penn State, where the Buckeyes were handed their first Big Ten defeat, 97-80.

Two games later, Ohio State saw their first-place ranking in the conference drop to third as they were beaten by the third-ranked Hawkeyes at Iowa.

Even though the two losses in conference play hurt their chances to eventually win the Big Ten title, the team didn't give up on their goal. The squad then posted four more victories.

before coming to Columbus, and with Ohio State riding a seven-game winning streak, the Buckeyes were put in position to win a Big Ten title, something that only a month ago seemed nearly impossible.

Sold out days in advance, Ohio State gave No. 2 Iowa its worst defeat of the season, putting Ohio State into a tie for the conference lead.

The Buckeyes came through in the last two road games, including a great second-half comeback at Northwestern, to tie for the conference title.

It was now tournament time.

Ohio State was chosen the No. 1 seed in the East Region — the first No. 1 seeding in OSU women's basketball history.

The Buckeyes crushed Rutgers, 91-60, in St. John Arena in front of 12,000, a second-round tournament record.

Next came the regionals in Richmond, Va., where, after a slow start, the Buckeyes buried the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, 86-73.

Next on the bracket was revenge-seeking Virginia. The Buckeyes saw a six-point halftime lead diminish into a two-point deficit midway through the second half. Characteristic of this team, the Buckeyes battled back to become the first Big Ten team to reach the Final Four.

Iowa joined them four hours later, setting up the rubber match between the two teams. In a close battle, the Buckeyes advanced to the title game with a 73-72 overtime win.

But the Buckeyes ran into a player on the same mission as them. Sheryl Swoopes poured in 47 points, putting on a one-woman show that would be too much for the Buckeyes. OSU would settle for second after an 84-82 loss to Texas Tech.

The team had an unprecedented number of accomplishments during the season.

- The Buckeyes captured their eighth Big Ten Championship and tied a team record with 28 victories, including a home mark of 16-0.

- Katie Smith became only the fourth freshman in women's history and the first freshman in Big Ten history to be named to the Kodak All-American team. She was also Big Ten Freshman of the Year as well as the *Sports Illustrated* National Freshman of the Year.

- Seniors Averrill Roberts and Nikki Keyton were first team All-Big Ten selections. Alysiyah Bond and Erin Ingwersen were named



Nikki Keyton looks at the net for an open shot while being tightly guarded by the tough Texas Tech defense during the NCAA Championship Game in Atlanta.



Katie Smith and Alyshah Bond embrace at midcourt during the NCAA championship game against Texas Tech. in Atlanta.



OSU assistant athletic trainer, Monica Bough, helps Stacie Howard stretch out before the NCAA Final Four game against Iowa in Atlanta.



Alyshah Bond and Audrey Burcy do their dance during the starting lineup for the NCAA Championship Game against Texas Tech in Atlanta.



Lisa Sebastian gets a taste of fame autographing a basketball for a fan, while Lavona Turner looks on during the Alumni Banquet. The banquet was held for the buckeyes in Atlanta for the NCAA Final Four tournament.



(First row, second from left) Katie Smith gets together for a team photo of the WBCA's Women's All-America Basketball team. Katie is the fourth freshman ever to receive this award.



OSU women's head basketball coach, Nancy Darsch points out a foul for the referee during the NCAA Championship Game against Texas Tech in Atlanta.

Photos by Mark Gsellman Story by Kevin Williams

We should reflect on 'wonderous' NCAA tourney

By E. Gordon Gee

The NCAA post-season tournament was a celebration of the excellence, talent and determination of some of intercollegiate athletics' finest student-athletes. It was a tribute to the commitment of coaches, faculties and staffs, and a recognition of the rich traditions these teams represent.

For the last two weeks, the Ohio State family has been bursting with pride in our players and coaches, and thrilled by their chance to reach for it all. Life does not offer many chances like this — at least not with a nationwide audience watching!

This is what institutions of higher education ought to be about: Not athletics, per se, but the pursuit of excellence and the advancement of talent, determination, commitment and tradition.

Our colleges and universities ought to be places of personal introspection, evaluation and — ultimately — action. Places where our youth can find out who they are, test their skills and expand their horizons. Places where integrity and civility are taken seriously. Places where individuals learn to live, work and excel together.

When we succeed it is wonderful indeed, and making it to the Final Four and the championship game was one such occasion.

But as I sit here at my desk, I can look out the window and watch countless numbers of unheralded students crossing campus on their own paths to success.

The world may never know the obstacles they face. Scribes may never record nor pay tribute to their journeys. But those who seek understanding, overcome obstacles, refuse to quit, and achieve their own measures of success are champions as surely as those student-athletes who wear an NCAA national crown. And we, as educators, succeed when we nurture and encourage this growth.

But those charged with guiding higher education fail, miserably, when they allow the process to be corrupted by greed, avarice or the adoration of the athlete at the expense of the student.

They do this through the promotion of college sports as entertainment, or as a mere farm system for professional athletics. They do this when they tell student-athletes — by word or deed — that they are only athletes, a commercial commodity to be bought, sold, used, abused and discarded. In do-

Commentary

ing this, they deny the student-athletes' intellectual potential, distort their perspective and undermine the very reason we exist as institutions of higher education.

And those charged with protecting the system, in fact, corrupt the system when they put an inordinate emphasis on winning and belittle those who lose, even if they did their best.

They do this when they sacrifice character-building for record-building, when they measure the sum total of success by the win/loss percentage. When they do so, they devalue the student-athlete and diminish themselves.

As this grand competition and celebration ends, we do well to:

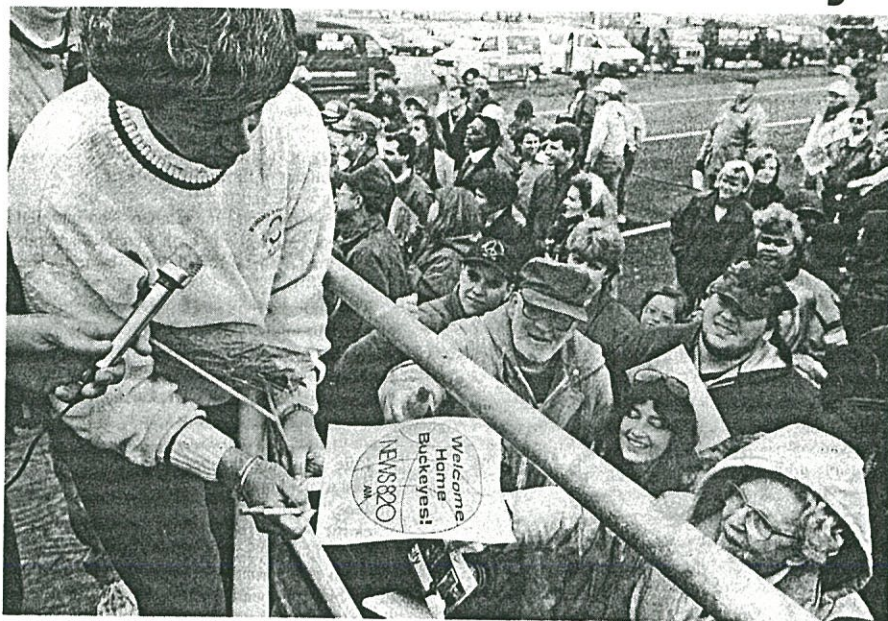
- Affirm the student-athletes as individuals in the midst of personal journeys toward excellence.
- Pay tribute not only to their athletic talent but to their values as reflected in their commitment, determination and teamwork.
- View them as examples for all of us as we struggle to achieve our own measures of success.
- Honor them by taking pride in the effort, not the outcome.
- Learn from them that by accepting one another as individuals, each with unique contributions to make, we can achieve far more through cooperation and mutual support than we ever could alone.

And now that the tournament is over and the celebration has ended, let us return to our routines enlivened by the Buckeyes' joy and inspired by their performance.

Let them serve to remind us that there is a champion in each of us who, when coached and encouraged, can learn to achieve, excel and succeed.

President Gee wrote a version of this article for the Atlanta Journal and Atlanta Constitution April 4 editorial page. The Buckeyes went all the way to the NCAA Tournament championship game, losing by only two points to the Texas Tech Red Raiders, 84-82.

This is what institutions of higher education ought to be about: Not athletics, per se, but the pursuit of excellence



By Lloyd Lemmermann

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH Nancy Darsch is surrounded by fans while reporters wait for a comment at a welcome rally April 5 when the Buckeyes returned from the NCAA tournament.

Special on OSU team not a simple task

By Julia Keller

Dispatch Television Critic

Like an Audrey Burcy steal, WSYX (Channel 6) made it look easy.

But the station's live special a week ago from Atlanta, where the Buckeyes prepared for the Final Four of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, was a tough task, said News Director Bill Payer.

Technical considerations prevented Channel 6 from using microwave or satellite transmission from the pep rally Friday in downtown Atlanta, Payer said.

So the station contracted with the local telephone company to install a fiber-optic line.

The team's success has created another problem, Payer said: No longer can Columbus stations get by with a single preseason show for OSU basketball, focusing just on the men's team.

In the fall, WSYX will expand its preview show to an hour or produce two shows.

"Clearly, we need to cover the women now, too," he said.

In other matters, Payer said that WSYX will produce a series of specials called *Columbus Points of Pride*, highlighting local places and events. The first show, to air at 8 p.m. April 20, will focus on OSU.



Jamie Sabau/Dispatch

Audrey Burcy wipes away a tear after receiving the most valuable player award.

Senior season super for Burcy

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

The most successful season in Ohio State women's basketball history ended last night with an appreciation banquet in St. John Arena.

"I hope there's at least one more (banquet) in the future that I'll enjoy more," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "But this banquet has certainly been a very enjoyable one."

"It's one in which we can take great pride in the success and results that we accomplished this season. It was really a very thrilling, exciting and rewarding experience to be associated with a very special group of young ladies."

Darsch had good reason to feel proud of her team. The Buckeyes (28-4) finished second in the NCAA Tournament, losing to Texas Tech in the championship game. They also tied a school record for victories, earned a Big Ten co-championship and became the first Big Ten team to reach the Final Four and the championship game. The team also rose to No. 3 — its highest ranking ever — in the Associated Press poll, went undefeated in St. John Arena (16-0) and set a school record for home attendance. The Buckeyes' average home attendance of 6,146 was the second highest in the nation behind Southwest Missouri State at 7,421.

Senior co-captain Audrey Burcy collected three of the six awards presented, including the most valuable player. She also received the

OSU women's awards

■ **Most Valuable Player** — Audrey Burcy

■ **Brown Memorial Leadership Award** — Audrey Burcy

■ **Most Improved Player** — Audrey Burcy

■ **Best Defense Award** — Averrill Roberts

■ **Top Rebounder Award** — Nikki Keyton

■ **Sixth Player Award** — Lisa Negri



Audrey Burcy

Dispatch graphic

most improved and Brown Memorial leadership awards.

"Everyone knows that we've come a long way," Burcy said. "We started the year unranked and finished second. So what we accomplished along the way meant a lot to everyone on the team. It showed us that everything we worked hard on all year long has paid off."

Burcy, a 5-foot-5 point guard, steadily improved as the season progressed. She set personal career

marks in every offensive and defensive category this season.

She averaged 11.2 points and scored in double figures in 20 of 32 games, including the last 11. In post-season play, Burcy averaged 15.2 points and a team-high 6.4 rebounds. She also was named the outstanding player in the East Regional, averaging 20 points, 6.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 4.5 steals to help OSU defeat Western Kentucky and Virginia.

All of the awards, with the exception of top rebounder, were voted on by the team.

Burcy said the Buckeyes' '91-84 upset of Virginia in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge on Jan. 2 was the season's turning point.

"That really started bringing a lot of national attention to our program," she said. "We started to realize that we just beat a team that was ranked fifth in the nation and it gave us a great confidence boost."

Burcy said what was even sweeter for her and fellow seniors Averrill Roberts, Nikki Keyton and Lisa Sebastian was being able to help Ohio State bounce back from its worst season in school history — 11-17 in 1990-91 — to its most successful in just two years.

"We've seen both sides of the coin," Burcy said. "But even through all the countless struggles and adversity that we had to go through, we were still able to come out on top because we believed in ourselves."

Senior Buckeyes net awards at banquet

By Kevin Williams
Lantern staff writer

There were no baskets to shoot into and no previous or upcoming games to be concerned with. It was simply a night to enjoy, especially for four OSU seniors, at the **Women's Basketball Appreciation Banquet** held Wednesday night in St. John Arena.

Audrey Burcy, Nikki Keyton, Averrill Roberts and Lisa Sebastian gave their final farewells to the place they've called home for the last four years.

OSU Coach Nancy Darsch said this was truly a season to remember.

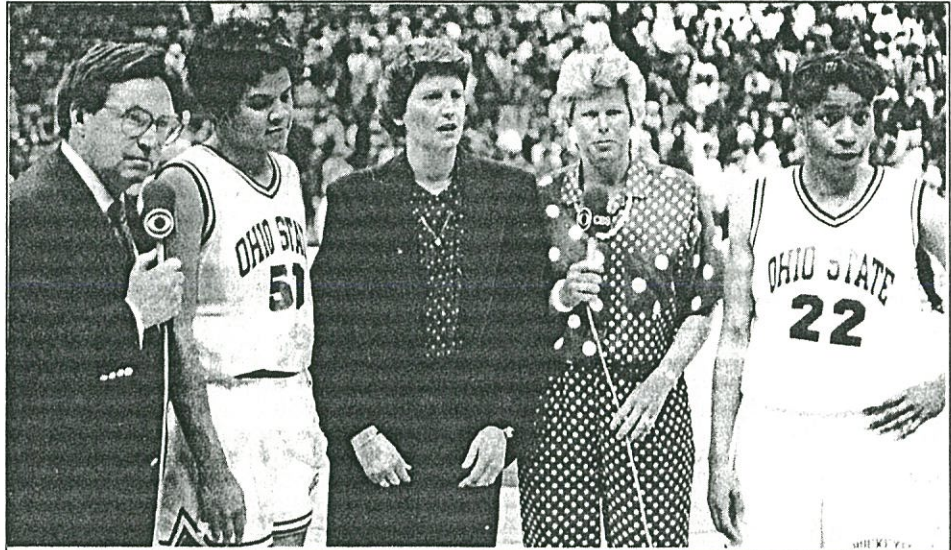
"It truly was a great season and a special year," Darsch said. "It was just a very special group and special circumstances and it's probably something that will never be like this again, because we did it at a time when it was totally unexpected."

Burcy came away with the most hardware as she picked up three awards. She picked up the top honor as teams Most Valuable Player as well as winning the Brown Memorial Leadership Award and Most Improved Player. All but the leadership award were voted on by her teammates.

Burcy said a lot of the credit ought to go to her teammates. "All year long I felt like my teammates had confidence in me and that helped me out tremendously," Burcy said. "This really let me know that my hard work in my rehab and everything has made it well worth the wait."

Averaging 11.2 points per game, Burcy scored in double figures in 20 of 32 games. The NCAA tournament is where the point guard stepped to the forefront scoring 15.2 points per game and collecting a team-high 6.4 rebounds per contest. Burcy was named Most Outstanding Player of the East Regional scoring 40 points, grabbing 13 rebounds, dishing out 10 assists and swiping nine steals in the Buckeyes two wins in Richmond.

For the second consecutive season, Roberts, who led the team with 98 steals, won the Best Defense Award.



Mark Gsellman/the Lantern

Nikki Keyton, Nancy Darsch and Averrill Roberts are interviewed by the CBS News crew following the OSU women's basketball team's NCAA Final Four victory over Iowa in Atlanta April 3.

This ranks second all-time on the single season steals list. She ended her career with 272 steals, which also ranks second all-time for a career. She also finished her career with 1,818 points, ranking only behind Tracey Hall. Roberts finished her career with 378 made free throws, which once again puts her in second on the all-time list.

Keyton won the Top Rebounder Award as she led the Buckeyes in rebounding for the second straight year, averaging 6.0 per game. Keyton collected five or more rebounds in 22 of her 31 games. Freshman center Lisa Negri won the Sixth Player Award.

Contributions to the season came from every one on the team, a trait Darsch said made this team very unique.

"I think because the distribution of

age and talent was so different, and certainly because of where we've come from, has made this very special," Darsch said. "It's still hard to believe we did all of it, so many big games and so many big shots."

Buckeye announcer and Master of Ceremonies for the banquet, Wendy Craver, started the evening by saying this night will be full of laughs, a lot of cheers and also some tears. All three were present, at this, the final hurrah for a team that will forever be etched in the minds of Buckeye faithful.

This year's squad made history in the OSU recordbooks as well as in the Big Ten and NCAA.

The Buckeyes were the first Big Ten team to advance to the Final Four and to the National Championship Game.

OSU also set a school record for

home attendance, finishing second nationally with an average attendance of 6,146. This included back-to-back sellouts against Iowa and Rutgers.

Finishing the season ranked No. 3 in the Associated Press poll, the Buckeyes made the largest climb in poll history as they began the season unranked.

Their 28-4 record ties them with the 1984-85 team for most wins in a season. This included a 16-0 home mark as well as a 14 game winning streak that eventually ended with the loss to Texas Tech in the National Championship Game.

Team records that were set include points in a season with 2,662 and scoring average at 83.2 points per game. They also set marks of free throws made and attempted with 608 and 838 respectively.

OSU women reap awards from TDC

By George Strode
Dispatch Sports Editor

Nancy Darsch expects a bright future for the Ohio State women's basketball team, and she and two of the main reasons for the optimism picked up awards yesterday at the Columbus Touchdown Club's first spring luncheon.

"We plan on being exciting for a long time to come," Darsch said after accepting an award of distinction in the Athletic Club.

Darsch was honored for coaching the Buckeyes to a 28-4 record, a Big Ten co-title with Iowa and a second-place finish in the NCAA Tournament to Texas Tech.

Darsch will build next season's team around All-American Katie Smith and incoming freshman Marlene Stollings of Beaver Eastern.

The 5-foot-10 Smith was chosen freshman player of the year in women's college basketball after leading

Ohio State in scoring. "I'm sure you enjoyed it as much as me," Smith said.

Stollings, 5-11, was honored as the state high school girls basketball player of the year. She averaged 42.5 points as a senior and scored 3,514 career points, a record for boys and girls in Ohio.

Philadelphia Simon Gratz coach Bill Ellerbee and his 7-footer, Rashheed Wallace, swept the national high school basketball honors.

The TDC chose Ellerbee as its No. 1 coach and Wallace, a North Carolina recruit, as its No. 1 player. They helped Gratz to a 31-0 record and a mythical national championship.

"I never dreamed I could finish the season unbeaten," Ellerbee said. "But the players told me, 'Don't sweat it, coach, we've got it.'"

Wallace averaged 15 points and 12 rebounds a game last season.

"It's a long way from Philadel-

phia. I'm just at a loss for words," he said.

Dave Butcher, who has coached Pickerington to four state high school girls basketball titles, received an award of distinction.

"If you're going to be successful," Butcher said, "you have to have great athletes who are willing to listen to you."

Other TDC basketball awards:

National men's college coach of the year, Eddie Fogler of Vanderbilt, now at South Carolina; national men's player of the year, Calbert Cheaney of Indiana; national women's college coach of the year, Marsha Sharp, Texas Tech; national women's college player of the year, Sheryl Swoopes, Texas Tech; state high school boys player of the year, Damon Flint of Cincinnati Woodward.

None of them attended the luncheon.

Smith in festival

OSU women's basketball player Katie Smith has been selected to compete in the U.S. Olympic Festival July 24 through July 28 in San Antonio, Texas. She will be one of 12 players on the South squad, which will play games against teams from the East, West and North regions. Smith, 18, will be competing in the 20-year-old and younger age group. In all, 48 players will be participating in this five-day event.

Before the Olympic Festival, Smith, a freshman from Logan, will be trying out for the U.S. Junior National Team. The tryout will be held May 22 through 27 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Smith is one of eight players from the South team to be selected for the tryout. Each of the other three regions will also have eight representatives, making this a 32-player field. A team will be picked then to represent the U.S. Junior National Team.

— Kevin Williams

FABULOUS *Finish*

Women's Basketball Carried Big Ten Banner To Title Game, Which Was a First For OSU and Conference

by Mike Wachsman

The Ohio State women's basketball team did something no other Big Ten team has ever done — made the national championship game.

And it took a record effort from Texas Tech's Sheryl Swoopes, the consensus choice for national player of the year, to turn back the tenacious Lady Buckeyes in the title game, 84-82.

Swoopes scored 47 points, a championship game record, as Texas Tech won the national title over the Lady Buckeyes, who put up a valiant fight after being down by 10 points early in the second half.

OSU actually got a one-point lead, 62-61, with 8' minutes left to play, but Tech had too much in the end.

The Lady Buckeyes finished 28-4 and put the Big Ten and Ohio State back on the women's basketball map, and coach Nancy Darsch knows she was part of something special.

"It's really been an unbelievable season," she said. "It's been a great ride. Maybe we didn't have the expectations on us. We did have fun. This team has been enjoyable to be around and is the team I've probably allowed myself to get the closest to. I really respect and love each and every one of them."

Columbus, indeed, all of Ohio, loved the Lady Buckeyes this season.

Down the stretch, the women grabbed more headlines than Randy Ayers' young Buckeyes, and when tournament time arrived, there wasn't a person to be found who didn't claim to be a Lady Buckeyes fan.

OSU made the Final Four by edging Virginia in Richmond in the East Regional final and had the good, or maybe not so good, fortune of drawing league foe Iowa in its national semifinal game.

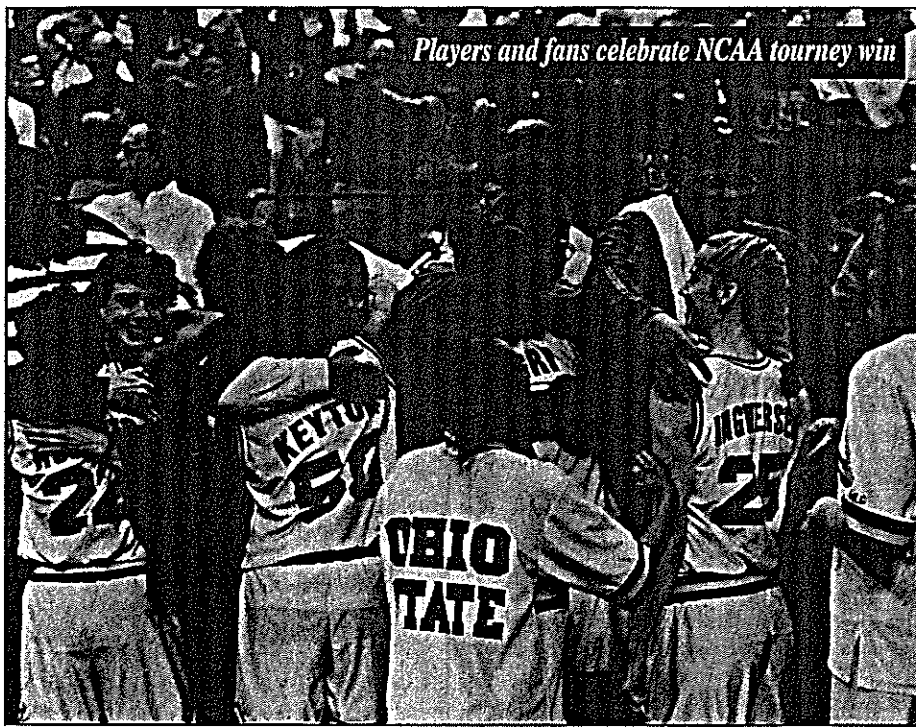
Here was a team Ohio State had seen

twice before, each team winning at home, and knew inside and out.

Conversely, Iowa knew what the Lady Bucks liked to do, as well. So it seemed only appropriate the game went into overtime with OSU eking out a 73-72 victory.

Senior Averill Roberts led the way for Ohio State with 16 points, her best-ever showing against Iowa, including a crucial three-pointer in overtime. The Buckeyes hit on all three of their treys in the overtime and that turned out to be the difference in the game.

"We just looked at it like another game," Darsch said. "I didn't see us do anything different. We were very calm today. It was a tremendous game, one where maybe both teams deserve to win. Iowa put up great effort today and showed they're champions, too. But we did enough to get the win."



Players and fans celebrate NCAA tourney win

Even though the Lady Bucks came up two points short in their quest for the national title, nothing can diminish the fairy tale that was the 1992-93 season, one that saw them leap to a school-record number three in the national polls and win 14 of their final 15 games.

"You go into every game wanting to win, but we've really had a great season," senior Nikki Keyton said. "It feels good being part of the team that brought Ohio State back up. I'm sure the freshmen and everyone else will build on what we started. There's no reason to think they won't be back here."

Roberts, who finished her career as the second leading scorer in OSU history with 1,818 points, wasn't always certain the Lady Bucks were Final Four material, but once the season began with a bang, she changed her mind.

"Once I saw the kind of team we had and the way we started the season on a roll, I felt we had a good team," she said. "As the season went on I thought the Final Four was a realistic possibility. This has just been a great season, one I'll always remember."

Senior guard Audrey Burcy, who raised her level of play in the postseason and was a major force in the Lady Buckeyes reaching the championship game, was understandably dejected after the loss but feels Ohio State can continue its success.

"Hopefully, this will send a message that you can achieve at Ohio State," she said. "This should help them get some good, talented players to want to come here and try to equal or better what we did."

Senior guard Lisa Sebastian, who, like Burcy, came back from adversity in the

form of a serious knee injury, will always hold dear the memories of her senior campaign.

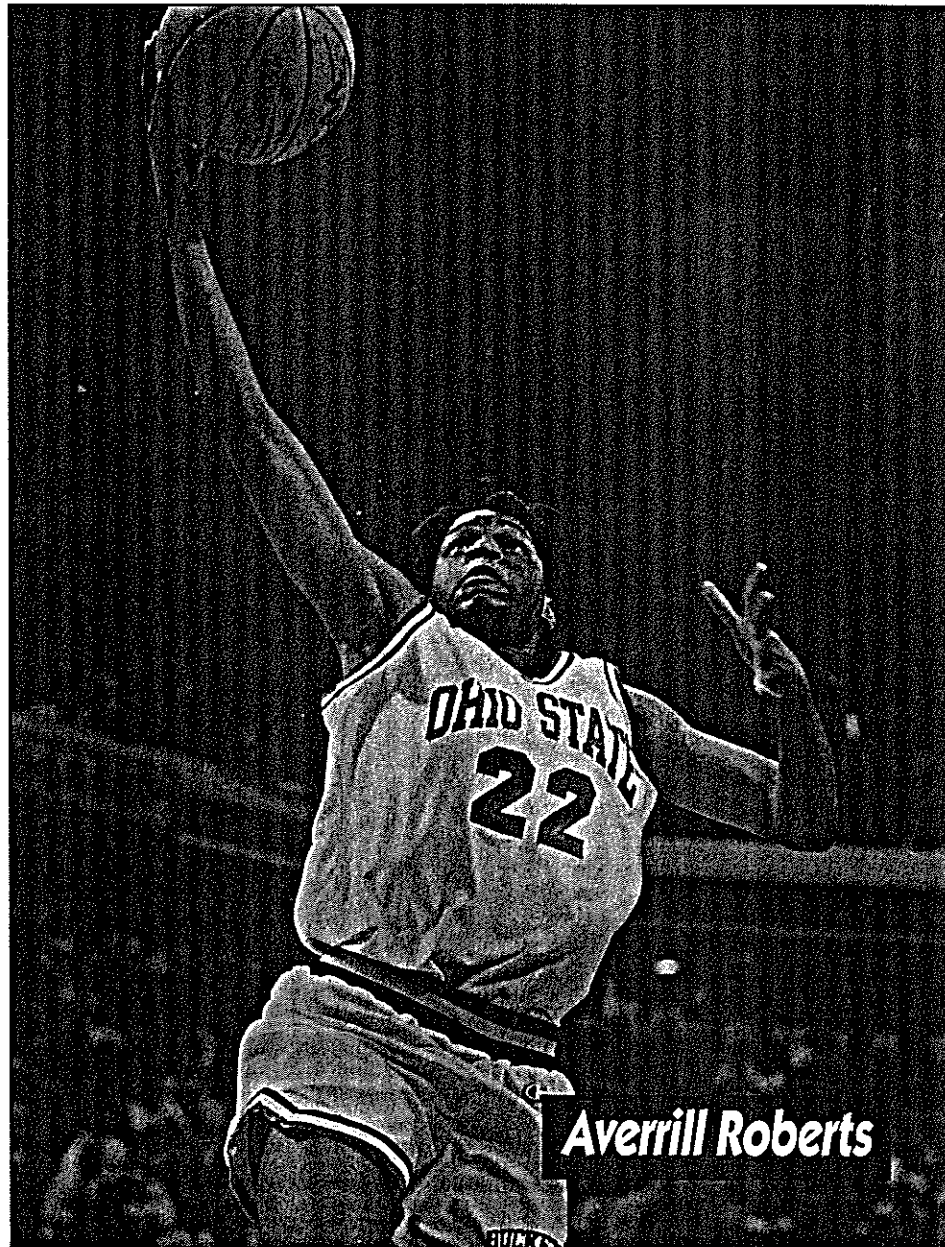
"When we look back on this, we'll all be really happy," she said. "One loss, even if it is in the championship game, can't diminish a whole season. We achieved more than ever expected this year and it's something we'll always remember."

Darsch took basically the same team from last year, which finished 15-13, to the title game, no small feat.

True, she did have a talented group of freshmen, including Kodak All-American Katie Smith, to work with, but when all was said and done, the seniors were the ones who got it done.

"Our seniors have done a great job this season," Darsch said. "They've been here a little while and they worked hard and know what it takes to win. They've done everything a championship team needs to do and they had an outstanding season."

And although it looks as if there are more outstanding seasons on the way for the Lady Buckeyes, the 1992-93 campaign is where people will look back and say it all started.



Averrill Roberts

SMITH SAVED BEST FOR LAST

**Stellar Title Game
Completed Super Year
For Freshman All-
American**

By Mike Wachtman

A lot of athletes live for big games and often play their best when the stakes are high.

One such athlete plays on the Ohio State women's basketball team. Freshman Katie Smith burst onto the college scene with a craftiness and poise normally showcased by veterans.

"I think I play better in big games," said the 5-11 forward, who was named to the Kodak All-American team. "When you play better teams, they tend to leave you alone and play you with just one person. They don't have the whole team keying on you."

Smith played quite well in the Lady Buckeyes' biggest contests, back-to-back regular-season games against national powers Virginia and Vanderbilt in early January and losses at Penn State Jan. 27 and Iowa Feb. 5.

In those four games, Smith averaged 21.5 points, including a career-best 35 against the Cavaliers, 6.0 rebounds and 3.3 assists. She shot nearly 50 percent from the field in those contests.

But the Logan, Ohio, native saved the best for last, scoring 28 points and pulling down 11 rebounds in OSU's heartbreaking 84-82 loss to Texas Tech in the national championship game April 4 in Atlanta.

The intense glow of the spotlight didn't rattle Smith in the least. In fact, she seemed to

relish playing in the key contests.

"Every game counts the same, but there's something about playing the top teams that brings out the best in you if you're a competitor," Smith said. "At least that's how it is for me."

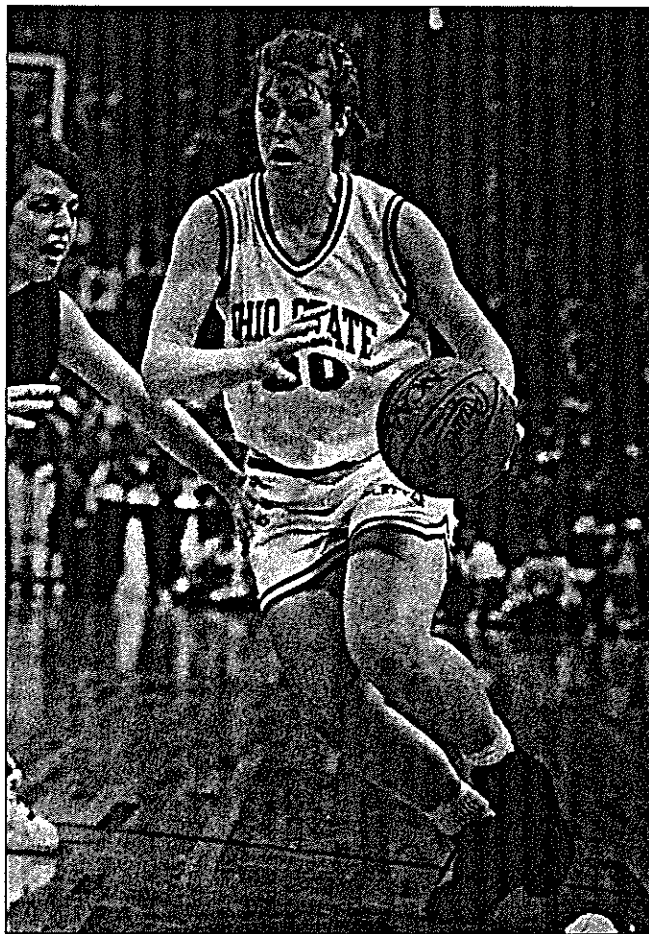
OSU head coach Nancy Darsch believes Smith thrived in pressure situations and that the move up from the prep level to the collegiate level was a smooth one.

"Katie definitely lived up to expectations," Darsch said. "She's a fierce competitor and really hates to lose. She's certainly given us a boost. It makes your job as a coach easier when you have players like Katie playing for you."

After the loss to Texas Tech, Smith, chosen national freshman of the year, gave a few thoughts on her inaugural season.

"I learned a lot about myself this year," she said. "I found out what it takes to win. Overall it was a fun year. I wanted to beat Texas Tech, but we'll have other chances to be here again. I've seen areas I can improve and I'm going to work hard to do that."

And if Smith improves much more, the Lady Bucks are bound to be in more big games in the future, just the kind of games in which Smith excels.



KATIE SMITH

■ BASKETBALL

OSU's Roberts among World University Games finalists

■ Averill Roberts of Ohio State was one of 19 finalists for the 1993 USA World University Games selected by USA Basketball officials.

Officials also chose 17 finalists for the 1993 USA Women's World Championship Qualifying Tournament team.

The finalists were selected from a field of 132 players during three days of trials in Colorado Springs, Colo. The 12-member World Championship Qualifying team will be selected during training camp June 14-25 at Stanford University. The 12-member World University Games team will be announced during training camp June 25-July 7 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

The USA Women's World Championship Qualifying team will try to earn a berth for the 1994 FIBA Women's World Championship in Melbourne, Australia. The World University Games squad will be one of 16 women's teams participating at Buffalo, N.Y., July 7-17.

Smith of OSU to play for U.S. team

■ Ohio State All-American guard Katie Smith will compete for the United States women's basketball team in the Junior World Championship Aug. 18-8 in Seoul, South Korea.

Women's basketball may buck OSU trend

Jones says it has shot to avoid red ink

By **George Strode**
Dispatch Sports Editor

Athletic director Jim Jones believes **women's basketball** has a chance to become the third of 32 sports at Ohio State to move out of red ink.

After a talk to the Ohio Associated Press Sports Writers Association yesterday in Worthington, Jones estimated football netted up to \$9 million and men's basketball about \$2 million last season. Women's basketball, despite finishing second in the NCAA Tournament, lost about \$250,000, Jones said.



Jim Jones

"I think women's basketball has a chance to break even next season," said Jones, mindful that its tickets are rising from \$2 to \$5.

The return of All-American Katie Smith for three more seasons should help attendance, too.

Jones' main concern — he calls it a crisis — is gender equity. The Big Ten Conference wants its members to have 60 percent men and 40 percent women competing in intercollegiate athletics.

"I don't think we have gender equity anyplace — whatever it is," Jones said. "A heckuva lot of institutions aren't doing much for women's sports, particularly in the South."

Jones said some major schools in the South have as few as seven women's sports. Ohio State has added a 14th women's sport, soccer, to its 32-sport, \$28 million budget.

"Looking down the road five years," he said, "I don't know if we can stay at 32 sports."

Jones, 57, calls gender equity the second crisis facing the NCAA during his tenure as an administrator. He was associate athletic director for 10 years before replacing athletic director Rick Bay in November 1987.

The first crisis was the deregulation of college football telecasts, the outgrowth of lawsuits brought by the universities of Georgia and Oklahoma to show non-network games. It led to the formation of the College Football Association to show its own games on the networks.

"I think football was better when we had regulated TV," Jones said.

Some CFA members are now threatening to secede from the NCAA over the gender-equity issue. "I don't hear anybody from the Big Ten or the Pac-10 talking about secession. I don't think secession solves the problem," he said.

When Title IX became federal law in 1972, Ohio State was in good shape with 13 sports for women. But that is also an obstacle to the school's ability to reach the 60-40 percentage the conference wants.

"We're about 200 athletes off," Jones said. If the university dropped any sports, it would be on the men's side, but there are no such plans.

He said there are four ways to reach the the 60-40 ratio — drop men's sports, cap the size of teams, increase women's participation or a combination of the three.

"Football (with 85 grants-in-aid) kills us with its numbers. We don't have a women's sport close to that and you can't add enough women's sports to offset," he said.

Jones used baseball and softball as an example.

"Baseball has 40 players and softball has only 17. You think I can convince the baseball coach (Bob Todd) that he only needs 30 players?"

On other subjects, Jones:

- Doesn't want to enlarge Ohio Stadium but laments the cost of tickets (\$22 apiece). "Four tickets cost a young couple from Cleveland — if they get them — about \$90. I think that's bad."

- Dislikes the practice of 75 to 80 high school football prospects taking five visits. "They certainly don't need five. My friends at Iowa scream at that. They claim they don't have the population base we have."

- Opposes adding skiing, water polo, badminton or team handball as women's sports. "There are no schools close enough for competition."

- Doesn't see the Buckeyes football games going on pay-for-view television. "I don't think our constituency would allow that and I don't think they should be."

- Said the athletic directorship has become more political and more sensitive. "I've found myself more guarded. I could talk more freely when I was associate AD."

Women's basketball grows in popularity

By Joe Strauss
Lantern sports writer

The 1992-93 women's basketball season was a transitional year for the sport on a national level, experiencing record attendance figures and increased television exposure.

According to NCAA statistics, attendance in Division I women's basketball in 1992 totaled 4,476,656, a 92-percent increase from the 1990 figure of 2,328,510.

Last season, Ohio State drew an average home crowd of 6,146, ranking it second in the nation in attendance. This was a 120-percent increase over the 1991-92 average of 2,795, and greater than the previous season's best of 4,648 in the 1987-88 season.

During last season's NCAA tournament, Ohio State's regional final game against Virginia drew 7,859 spectators in Richmond, Va., which was the largest East regional final crowd ever at a neutral site.

There are other reasons for optimism for women's basketball. In 1991, CBS added three regular-season games to its regular lineup and the national semifinals as part of its \$1 billion television contract with the NCAA.

Ohio State had the most national television appearances last season, three games on CBS, two on ESPN.

However, while women's college basketball has made great strides in recent years, the sport still has a long way to go in winning over the viewing and paying public, especially in major media markets.

More exposure sought

Women's tournament scores are almost never shown on national television cable or networks. Local radio and television stations in major cities rarely mention women's scores, except during the NCAA tournament. Officials at CBS said there are no plans to increase the number of televised games in an already oversaturated basketball market.

"Exposure and attention to the sport are areas that need to be improved," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "Traditionally, certain sports have been seen as dominant, and these happen to be the male sports. Basketball has always been seen as a male sport, and has been historically a higher profile sport."

Tennessee coach Pat Summitt, for whom Darsch served as assistant coach before coming to Ohio State in 1985.

Volunteers to three NCAA titles (1987, '89, '91) and the United States' women's team to an Olympic gold medal to 1984. Summitt also said the women's game needs to be marketed more effectively.

"We're at a crossroads," Summitt said. "We have seen significant growth in the last five years. But it's time to take the next step in terms of exposure and interest. These next five years are very, very important."

Darsch's predecessor at Ohio State (1980-85) and current Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer, who last month joined Darsch in coaching the USA Women's World Championship Qualifying Team to the gold medal in San Paulo, Brazil, added that while Stanford generally receives good coverage from several California newspapers, the disparities in media coverage between men's and women's basketball make it difficult for the women's game to grow on a national scale.

Increased marketing

A major problem is how to effectively market and promote a sport that is often seen as little more than a subsidiary of the men's game.

According to Donna Lopiano, the former University of Texas women's athletic director and now head of the Women's Sports Foundation, athletic directors must actively pursue ways to market women's programs through increased corporate sponsorship, community interest and media exposure through television.

"Athletic directors keep trying gimmicks that don't work, when what it takes is hard work," Lopiano said. "You have to be out there working the crowd, working the sponsors, working the fans, every night."

Debbie Antonelli, the director of marketing and promotions for the OSU athletic department, said Ohio State runs promotions with local businesses such as the Big Bear and Donatos Pizza, who purchase tickets from Ohio State to foster community involvement and enthusiasm for the team.

Antonelli cited the Big Ten - ACC Challenge, hosted by Ohio State last January, as one of the most successful events of the season. Ohio State's nationally televised 91-84 victory over

John Arena, and featured three-point shooting contests for a new car and a trip to the women's final four at the Omni in Atlanta, Ga.

"We sold 10,000 tickets in corporate ticket packages," Antonelli said. "That's all during one event in January. Anyone in Columbus who saw the game on national television saw a lot of positive things. They saw a winning atmosphere that people want to be a part of."

To build on last season's achievements, Antonelli stressed that improvements will be made through the Nancy Darsch television show, increased television exposure through Warner and Coaxial Cable, and a first-ever media campaign for season's tickets.

"You have to expect that after last season's success, this next year is the most important year to sell season tickets," Antonelli said. "We sold 1,000 season tickets last year, and we will have no problem renewing those. With increased radio and television exposure, hopefully we can sell even more."

OSU's popularity grows

Ohio State's program, led by national freshman of the year, Katie Smith, has joined traditional powers like Tennessee and Stanford as a model for women's basketball programs.

"More students are interested in coming to Ohio State this year," Darsch said. "Out of our top five recruits, Ohio State is one of their top choices."

The continued success of Ohio State's high-profile basketball program can only strengthen the sport's appeal nationally. Last May, the NCAA Executive Committee approved expansion of the women's tournament from 48 to 64 teams, which brings it up to par with the men's championship.

There has been discussion about whether the women's game should move its NCAA tournament dates to avoid conflicting with the men's tournament. The lowering of the rims has also been discussed to facilitate dunking and a quicker, more athletic style of play. Whether these changes are necessary is still under debate.

A compilation of local, state,
and national stories about
The Ohio State University
and issues concerning
higher education.

NEWS DIGEST

Published by the Office of
University Communications

Mary Lindner,
News Digest editor

The Columbus Dispatch

AUG 13 1993

WBNS-AM to air OSU women

*Plans call for games to be
carried on state network*

For the first time, Ohio State women's basketball games will be carried on a commercial radio network, with WBNS-AM as the flagship station, sources say.

General manager Dana Harmon of WBNS-AM said yesterday that negotiations are going on among the station, Ohio State and WOSU-AM, the university's public station.

Ohio State president Gordon Gee said, "Clearly, it would be appropriate for women's basketball with its enormous popularity. Women's basketball has come of age."

Athletic director Jim Jones could not be reached for comment.

Sources said the network would include up to 14 stations in Ohio, including WBNS-AM and WOSU-AM.

If Dale Ouzts, general manager of the WOSU stations, approves it, the women's announcing team will be play-by-play man Herb Howenstein, sports director at WOSU-AM, and analyst Debbie Antonelli, the marketing director for OSU athletics.

Howenstein and Antonelli broadcast the Buckeyes women's games last season, when Ohio State posted a 28-4 record, finished second in the NCAA Tournament to Texas Tech and tied Iowa for the Big Ten title at 16-2.

CONT ON PAGE 2

WBNS-AM already serves as the flagship station for broadcasts of Ohio State football and men's basketball.

Officials of the station and Ohio State are expected to sign a multiyear contract to broadcast women's basketball.

Coach Nancy Darsch's team attracted record crowds to St. John Arena last season, averaging 6,146 for 16 home games. The previous high average of 4,648 was set in 1987-88.

Darsch will be starting her ninth season at Ohio State. She has an overall record of 170-69. Two starters, All-American forward-guard Katie Smith and center Stacie Howard, return from last season's squad.

The OSU women will open the season with two exhibitions, playing the Slovenian national team in St. John Arena on Nov. 17 and Tennessee in the Hall of Fame Classic on Nov. 22 in Jackson, Tenn.

Texas Tech and Vanderbilt will play in the other half of the nationally televised double-header in Jackson, site of the new hall of fame for the women's sport.

Early challenges highlight OSU women's schedule

The Ohio State women's basketball team, national runner-up in April, faces a strong schedule this season with as many as nine games possible against NCAA Tournament teams.

The Buckeyes, 28-4 and Big Ten co-champions with Iowa last season, will play an exhibition against Tennessee and regular-season games against Virginia and Vanderbilt as well as two games against the Hawkeyes.

"Some of the early tests will be good for us," said coach Nancy Darsch, who has only two regulars returning — All-American forward-guard Katie Smith and center Stacie Howard. "Tennessee is probably going to be one of the most talented teams in the country."

Ohio State opens with two exhibitions.

The game with Tennessee will be part of a nationally televised double-header from the new Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Jackson, Tenn., at 1 p.m. Nov. 22. Texas Tech, which defeated Ohio State 84-82 in the NCAA title game, will play Vanderbilt in the second half of the double-header.

The other exhibition opens the season and will be played against the Slovenia national team at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in St. John Arena.

The home schedule includes a game against Vanderbilt on Dec. 1.

However, the 10-year-old Buckeye Classic, a staple on the non-conference schedule in St. John Arena, has been dropped this season because of a scheduling conflict, Darsch said.

Instead, the Buckeyes will play in the Lady Gator Classic in Gainesville, Fla. Ohio State will play Southern Mississippi on Dec. 28 and Florida or Pennsylvania on Dec. 29.

Team Plays Seven Games, Takes In Sights During Overseas Swing

European Tour Beneficial To Lady Buckeyes

By MIKE WACHSMAN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Staff Writer

Ohio State's women's basketball team returned from late summer vacation a little worse for wear, but with a better knowledge of just what the team may look like in 1993-94.

The Lady Buckeyes went to Europe Sept. 3-10, taking on some top club teams, and returned with a 4-3 record. That, however, may not be indicative of the team's talents because the international game is much more physical and not very conducive to OSU's fast-paced style.

As expected, sophomore Katie Smith paced the team in scoring, averaging 19 points per game. Perhaps what was not as expected was the fact that classmate Adrienne Johnson was the top scorer in three contests and averaged nearly 15 a game, including a 25-point outburst in the finale against Belgium's Biss Nomur. Smith's top tally was 29 against England's Northampton Club, a game in which she also pulled down 11 rebounds. Johnson averaged less than five points per game last year in spot duty for the Buckeyes.

Along with Johnson's scoring, perhaps the next most pleasant surprise was the fine board play of sophomore forward Gigi Jackson. She averaged almost eight rebounds a contest and posted three double-figure rebound contests, including 13 in a loss to the England National team on the trip's first day.

Jackson, who definitely used the intimidating inside play to good advantage, may have just worked her way into the mix for the upcoming season.

"Gigi rebounded very well and scored some," said OSU head coach Nancy Darsch. "She was a pleasant surprise. She's worked hard over the summer, lost a lot of weight (23 pounds), and seems to be playing with more confidence. Going inside was a risky proposition, but Gigi did a nice job."

But not-so-nice may be a polite way to describe the Buckeye post play. Facing a decided height disadvantage against most teams and a wider international lane, OSU's inside game was hindered.

"Our post players had a tough time simply because it's a more physical game, they're further away from the basket, and international teams traditionally drop three players to the post," Darsch explained. "Our kids didn't have a lot of room to maneuver."

The Buckeyes surely would have come home on the down side of .500 if not for some last-second heroics by jun-



CONTINENTAL BUCKEYES — Members of the Ohio State women's basketball team, shown here in Stratford, England, recently completed a successful seven-game tour of Europe.

ior guard Alysiah Bond in a 74-73 win over Belgium's Waregem Club. Bond made a half-court shot with three seconds left to propel the Lady Buckeyes to victory.

The trip overseas gave Darsch and her staff a huge opportunity to fine tune the play of the returnees, as well as get everyone on the same page offensively. That should bode well for OSU, which opens practice Nov. 1.

"It will give us a big advantage," she admitted. "I don't know if we'll see it on the court Nov. 1st or even Nov. 21st, but from a coach's perspective, it gave us a better evaluation of what our personnel is going to look like together, what we're going to be good at, and what things will be our weaknesses."

"The biggest thing for the players was getting used to being starters again," Darsch said of some of her players who were stars in high school but have been reserves at OSU. "They tried to see what kind of a personality we might have this season."

Maybe that personality can mirror last season's, when Ohio State mesmerized the nation by finishing as national runner-up and going a sterling 28-4.

The team's four seniors from last year — Audrey Burey, Nikki Keyton, Averill Roberts and Lisa Sebastian — all participated on the European swing but won't be around when OSU tips things off for real Nov. 28 at home against Massachusetts.

Despite the loss of those four integral cogs, though, Darsch isn't downplaying the benefits of the trip and getting her

youngsters some much-needed international experience.

"This is the first time I've taken a university team overseas and it had a lot of benefit for us," she said. "It's very worthwhile both from a basketball and educational standpoint. It's a different kind of trip (from a normal Big Ten road trip), and it's really good the team got to interact with each other in different environments from practice and games."

Don't think the trip was all sweat and toil, however. There was time out for sightseeing.

England, Belgium and France all are scenic and are overflowing with historical sites. The Lady Bucks may not have seen all of them, but they sure got their fill.

"We did as much sightseeing on the trip as one human being could possibly endure," Darsch said. "The kids for the most part enjoyed that aspect. By the end, they probably had their fill of being on a bus and seeing another town and taking another tour, but they really did appreciate the majority of it. They got to see things from a historical standpoint and do and see things they've only read about."

Recruiting Notes

There are some prep seniors that Buckeye fans will no doubt be reading and hearing about in the coming months, many of whom are near the top of the recruiting charts.

It's funny what a number two national finish does for recruiting, as four of the top prospects in the nation are reportedly interested in Ohio State.

The top in-state player the Buckeyes are doggedly pursuing is Columbus South's Tomika Patterson, a 6-0 swing player who was a first-team all-state choice last year. She should be one of the top 25 or 30 players available in the country this year. It could come down to an Ohio State-Illinois battle for Patterson's talents.

OSU is hoping to import talent, and 5-11 off guard Nykesha Sales from Bloomfield, Conn., is a good place to start. Also on her prospective list are Connecticut, Virginia and Stanford. She recently eliminated Vanderbilt but may give up-and-coming North Carolina a listen if she takes a fifth visit. Sales is scheduled to tour the OSU campus sometime in October.

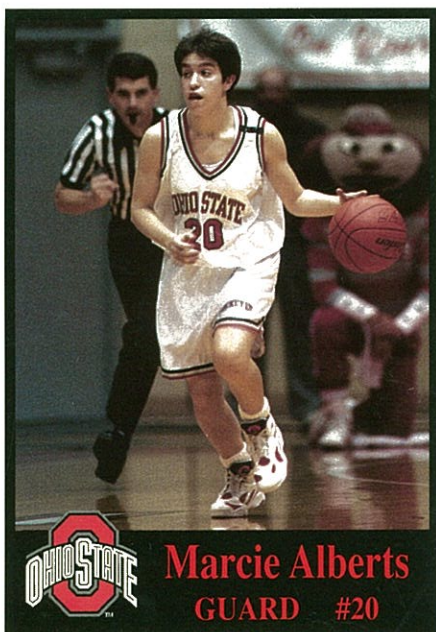
Sales is reportedly interested in engineering as a career, something that could bode well for the Buckeyes with Ohio State's engineering program among the tops in the nation.

The Lady Bucks will also be fighting for Tiffani Johnson from Charlotte (N.C.) Garinger and Tiffany Gooden from Fort Wayne (Ind.) Snider.

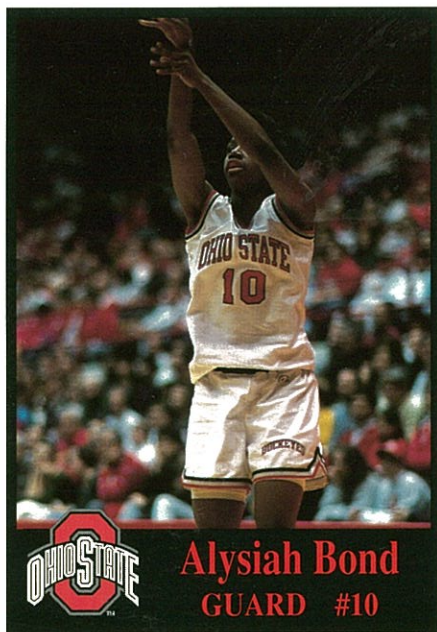
Johnson, a 6-4 center with surprising agility, has already made an unofficial visit to the Columbus campus and may be the top post player in the country. OSU will fight with Georgia, Wake Forest, North Carolina State and Tennessee for her services.

Gooden, a 5-11 swing player, was rated the nation's top junior last year and may be the top player in the country heading into the 1993-94 campaign. She will decide between the heavy hitters of women's basketball — OSU, Stanford, Tennessee, Iowa and Vanderbilt.

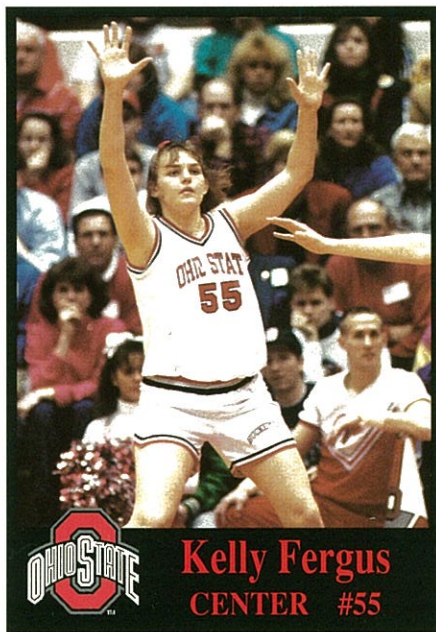
Ohio State will be able to sign three players for the 1994-95 season and the Buckeyes are hopeful of getting all the signatures in November's early signing period.



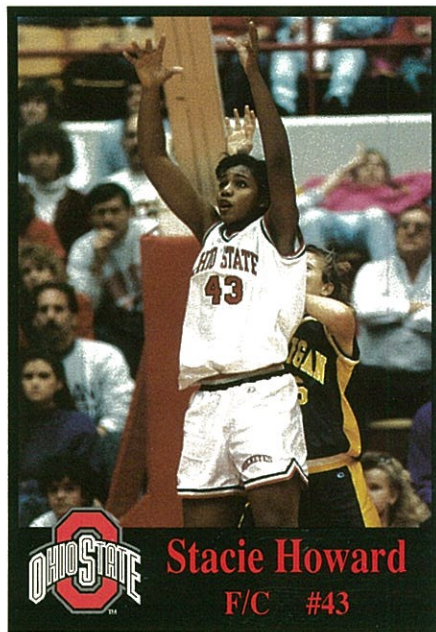
OHIO STATE
Marcie Alberts
GUARD #20



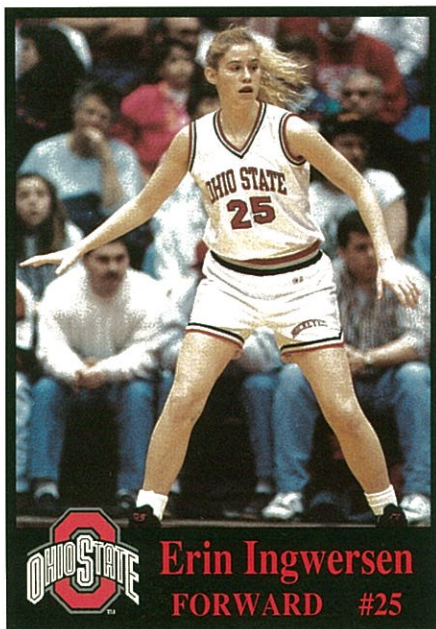
OHIO STATE
Alyshiah Bond
GUARD #10



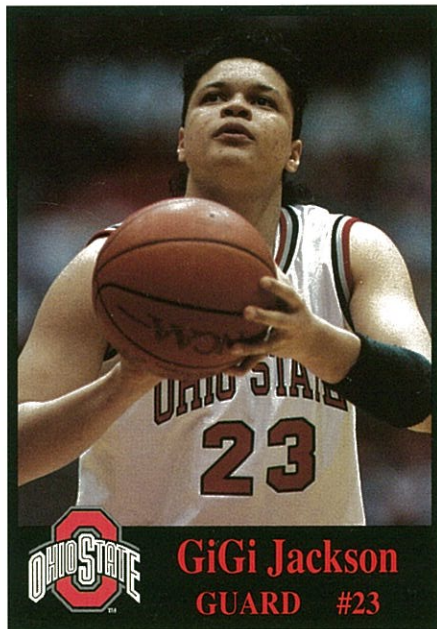
OHIO STATE
Kelly Fergus
CENTER #55



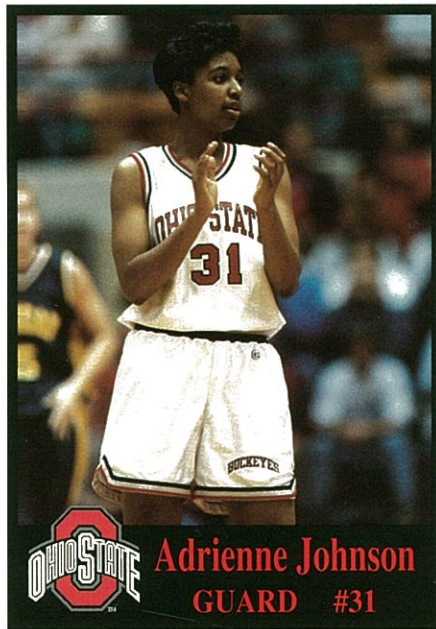
OHIO STATE
Stacie Howard
F/C #43



OHIO STATE
Erin Ingwersen
FORWARD #25



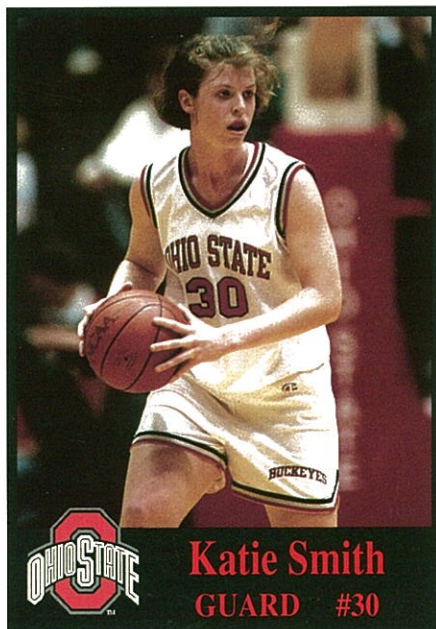
OHIO STATE
GiGi Jackson
GUARD #23



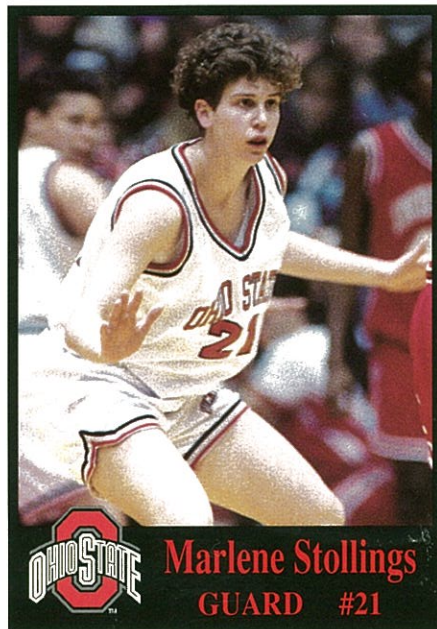
OHIO STATE
Adrienne Johnson
GUARD #31



OHIO STATE
Lisa Negri
F/C #44



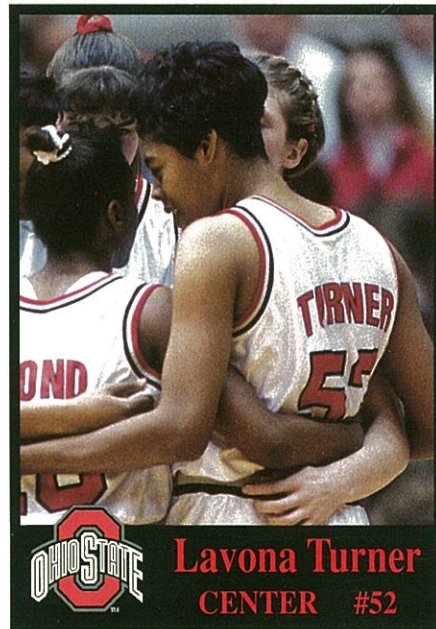
OHIO STATE
Katie Smith
GUARD #30



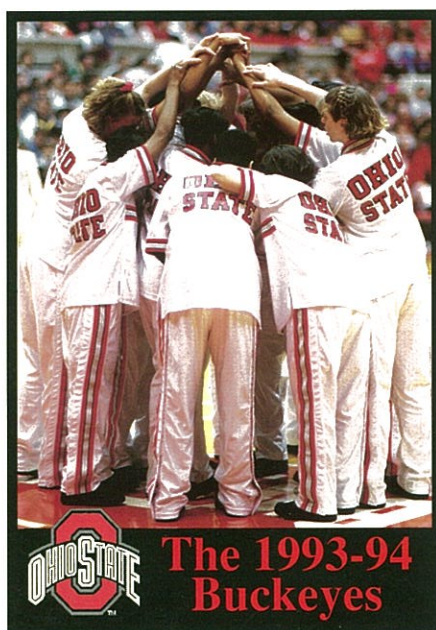
OHIO STATE
Marlene Stollings
GUARD #21



OHIO STATE
Amy Turner
CENTER #50



OHIO STATE
Lavona Turner
CENTER #52

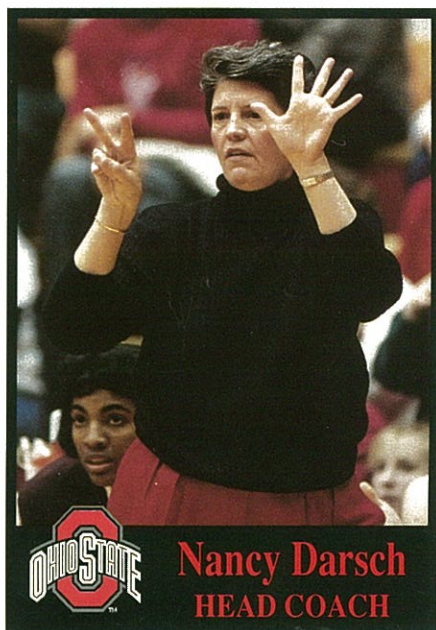


OHIO STATE
The 1993-94
Buckeyes

CATCH

OHIO STATE
WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL!
YOU'VE GOTTA
BE THERE!
THE VOICE OF THE BUCKEYES!
1460 WBNS
SPORTS, NEWS AND MORE!


BIG
BEAR
PROUD
SPONSOR OF
OHIO STATE
WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL!



OHIO STATE
Nancy Darsch
HEAD COACH

#43 STACIE HOWARD

Forward • 6-2 • Senior
Orrville High School
Orrville, Ohio

The Buckeyes' returning starter at center and No. 2 shot-blocker ... Has worked extremely hard during the off-season.
1992-93 Season: Capped her first season as a starter at center after playing a reserve role at power forward the previous two seasons ... Tallied 20.3 minutes per outing, averaging 7.6 points and 3.0 rebounds per game ... Etched career bests marks for points (16 vs. Michigan), steals (4 vs. UCLA), blocks (4 vs. Illinois) and assists (2 vs. four teams) ... Grabbed a season-high eight rebounds against UCLA ... Denied a second-best 18 shots ... Nursing major.

#55 KELLY FERGUS

Center • 6-3 • Sophomore
Brunswick High School
Brunswick, Ohio

One of five post players who will share time on the block ... Saw limited playing time initially, but minutes increased by the season's end ... Summer league play should improve her mobility ... An OSU Scholar-Athlete.
1992-93 Season: A competitor in 27 games ... Averaged 7.9 minutes per contest ... Touted scoring and rebounding averages of 1.7 points and 1.9 rebounds, respectively ... Marked a career-high seven points in just her second collegiate outing at Massachusetts ... Etched her best rebounding effort of six versus Syracuse ... Physical therapy major.

#10 ALYSIAH BOND

Guard • 5-5 • Junior
Reynoldsburg High School
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Considered the top candidate to orchestrate the Buckeye offense at point guard ... Quick ... Explosive ... A play-maker ... Joined the OSU track team last spring as a member of the 4x100 relay squad ... An Academic all-Big Ten and two-time OSU Scholar-Athlete honoree.
1992-93 Season: Played a reserve role behind seniors Audrey Burcy and Lisa Sebastian ... Averaged 9.2 minutes and 2.7 points per game ... Shot 36.8 percent from the floor and 53.8 percent from the charity stripe ... Marketing major.

#20 MARCIE ALBERTS

Guard • 5-4 • Freshman Guard
Wooster High School
Wooster, Ohio

The 1992-93 Division I Player of the Year and a two-year selection to the first team all-state squad ... Injury to her right knee cut her final prep campaign short in February ... Underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage and should be 100 percent for preseason practices ... A floor leader ... An intelligent ball-handler and passer.
High School: The District IV Player of the Year in her final two seasons ... A first team all-district pick the past three campaigns and an all-Federal League choice in each of the past four ... Comparative studies major.

#44 LISA NEGRI

Forward/Center • 6-2 • Sophomore
Powers Catholic High School
Flint, Mich.

The squad's lone left-hander and top-returning shot-blocker ... Will vie for a starting role on the block ... Paced all reserves in minutes played ... Became the Buckeyes' No. 3 rebounder and a top free throw shooter ... Recipient of the team's Sixth-Player Award.
1992-93 Season: Saw action in all 32 games, including four as a starter ... Averaged 21.0 minutes per game ... Opened the season with a career scoring high of 12 points versus Bowling Green ... Averaged 4.6 points per game, shooting 42.3 percent from the floor and a third-best 73.5 percent at the charity stripe ... Social work major.

#31 ADRIENNE JOHNSON

Guard • 5-10 • Sophomore
Butler High School
Louisville, Ky.

A member of the Big Ten All-Star Team which toured Budapest, Hungary, this past summer ... Is adept at playing both guard positions ... Gained her minutes last season as the Buckeyes' top reserve shooting guard ... Quick off the dribble ... A confident ball-handler ... Shares hometown status with OSU men's basketball player Derek Anderson ... An OSU Scholar-Athlete honoree.
1992-93 Season: Played in 30 of 32 games ... Tallied 12.7 minutes a contest ... Averaged 4.4 points and 1.6 rebounds ... Etched her career scoring high at Michigan, scoring 13 points on 5 of 8 field goal shooting ... Pre-medicine major.

#23 GIGI JACKSON

Forward • 5-10 • Sophomore
Mifflin High School
Columbus, Ohio

A prep post player who spent her collegiate frosh campaign adjusting to play on the wing ... Upper-body strength makes her one of the squad's strongest rebounders ... Defensive play is swarming ... A hometown favorite ... One of the game's biggest enthusiasts.
1992-93 Season: Averaged 5.3 minutes per game in 18 contests ... Played a season-high 10 minutes at Boston College and vs. Illinois ... Marked career-best scoring and rebounding efforts with four points against the Fighting Illini and four rebounds vs. Syracuse ... Broadcast communication major.

#25 ERIN INGERWERSEN

Forward • 6-0 • Junior
Hoffman Estates High School
Hoffman Estates, Ill.

A key reserve at the wing last season ... One of the squad's biggest threats from beyond the three-point arc ... Defensive play has improved twofold ... A 1993 Academic all-Big Ten honoree and two-time OSU Scholar-Athlete.
1992-93 Season: Averaged 11.2 minutes in 30 of 32 games ... Posted season scoring averages of 2.2 points and 1.4 rebounds per game ... Notched a season-high 10 points versus Indiana ... Season's best rebounding effort is five at Michigan ... Mathematics major.

#52 LAVONA TURNER

Center • 6-2 • Junior
Timken High School
Canton, Ohio

Tabbed the favorite for the starting position at center before re-injuring her right knee in a preseason practice ... Received a medical redshirt following surgery in December 1992 to reconstruct her anterior cruciate ligament ... Capped her sophomore season as the Buckeyes' top shot blocker and second-leading rebounder.
1992-93 Season: Medical Redshirt.

#50 AMY TURNER

Center • 6-4 • Freshman
Northwest High School
Cincinnati, Ohio

The tallest player on the '93-94 roster ... Owns a nice shooting touch ... Has good rebounding and shot-blocking abilities ... Runs the floor well ... Size will enhance a well-balanced roster of post players.
High School: A four-time all-conference and three-time all-district honoree ... Gained all-state honorable mention laurels following her senior campaign ... Averaged 17.2 points and 10.0 rebounds per game for the 1992-93 season, while shooting 54 percent from the floor and 71 percent at the free throw line ... Collected 17.7 points and 12 rebounds per game the previous year.

#21 MARLENE STOLLINGS

Guard • 5-11 • Freshman
Eastern High School
Beaver, Ohio

Ohio's reigning Ms. Basketball and the high school boys and girls all-time scorer (3,514 points) ... The Division III Player of the Year the past two seasons (1993, 1992) ... Possesses excellent scoring range ... An aggressive rebounder ... Fundamentally sound.
High School: A three-time first team all-state pick ... Selected the Southern Ohio Conference Player of the Year in each of her four seasons and the District 14 Player of the Year in the latter three ... Paced Eastern to four league titles while amassing an 84-13 record over four years, including a 23-2 performance in '92-93.

#30 KATIE SMITH

Guard • 5-11 • Sophomore
Logan High School
Logan, Ohio

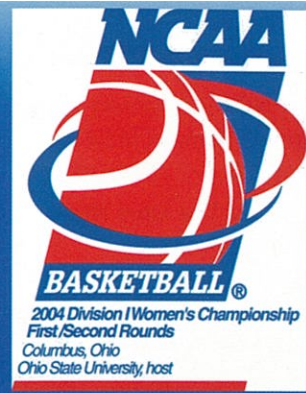
Undoubtedly one of the top guards in the country ... The first freshman since USC's Cheryl Miller to earn Kodak All-America laurels ... Played internationally as a member of the Junior World Championship Team in Seoul, South Korea, in August ... The Big Ten Freshman of the Year and a second team all-Big Ten choice ... A member of the NCAA Final Four and East Regional All-Tournament teams ... Ohio State's top returning scorer, rebounder and free throw shooter ... One of the strongest players in the Buckeye weight room ... An OSU Scholar Athlete ... Noted as Sport's Illustrated's National Freshman of the Year.
1992-93 Season: A starter in all 32 matchups, totalling 29.7 minutes per game ... Averaged a team best 18.1 points per game, shooting 50.4 percent from the floor, 45 percent from three-point range and 80.8 percent at the charity stripe.

NANCY DARSCH

Head Coach
Ninth Year
Springfield College '73

Head coach Nancy Darsch is in her ninth season at Ohio State ... Last season, she guided the 28-4 Buckeyes to their eighth Big Ten title in 12 years, their fourth under her tutelage, and a first-ever appearance in the NCAA Women's Final Four ... In 1985-86, her inaugural season, Darsch led the Buckeyes to the NCAA regional semifinals, bringing her National co-Freshman Coach of the Year honors from the American Women's Sports Foundation ... Darsch has been named by USA Basketball as an assistant coach on the 1994 Women's World Championship/Goodwill Games Team.





2004 NCAA Women's Basketball

First and Second Rounds
March 20 & 22, 2004

Hosted by The Ohio State University
St. John Arena
Columbus, Ohio



DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS
The Athletics Ticket Office
Suite 1010
555 Berror Drive
Columbus, OH 43210-1187

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 711



**2004 NCAA Women's Basketball
First and Second Rounds
March 20 & 22, 2004**

Hosted by The Ohio State University
St. John Arena
Columbus, Ohio

It's the greatest time of the year for college basketball fans and you can be a part of all the excitement.

ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Completed order forms may be mailed to the Ohio State Athletics Ticket Office, 555 Borer Dr., Suite 1010, Columbus, OH 43210-1187, or submitted in person to the athletics ticket office located in the Jerome Schottenstein Center.

The price is \$20 per all-session ticket for the general public and \$10 per all-session ticket for students and children.

Single game tickets can not be sold until the Wednesday before the tournament. All seats will be reserved seating. The west bleachers will not be available to sell.

Tickets (all session passes) will be available on the phones at 1-800-GO-BUCKS. Tickets may be purchased with cash, check or credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover). The ticket price includes session 1 (two games) on March 20 and session 2 (one game) on March 22. Everyone must have a ticket for admission, regardless of age. Game times will be announced the week of the tournament. Except for limited uses by NCAA corporate partners, tickets may not be offered in a commercial promotion or as a prize in a sweepstakes or contest.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
(614) 292-2624 or 1-800-GOBUCKS**

Ticket Application



**2004 NCAA Women's Basketball
First and Second Rounds
March 20 & 22, 2004**

RETURN TO
Ohio State Athletics Ticket Office
Suite 1010
555 Borer Dr., Columbus, OH
43210-1187

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Acct. # _____

By: _____ Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (w) _____ (h) _____

e-mail address _____

Quantity	Price All Session Tickets	Total Amount
	\$20 (general public each ticket)	\$ _____
	\$10 (student/children each ticket)	\$ _____
		Service Charge \$10
	TOTAL	_____

Method of payment

- Mastercard Visa Discover
 Cash _____ Check (payable to The Ohio State University)

Credit Card Number Exp. Date _____ / _____

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Authorized signature of card holder:

OSU women have tough act to follow

■ *The Buckeyes lost three starters, but All-American Katie Smith is back.*

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Just how do you improve on the most successful season in Ohio State women's basketball history?

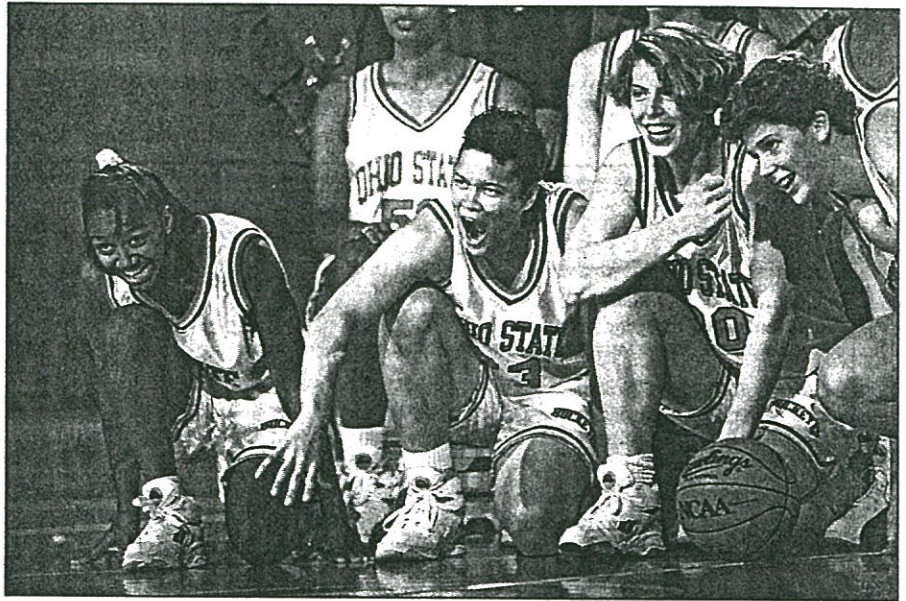
It was the question most asked of coach Nancy Darsch during yesterday's media/photo day in St. John Arena.

"I don't think you try any harder," said Darsch, who guided the Buckeyes to the NCAA championship game last season. "I think you just try as hard as you did last year and see what happens."

"We would like to regain some of the character and personality that last year's team had. For starters, we want to have fun, work hard and be exciting. But at the same time, we have to realize that this is a different team. We lost four seniors, three of them starters. That means we lost a lot of points, rebounds and steals."

"So we're going to have to show some patience while waiting to see who's going to step up and assume some of those responsibilities, while having confidence that it is going to happen for us."

"I think it's also going to be very important for me as a coach to stay



Eric Albrecht/Dispatch

Relieved at being allowed to move again after posing for a team photo are (from

left) Alysiah Bond, Gigi Jackson, Katie Smith and Marlene Stollings.

patient and stay positive and create an atmosphere where we can be successful."

Despite losing starters Audrey Bury, Nikki Keyton and Averill Roberts from a team that went 28-4 and set a school record for wins last season, the Buckeyes return All-American forward Katie Smith. She led the team in scoring, averaging 18.1 points per game, and was

second in rebounding (5.8) in becoming the first Big Ten freshman to earn All-American honors.

"I think everyone is expecting me to play even better than last year," Smith said. "Personally, I'm hoping to improve on many things."

"So there's pressure on me. But I

Please see **OSU WOMEN** Page 2E

felt pressure last year as a freshman and just took everything in stride. I hope to do the same again this year. I also think we're going to surprise some teams.

"We've got some other players on this team that are going to contribute more, and they'll help relieve the pressure off of me because the other teams can't leave anybody unguarded or they'll get burnt."

Alysiah Bond, Stacie Howard and Lisa Negri head the list of eight veteran players joining Smith. In addition, the Buckeyes boast a talented freshman crop in Marlene Stollings, Marcie Alberts and Amy Turner.

Stollings, a 5-foot-11 guard from Beaver, Ohio, could be the best newcomer in the Big Ten. No other player in Ohio high school history — boy or girl — scored more than 3,000 career points. Stollings, who scored 3,514 points as a four-year starter for Eastern High School, averaged 42.5 points and and seven rebounds

her senior season.

She posted a career average of 36.6 points and shot 81.6 percent from the free throw line and 51.8 percent from the field.

"My main concern right now is coming into practice and working hard," Stollings said.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to figure out my role with the team and be able to fit in."

"I know I have a reputation as a scorer and I consider it one of my strong points. . . . So I feel that I'll still be able to score and make an impact that way."

142E

HOOPS ALERT

In football-crazy Buckeye country, Nancy Darsch probably picked as good a day as any to meet and greet the OSU women's basketball team.

Doors open at 4 p.m. Sunday at St. John Arena for an autograph and picture session. Fans may stay to watch practice until 6 p.m. Sunny 95's Bob (yessir, he's back) Simpson will have a pair of season tickets to give away. Admission is free.

Logan's a town in love with a star: Katie Smith

■ *Everyone there has a story about the beloved basketball player, whose work ethic and competitiveness strike a chord.*

By Bob Hunter

Dispatch Sports Reporter

LOGAN, Ohio — People in these parts like to talk about the day Katie Smith, taking time off from her role as budding superstar for the Ohio State women's basketball team, stopped at the soda fountain at Risch's drugstore for a snack.

Word spread quickly that the star was back in town. Before she finished, she was "mobbed" by a bunch of little children who idolized her.

"I wasn't here, so I don't know whether it's true or not," said Jim St. Clair, Risch's owner. "But knowing Katie, it wouldn't surprise me. The kids around here really love her."

Smith laughed nervously at mention of the incident, now part of a growing Katie Smith legend. She didn't deny it.

"The little kids in Logan do look up to me, I guess," she said. "I don't know, maybe it's because I try to be nice to them."

And then again, maybe it's because she's the biggest thing to hit Logan, population 6,725, since then-governor and former U.S. senator Thomas Worthington laid out this southeastern Ohio city in 1816.

Children aren't the only ones who love her here. Within the next few weeks, Logan will begin erecting signs at the city limits proclaiming Logan as the home of Katie Smith.

They aren't needed. Signs of Smith's popularity are everywhere.

Busloads of Logan citizens come to Columbus to cheer her at nearly every OSU home game. A "Wall of Fame" for Smith adorns the wall outside the gym at Logan-Hocking County Middle School, where the Logan High School teams now play. There are more schedule posters for the OSU women's team on walls and windows in Logan than for any other sports team, high



Jeff Hinckley/Dispatch

Ohio State sophomore Katie Smith outside St. John Arena

school, college or pro. There is even a seating area in St. John Arena, 7E, that OSU ticket office personnel know as the Logan section.

It is all a little overwhelming, even to Barbara Smith, Katie's mother.

"Gosh, I don't know, I think this community supports all of its kids," Barbara Smith said. "I think right now (Logan has) three Division I football players and two cheerleaders, and I think we support all of them.

Of course, to us, Katie is very special. I think maybe a lot of people appreciate her because she works so hard."

There may be something to this. Smith, a 5-foot-11, 167-pound guard, is neither the biggest nor the most gifted athlete to compete in the burgeoning sport of women's basketball. But her freshman statistics tell

Please see **LOGAN** page 2E

the story of an on-the-court workaholic: She averaged a team-high 18.1 points, 5.8 rebounds (second on the team) and 3.3 assists (second), and hit 50.4 percent of her field goal attempts (second), 45 percent of her three-pointers (first) and 80.8 percent of her free throws (first).

That remarkable effort didn't earn her an award at the team banquet, but it did make her the Big Ten's freshman of the year and the first freshman since Cheryl Miller of Southern California to become a Kodak All-American. It also helped make her a hero to the kind of people who value hard work over natural talent.

"We're working-class people down here," said Craig Dunn, assistant editor of the *Logan Daily News* and Katie's first basketball coach, "and I think people appreciate it when they see an athlete who works as hard as Katie does. It's something they can identify with."

HER POPULARITY TRANSCENDS SPORTS

But Dunn, like almost anyone you ask about Smith, also talks about Smith's relationship to other townspeople. Although she seems a little uncomfortable talking about her status in Logan, Smith does say that her work ethic may be responsible for it.

"I think it's not just because I play sports," she said. "But I think it's because I try to be nice to everybody. It's the way we all interact. I know people (in Logan) aren't just friendly with me because I play sports, because they were friendly with me when I was a little kid running around. We have all known each other for a long time, and I think everybody in Logan feels like they are a part of this."

There can be no doubt about that. If you wish, you can hear stories about Smith and her exploits, both for the Buckeyes and the Logan High School team (which she led to four consecutive appearances in the state final four), on every street corner. The Logan girls team still enjoys widespread popularity; it is Katie who has attained the status of local hero.

"Katie is the greatest thing that has ever hit Logan," said barber Willie Dicken, whose walls are lined with plaques commemorating Logan High's league championship teams. "It's no exaggeration. She is a combination of exceptional athletic ability and good grades, and she's just a good person."

Most of the chairs along the wall are filled with Dicken's customers, and several offer their own stories about Smith. There are no bad words among them.

"This is bragging," Dicken said, "but I honestly believe that Ohio State started getting sellout crowds last year because of Katie Smith. I really believe that. She put them where they were. I remember one game midway through the season where I know I personally saw at least 500 people from Logan at that one game. And I think later in the season, there may have been even more."

Like everyone else, Dicken believes her personality has as much to do with Logan's love affair with her as anything. He talks about how he once told her about a friend of his, Maynard Lehman, who was suffering from a muscular disease, and how she sent him a get-well card a few days later. Dicken says Lehman now has two pictures on his wall — one of Katie and one of the OSU women's basketball team.

"It's not just basketball," Dicken said. "It's more than that."

Basketball wasn't even part of Smith's life until she was in the fifth grade; before that, she took dancing lessons, competed in dance programs and showed animals in the local 4-H program.

"She was showing steers when she was 10 years old," said her father, John Smith, a dentist and a former football player at Ohio University. "When you can hand a 1,200-pound steer to a 10- or 12-year-old girl and tell them to lead them out there, I think it takes something to do that."

What Katie apparently had was a competitive streak, which she exhibited against older brother John, a senior football player at Mount Union, and younger brother Tom, a freshman at Ohio University.



Doral Chenoweth III/Dispatch

The "Wall of Fame" for Katie Smith outside the gym at Logan-Hocking County Middle School.

"They were so close and they were all very competitive," Barbara Smith said. "The three of them played touch football and basketball from the time they were little. It was kind of a reward for them at the end of the day after they finished their chores."

Katie started playing organized basketball at the end of the fifth grade, only because one of her brothers was going to Bidly Basketball League and her mom knew it would be easier if she enrolled Katie in the league, too. Even though she was a girl playing in a boys league, it didn't take her long to excel.

"She grew early, so she was almost as big then as she is now," Dunn said. "She was so advanced and so strong that the other teams couldn't handle her. Every boy she played with loved her, and the guys she played against hated her."

Once in the seventh grade, she was able to compete on girls teams. Unbelievably, her uniform with the boys fifth- and sixth-grade team has been retired.

"I think the thing about Katie is that she learns so well from observing," her father said. "That's one of her best assets. I used to take her down to OU games, and you'd be surprised all she learned from watching Caroline Mast (the Mid-American Conference's all-time leading scorer). And she still has some of (OU men's player) Snoopy Graham's mannerisms. It's kind of amazing the way she picks things up."

RIGHT UP THERE WITH SHAQ

No more amazing than her standing in her hometown. In the Sports Gallery, a downtown sports card shop, an autographed picture of Smith wearing a purple Logan basketball jersey shares space on the wall with the likes of Willie Stargell, Shaquille O'Neal and Mickey Mantle.

"She's a hero here, no question about it," store owner Howard Shaver said. "I wish they'd put out cards with her picture on it. They'd be a hot item around here."

Mark Armstrong, an employee of the nearby Logan Clay Products Co. who was browsing the store on his lunch hour, seemed to confirm that. He ticked off her point and rebound totals for the previous night's game. Shaver nodded and pointed to a bare spot on the wall.

"I was in Columbus last year and picked up a copy of that *Scarlet and Gray* newspaper that had Katie's picture on the cover," he said. "So I brought it home and put it up. And when I wasn't here one day, my wife sold it right off the wall."

Rosemary Shaver smiled.

"I did," she said. "Some guy saw it and begged and begged me for it, so I finally sold it. I made a nice profit, too. It's too bad I don't have more. I could probably sell 1,000 of them. People really love her here."

BUCKEYE SPORTS BULLETIN presents

“THE DREAM SEASON”

OSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 1992-93 CHAMPIONSHIP YEARBOOK



Audrey Burcy Jumps Into Arms Of Teammate Gigi Jackson While Rest Of Lady Buckeyes Celebrate Trip To NCAA Title Game



Silver Basketball Goes To Audrey Burcy



OSU Wins Big Ten-ACC Challenge



Katie Smith Named Kodak All-American

Alysia Bond's pride, determination helps balance books and basketball

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Black History Month brings out the best in Alysia Bond.

The Reynoldsburg native says thoughts of her heritage have been an inspiration to her as both a student and an Ohio State University basketball player.

"Black History Month is always a special time of year for me," Bond said. "I enjoy reflecting back on the history of African-Americans and all that they've done to help me to get to where I am now.

"That's why I've always tried to be the best I can be and represent my race the best that I can. It really shows positive things as a whole when some of the younger black Americans, like myself, can make positive strides and be seen, not just as athletes, but as scholar-athletes."

Bond, who has been honored as an OSU scholar-athlete the past two years, is on course to become the first black OSU women's basketball player to earn the honor four times since the program's inception in 1976.

"I try to work hard at the things I do, so I can make myself proud and my family proud."

Alysia Bond
OSU basketball player

The university annually honors its athletes, who maintain a cumulative grade average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). The program has had only eight four-time winners.

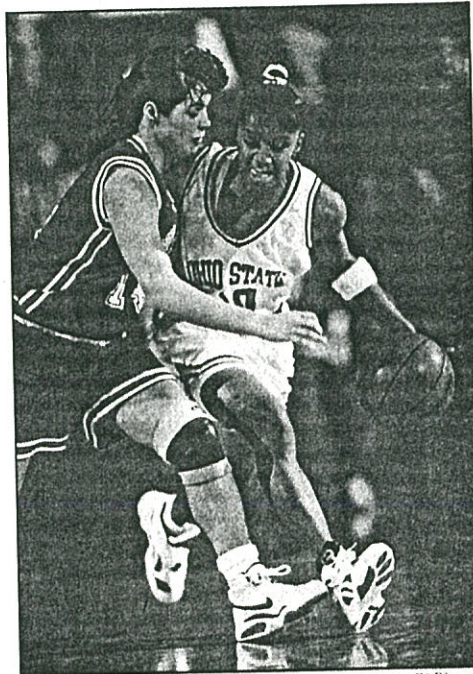
"If I didn't go to school on an athletic scholarship, I would have gotten an academic scholarship," said Bond, an academic All-Big Ten selection last season. "But I wanted to play basketball, so I just took that route.

"I feel like I've worked hard for what I've gotten, and I'm proud of it. I try to work hard at the things I do, so I can make myself proud and my family proud. I want them to know that I'm not just going to college just for the sake of being there. I'm in college to get my degree. It was something that I knew I was going to do — go to college and graduate from college."

Despite her individual success, Bond realizes that black Americans still have a long way to go in the area of education. That's why she believes in preaching to black kids about how important it is to take advantage of opportunities to go to college.

"I feel that it's getting better," Bond said. "There are opportunities for us to get to college on athletic scholarships, academic scholarships and on different minority scholarships.

"So it's getting better, but it's not to the point where I would like to see it. Hopefully, things will continue to improve like they have over the years. I also feel the



Chris Russell/Dispatch

Alysia Bond and Indiana's Kris McGrade were full speed ahead during a recent game.

opportunities are there, if you know how to create them. Sometimes you can be denied an opportunity, but you have to learn to turn it around and use it as motivation. It could become another tool to help you continue to move on to wherever you're trying to go or accomplish."

Bond, a marketing major, hasn't done too badly on the hardwood, either. She is the Buckeyes' starting point guard and leads the team in steals and assists. Her athleticism has earned her a reputation as one of the quickest players in the Big Ten.

The pressures of being one of the Big Ten's elite athletes, on and off the floor, don't bother Bond. She wears a wide smile no matter what she's doing.

"Sure, it's tough at times trying to live up to other people's expectations," Bond said. "But the hardest expectations come from myself.

"I try to set high goals for myself, probably higher than anyone else sets for me. That way I don't disappoint myself. I don't look at it as trying to please other people, I look at it as trying to please myself."

OSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Turner will forgo final season, focus on studies

By Derek Monore
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Lavona Turner says her days as a member of the Ohio State women's basketball team are almost over.

The junior center announced yesterday that she will pass up her final year of eligibility to concentrate on her studies next season.

"It was a tough decision because I'll probably miss playing," Turner said. "But as far as my future is concerned, I have no future in basketball.

"So I feel that I have to prepare myself for the future and I have a chance to do that by being able to concentrate more on my schoolwork. So that's the route I'm going to take."

Turner, who received a medical redshirt last season after suffering a knee injury in preseason, said her decision was based on academics and not on the disappointing season the Buckeyes are experiencing.

OSU (13-13, 6-10) has lost nine of its last 11 games and is one defeat away from ensuring the worst Big Ten finish in school history.

The Buckeyes host Northwestern (16-9, 8-8) at 7:30 tonight in St. John Arena. They close the regular season by hosting Illinois at 2 p.m. Saturday.

"It was not a situation of me wanting to leave because we had a bad season," Turner said. "That would make me want to stay even more, because I really would have liked to finish on a positive note.

"I think we're going to have a real strong team next year, because we'll have Peggy (Evans, who trans-

ferred from Tennessee) with us. But my decision was made before this season even started. So regardless what happened this season, this decision was made long before the season began."

Turner said it was important for her to concentrate on achieving her goal of becoming a dentist.

"If your love for (basketball) is still strong, you do want to continue to play," Turner said, "but it also has to come to a point where you have to realize that education has got to be the most important.

"... What happens if you get injured and have nothing to fall back on? So you really need an education."

This has been Turner's most productive season at OSU. She's started all 26 games and is averaging 8.8 points and 7.2 rebounds. Her efforts include career-high performances of 19 points (at Minnesota on March 3) and 17 rebounds (at Illinois on Jan. 5).

"I think I'm accomplished a great deal," Turner said. "It doesn't show very much as far as numbers, but I feel that the things that I had experienced and learned as a member of this team are going to help me later on in life.

"Most important, I came back from something that should have ended my career long before now. I went through two knee surgeries and was able to come back and play again without a knee brace. That's something that I wanted to accomplish and I'm proud of myself. . . .

"But regardless of whether I had knee surgery or not, my four years (of eligibility) would have been up. I had already planned on my fifth year being the year that I could really concentrate on my books and just be a regular student again.

"It's going to be nice to be a regular student and be able to get more help from my teachers and be able to spend more time in lab (assignments) and things like that."



Turner

OSU women's change of fortune not a total surprise

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

The disappointing season by the Ohio State women's basketball team did not come as a surprise to everyone.

"Colleagues told me this was going to be a really hard year, after making it to the championship game last year," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said. "So I kind of knew going in that it would be hard, but I had no idea it would be this hard or that it would be this hard to deal with."

OSU, which lost to Texas Tech 84-82 in the national championship game last season, had a complete reversal this season. The Buckeyes plunged from a school-record 28-4 a year ago to finish 14-14 and failed to receive an NCAA Tournament bid, despite having the field enlarged from 48 to 64 teams.

"I think the players should look at the team from last year and how well they played together as a team," OSU senior co-captain Stacie Howard said. "Then they should take a long look at this year's team."

"I think they need to take this year as a learning experience and realize that in order to be successful, you have to play as a team. One person isn't going to win or lose a game for you. It takes five people to go out there and play. That's the biggest thing that this team needs to learn in order to get ready for next year, because we didn't make it to the national championship game last



Darsch

year by playing as individuals. It was a team effort."

There was no parity in the scoring column this season for OSU. All-American forward Katie Smith shouldered the offensive load with a 22-point average. Adrienne Johnson (10.7 points) was the only other Buckeye in double figures. It was a sharp contrast from last season when OSU had four players average in double figures.

Darsch cited other reasons for the Buckeyes' dismal season, among them losing close games and not having enough time to prepare for the season.

"There were some points where if a bucket had fallen for us here or there, the season could have gone totally different," Darsch said. "Plus there was a lot of adversity for us to overcome, including some things off the court that have taken away our focus and our attention and made it more difficult."

"So everything just kind of got away from us and we just didn't seem to have enough time to regroup and get things turned around. But I felt from the very beginning that we were behind. I think having to rush to get ready

to play Tennessee in three weeks took us away from our normal preparation. We were doing things designed more for one game instead of designing for the whole season. So it was just a lot of rush."

The Buckeyes and Tennessee kicked off the 1993-94 season in the Hall of Fame Classic on Nov. 17 in Jackson, Tenn., three weeks after the first day of practice.

After being blown out by Tennessee 80-45, OSU recovered to win its next six games and was one the verge of cracking the top 10 (ranked 12th) in the Associated Press poll. That's when the bottom fell out.

The Buckeyes went 8-13 for the remainder of the season. That caused last year's Big Ten co-champions to go 7-11 in conference play, their worst finish ever. The Buckeyes were 3-6 (worst in school history) in Big Ten play in St. John Arena, where they boasted a 90.4 winning percentage (104-11) at the start of the season.

"I think the Florida Tournament (Lady Gator Classic on Dec. 28-29) was the turning point," Howard said. "We were 6-1 going into the tournament and we thought that we would go in and win it."

"But we got blown out (lost 82-56 to Southern Mississippi) in the first game. To lose that game like we did was a big turning point right there. We lost and I don't know if we ever actually came back from that loss."

OSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Turner leads award-winning cast

Junior's last season nets her 3 honors; Smith named MVP

By Derek Monroe

Dispatch Sports Reporter

Lavona Turner offered parting words of encouragement to her teammates on the Ohio State women's basketball squad.

"They'll do a lot better next year," Turner said after the Buckeyes' appreciation banquet yesterday in St. John Arena. "I'm looking forward to seeing them play and going to the NCAA Tournament next year."

Turner, who is passing up her final year of eligibility to concentrate on academics, left the banquet with the bulk of the hardware. She collected three of six team awards: most improved, top rebounder and Brown Memorial Leadership.

The other honorees were Katie Smith (most valuable), Alysiah Bond (best defense) and Marcie Alberts (sixth player).

Awards were voted on by players and coaches.

Smith, a first-team All-Big Ten selection, led the Buckeyes in scoring with a 22-point average. The sophomore forward was second in free throw percentage (81.8), three-point shooting (37.8 percent), rebounding (6.1), assists (3.1) and steals (1.1). Her 49 percent shooting from the field ranked third.

Smith also was honored for being named to the U.S. Basketball Writers Association and *Basketball America* All-American squads.

"I wanted to improve my game this season," Smith said. "It was actually a situation where I wanted to do as much as I could to help the team."

"But there were days when I didn't do as much and other people stepped up, but we just didn't have the consistency overall in every game to pull out some of

those close ones."

The Buckeyes, who reached the NCAA championship game after the 1992-93 season, fell to 14-14 and failed to earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament this season, though the field was increased from 48 to 64 teams.

But the Buckeyes' dismal season didn't stop several players from enjoying outstanding seasons.

Bond, a junior point guard, collected a team-high 60 steals this season. She ranks 11th in career steals at OSU with 123.

Alberts, a freshman point guard, averaged 11.1 points while seeing action in 27 of 28 games. She increased her minutes to an average of 14.3 in the second round of Big Ten play and was the top gun from three-point range at 43.6 percent.

Turner started all 28 games this season and was the top rebounder (7.4 per game) and third in scoring (9.2). She went on to post career highs in every offensive category, including single-game points (19) and rebounds (17), and double-doubles (four).

Turner said the only regret of her career was not having an opportunity to play in the NCAA Tournament. She missed last season after blowing out her right knee in a preseason practice.

"Sure, I was disappointed about this season," Turner said. "Our goal at the beginning of the season was to become Big Ten champs and possibly going back to the Final Four."

"Even though we didn't reach the goal of becoming Big Ten champs, the bottom line was for us to get into the NCAA Tournament. So that was a disappointment, and I'm not going to sit here and lie about it. It was a disappointment, because I never played in the NCAA Tournament."



Turner

OSU tops in women's basketball attendance

NCAA women's home basketball attendance, led by Ohio State, has reached a record high for the 13th straight season.

The Buckeyes, despite a 14-14 overall record in 1993-94, averaged a school-record 8,411 for 12 games in St. John Arena.

That was an increase of 2,265 fans per game over 1992-93, when the previous school record was set.

Southwest Missouri State was second with an average of 8,111 fans for 16 home games. Texas was third at 7,614, Texas Tech fourth at 6,703 and Tennessee fifth at 6,542.

Iowa was sixth at 6,457, Purdue 14th at 4,487, Penn State 15th at 4,420 and Minnesota 24th at 1,972.

The Big Ten was the top conference in home attendance with an average of 2,926. The Southwest Conference was second at 2,677 and Southeastern third at 2,312.

The NCAA varsity teams in all divisions, excluding double-headers in men's basketball, gained 369,906 to 4,557,066, an increase of nearly 9 percent over the previous season's record. The figures include all 859 NCAA schools with varsity teams, 293 of them in Division I.

In Division III women's basketball home attendance, Capital was second nationally. The Crusaders averaged 746 for 14 home games. Dubuque (Iowa) led with an average of 950.

Goodwill Games experience golden for Smith

*OSU junior hopes it'll
make her better player*

By Derek Monroe
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Katie Smith already is making a serious bid to become the most outstanding player in the Big Ten.

The junior forward for the Ohio State women's basketball team spent part of her summer vacation as a member of the U.S. squad that captured a gold medal during the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia, earlier this month.

Smith, 20, was the youngest member of the



Smith

squad, which gave the U.S. its third consecutive Goodwill Games title.

Team USA defeated France 87-63 in the championship game. Smith contributed five points and two rebounds in the game to earn her first international medal. Her best showing came against China in the semifinals when she had eight points, three assists and three rebounds.

"It was a fun experience," said Smith, a native of Logan, Ohio. "Winning the gold (at Goodwill Games) is something that not too many people could say they've done.

"So it was exciting and a very good learning experience. We had a little bit of pressure on us. But we felt comfortable and confident enough to know that we could win the gold as long as we played well."

Smith said after going through the first couple of team practices, she had little doubt about Team USA's chances of winning the gold. She said tough practices made the competition in the Goodwill Games easier. Team USA, which went undefeated during the games, was never seriously challenged throughout the competition.

"I think the games were easy because we worked really hard in our practices in prepara-

Please see **SMITH** Page 2F

The Columbus Dispatch
Tuesday 2F
AUGUST 16, 1994 ■■

tion for the Goodwill Games," Smith said. "We worked extremely hard.

"But the practices have to be tougher than the games. That's what makes the games look easy. If you push each other in practice, when you get in the game, you'll be very comfortable with what you're doing. Plus with the talent we had on our team, it was pretty easy to go out there and jump on people early. I think it kind of scared the other teams, too.

"That's why we were able to pretty much do whatever we wanted to."

The all-star cast on Team USA included former collegiate standouts Lisa Leslie (Southern Cal), Dawn Staley (Virginia), Sheryl Swoopes

(Texas Tech) and Shanda Berry (Iowa). The team was coached by Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer. OSU coach Nancy Darsch served as assistant coach.

Smith said being the youngest player on Team USA had its advantages.

"Being the youngest, I had to kind of pay my dues," she said. "So I had to kind of sit back and watch and learn from some of the older players.

"I know I'll get my chance when I get a little older to do what they've done. So it was something that I accepted. But it was kind of nice to sit back and not really have any pressure on you. Overall, I was happy with the playing time I got, especially since the games we played

weren't real close and everybody got to play."

Smith, who has led the Buckeyes in scoring the last two seasons, plans to use her Goodwill Games experiences to help the Buckeyes this upcoming season. OSU was 14-14 last season and tied for seventh (with Michigan State) in the Big Ten standings with a 7-11 record. Smith, a 5-foot-11 guard/forward, averaged 22 points and 6.1 rebounds last season.

"You have to be a leader by example," Smith said. "That means working hard, giving your best effort all the time and having a good attitude.

"If I'm able to do that, I think it will carry over for the rest of the team."

Women's basketball falls to Penn State in finals, 68-63

Team waits to learn of NCAA berth

By Sean Palchick
Lantern staff writer

The championship dreams of the Ohio State women's basketball team fell short last night as they lost to Penn State 68-63 in the final game of the Big Ten tournament in Indianapolis.

The Buckeyes (17-13) will now have to wait patiently to see if their name is drawn Sunday to participate in the NCAA Tournament.

Ohio State began slowly in the game, trailing 4-0 before sophomore guard Marcie Alberts nailed a three-pointer to cut Penn State's lead to 4-3. The Buckeyes rallied to regain the lead when junior forward Katie Smith scored a basket with 14:50 left to play in the first half, making the score 7-6.

With the game tied at 15-15 with 9:46 left in the first half, Ohio State began to pull away with a three-pointer.

The Lady Lions kept the game interesting by cutting it to a two-point margin, making the score 28-26, when Penn State's Jamie Parsons nailed a jumper with 3:47 left to play in the first half.

The Buckeyes finished the half strong with a beautiful offensive play by sophomore center Kelly Fergus with 7.9 seconds to play. She was fouled with possession of the ball by Penn State's Angie Polthoff. Fergus

hit both free throws to give Ohio State a 36-30 half-time lead.

The Buckeyes out-rebounded Penn State in the first half 24-11, including five offensive rebounds from junior center Lisa Negri.

Ohio State outshot Penn State 40 percent to 37 percent in the first half.

The Buckeyes came out to begin play in the second half and extended their lead. Smith gave Ohio State a 43-36 lead after a shot that rolled around and went in with 17:39 left to play.

The Lady Lions then began to pick up their intensity and drove out to a 13-4 run over the next six minutes of play. The run was keyed by Penn State's Polthoff and Missy Masley who scored all the points during the run.

"Polthoff and Masley came down to being the difference in the game," OSU coach Nancy Darsch said.

The Buckeyes began to strike back with nine minutes left to play when they went on a 7-1 run of their own. Ohio State built its lead from 54-53 to 61-64 with six minutes left to play.

The wheels then began to fall off for Ohio State. They were outscored 14-2 down the stretch

and lost the game 68-63.

"We struggled to get some good shots the last six minutes," Darsch said. "Things didn't bounce our way."

The loss leaves Ohio State's tournament hopes in the dark until Sunday's selection show.

"I would have loved to win the game, to know we made the NCAA tournament," said Peggy Evans, senior forward.

Ohio State was led by 21 points from Evans, 11 points from Smith and 10 points and 12 rebounds from Negri. Penn State was led by 20 points from Masley.

“
I would have loved
to win the game, to
know we made the
NCAA tournament.”
—Peggy Evans,
senior forward

Smith takes hoop dreams to national tryouts,

By Joel Richards
Lantern sports writer

Ohio State basketball star Katie Smith is exceeding her own expectations at the USA Basketball National Team trials at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Smith went to the trials vying for a position on either the World Univer-

sity or Jones Cup teams, which will be competing in tournaments later this summer.

Those plans have been put on hold, because Smith has spent the entire tryout practicing with the 1995-96 Women's Senior National team. This is the team that will representing the United States in the '96 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Smith, a 5-11 forward, will be a

senior for the Buckeyes next season, and after that, she may become a member of the Olympic team.

College players will be added to the Olympic team next year, and Smith, along with Connecticut's 6-7 center Kara Wolters are the only college players practicing with the senior team.

The junior from Logan is no stranger to international competi-

hopes for Atlanta in '96

tion. She was on the 11-member 1994 gold medal-winning Goodwill Games team, as well as the 1993 Junior World Championship team.

Smith's efforts landed her on the cover of Tuesday's sports section of the *USA Today*. She was also mentioned in a story in the same edition.

After four days of trials, the national team was cut from 24 to 18 players on Monday, and Smith is one

of those 18 members.

Final cuts for the 10-12 member national team will be announced Thursday at 5:30 a.m.

Smith led the Big Ten in scoring last season, averaging 21.3 points per game, while shooting 43 percent from the floor and 84 percent from the free throw line.

She also led the team with 108 assists and 37 steals.

OSU basketball star Katie Smith joins World University team

By David Fong
Lantern sports writer

Ohio State women's basketball coach Nancy Darsch must be breathing a little easier these days.

Katie Smith shall return.

Smith was named to the USA Women's World University Games team after six days of national trials at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

But Darsch had to have been a little worried for awhile as Smith was one of only two collegiate players to practice with the U.S. National Team. Connecticut's 6-7 center Kara Wolters was the other collegiate player.

Had Smith been selected to play on the national team, she would have likely have had to miss a season at Ohio State.

"I am really honored just to have been selected to play on the World University team," Smith said. "There are a lot of great competitors on this team, and it should be a lot of fun playing with them."

Darsch could not be reached for comment.

The World University Games team will be competing Aug. 24-Sept. in Fukuoka, Japan.

"I'll guess I'll have to practice my Japanese or at least learn how to nod my head or something," Smith said.

But wouldn't Smith have liked the opportunity to have stayed with the National team?

"They didn't select any players who are still in college to play on the National team," the 5-11 forward said. "But I still think I have a chance to make the 1996 Olympics, which is my big goal."

Smith says she expects to be one of a few players to be invited to the Olympic tryouts next Spring.

"I still think I have a good shot at making the Olympics, and I'll be done (with eligibility) at Ohio State, so I won't have to worry about that," Smith said. "That would just be the ultimate high for me, it would be an awesome feeling to represent my country."

Smith still feels good about her chances, especially since she got a chance to compete with the National team.

"They were just the best players in the world," Smith said. "But I feel I am still in the mix for the Olympics. You never know, someone who is on the National team could get hurt or something."

Smith is no stranger to international competition. The Logan native also participated on the USA Junior World Championship team and won a gold medal as a member of the U.S. Goodwill Games team last summer.

"Growing up I never would have dreamed anything like this could have happened to me," Smith said. "I never would have thought my basketball would have taken me this far."

Smith will also get the opportunity to get to know a new coach. North Carolina's Sylvia Hatchell will coach Smith's international team.

"I have never had the opportunity to really sit down and talk with her or get to know her," Smith said. "But I have met her before and I'm sure she'll be a good coach."

Smith will enter her final season as a Buckeye needing just 80 points to become Ohio State's all-time leading scorer. Last season, Smith led the Buckeye's in scoring with 21.8 points per game.



Katie Smith

Darsch, basketball staff made

By David Fong
Lantern sports editor

Ohio State women's basketball coach Nancy Darsch and her coaching staff made a recruiting violation this summer while recruiting Brookhaven guard Helen Darling, said OSU Athletic Director Andy Geiger.

"We have reported to the NCAA

that we made a secondary violation," Geiger said.

Darsch and assistant coaches Melissa McFerrin and Nikita Lowry all made an official in-home visit to Darling on Sunday.

According to NCAA by-law 11.7.5.1, only two coaches are allowed to visit a recruit "during the July evaluation period." The rule used to say only two coaches were

recruiting violations; OSU reports self to NCAA

allowed to visit a recruit "during the summer." The rule was changed in February, and Darsch and her staff were not aware of the change, Darsch said.

"It is clearly a rule that we just missed," Darsch said. "It is not in the recruiting section of the rulebook — which is about 470 pages long — it is in the personnel section. We are tested over the recruiting section, but are not tested over the personnel section.

"It (the rule change) was not passed at the national convention in January, it was passed at a committee meeting in February."

Geiger is confident that the violation was not intentional.

"Nancy Darsch does not break the



Nancy Darsch

rules," he said.

Darsch agreed.

"You can look at the program, and this is the first incident we have ever had," Darsch said.

Geiger reported the violation to the NCAA as soon as he found out about it, he said.

"Disclosure is the key here," Geiger said. "We feel we didn't do anything intentionally wrong, and we are going to submit a proposed



Andy Geiger

punishment to the NCAA."

Geiger said he wasn't aware of what the proposed punishment was, as it was in the process of being drawn up by a committee.

Darsch is pleased with the way the situation has been han-

dled.

"This is the only way to handle it," Darsch said. "We have nothing to hide, and I'm glad we were the ones

who reported it to the NCAA. I hope the NCAA realizes that it was a carry-over mistake stemming from a carry-over rule and realizes it was not intentional. Hopefully we will be punished accordingly."

Right now Darsch is just hoping the violation doesn't affect Darling's decision to attend Ohio State.

"I have talked with her coach, and I plan to talk to her and a family member tonight (Wednesday)," Darsch said of the 5-8 guard who averaged 15.7 points, 7.5 assists, 8.0 rebounds and 6.5 steals for Brookhaven as a junior.

"We are just going to be honest with her and let her know what is going on," Darsch said.

Smith named first team, Big Ten Player of Year

By David Fong
Lantern sports editor

The postseason awards have started rolling in for OSU senior Katie Smith.

Smith, the 5-foot-11 forward from Logan, Ohio was a first team All-Big Ten selection in both the media and coaches' polls. In addition, Smith was named Big Ten Player of the Year in both polls. She was the only unanimous selection in either poll.

Fellow Buckeye Adrienne Johnson, a 5-foot-10 guard, was a third team selection in the coaches poll, and joined Marita Porter as honorable mention selections in the media poll.

Michigan State's Nicole Cushing was named Freshman of the Year in both polls, while Iowa's Angie Lee picked up Coach of the Year honors.

The award caps off an OSU career that saw Smith pick up vir-



Katie Smith

tually every scoring record at Ohio State. The crowning achievement of her career came this year against Minnesota, as Smith became the most prolific scorer in Big Ten **women's basketball** history.

This isn't the first Big Ten award for Smith. She was named Freshman of the Year for her performance in the 1992-93 season, and she was also named first team All-Big Ten last year as well. She has also been named Academic All-Big Ten twice, and has been an OSU Scholar-Athlete three times.

Wisconsin's Barb Franke and Penn State's Angie Pothoff were the only other two athletes who were named first team All-Big Ten in both polls.



Sean Palchick/the Lantern

OSU senior Katie Smith was named Big Ten Player of the Year.

Women's banquet honors four seniors

By Anna Glenn
Lantern sports writer

All four seniors of the women's basketball team were honored Wednesday night in St. John's Arena to end the buckeye's successful 21-13 season.

Nancy Darsch, who is in her eleventh season at Ohio State, said the seniors have contributed to the team in different ways.

"I think collectively and individually they're just a tremendous group of people," she said.

Senior forward Katie Smith, who received Ohio State's all time scorer for both men and women, was voted by her teammates the most valuable player.

"It's been a long four years and it's been a lot of fun...but I'm kind of glad it's over, but now I got to move on, hopefully to bigger and better things," Smith said.

Senior co-captain Adrienne Johnson received the most improved award as well as the Brown Memorial Leadership Award.

"I'm just really touched to accept both awards. The most valuable player and leadership

awards both meant a lot to me," she said.

Darsch said Johnson was a leader in showing others how to improve on and off the court.

"She really was a buffer for our team and I think a great leader in showing the young players and new players how you can be both a good person...and work your butt off," she said.

The top rebounder award went to senior forward Lisa Negri.

"Rebound was definitely one of her strengths and she was a key rebounder for us in many games; especially the in the last six or seven minutes," Darsch said.

GiGi Jackson, who is a senior forward, received the most inspirational award, new for this year.

"It was a missing category from our awards and it's important to include that. And, it just so happen that every senior left here with an award, and that's exactly what you like to see for your senior class," said Darsch.

Also receiving an award was junior guard Shelly Nichols and sophomore guard Tomika Patterson for best defense.



Anna Glenn/ the Lantern

President E. Gordon Gee shakes junior Kelly Fergus' hand at the women's basketball banquet Wednesday night.

NCAA awards Smith cash

Katie Smith will receive \$5,000 for her achievements

By Angel U. Umail Jr.
Lantern sports writer



Katie Smith

All-American guard Katie Smith has earned another award, but this time no trophy, medal, or plaque will be added to her collection of honors that she proudly holds. Instead, a healthy check and a diploma showing her achievements in graduate school will be seen.

The NCAA has awarded Smith a postgraduate scholarship for her outstanding athletic and academic achievements during the 1995-1996 season. Smith will receive a one-time, non-renewable grant worth \$5,000.

Smith, who carries a 3.4 grade point average, is majoring in zoology and plans to attend den-

tal school at Ohio State after receiving her bachelor's degree some-time next year, she said.

"I think it's great and very nice," Smith said. "It is something that will help me down the road."

Smith is one of five women in Division I basketball to receive the award. She was chosen by the NCAA for this student-athlete award for her outstanding achievements.

The NCAA has specific requirements for awarding scholarships. They include--the ability to maintain an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 while displaying a high degree of athletic achievement; enrollment in courses during their final year of eligibility; planning to attend graduate school full-time; and

above all, the display of exemplary behavior as a student-athlete on and off the court.

"She has met all of this and has achieved so much," said James Hall, an athletic-academic counselor. "You may think she has a big ego, but she is very down to earth."

Among her numerous honors this season, Smith received the Academic All-American laurel, Big Ten Player of the Year, and the Kodak All-American award. She also became the most prolific scorer in the Big Ten women's basketball history, scoring 2,578 points.

"Smith deserves this award, she is the all-time leader in the Big Ten among women," said Hall, who has worked with Smith for two years.

Smith is the second OSU women's basketball player to receive the NCAA postgraduate scholarship, Kelley Robinson was honored in 1984.

Woman claims she was struck by OSU player

By Paul Hoover

Lantern staff writer

An Ohio State basketball player was involved last weekend in an incident in which a female student was allegedly struck by a bottle outside of Baker Hall.

The student told University Police she was walking toward the building Friday afternoon when the player, who was not named, hit her in the back of the head with a plastic bottle of the beverage "Mystic Breeze," and threatened to kill her if she came near his Jeep.

She said the player was apparently reacting to her throwing a piece of cardboard at his Jeep Cherokee when it passed her minutes before on West 11th Avenue.

According to the student, she knows the player and they often played jokes on each other. She said she threw the cardboard at the Jeep as a joke.

The student, who said she suffered a bruise on the back as a result of the incident, filed a police report but refused to press charges, said Ron Michalec, chief of University Police.

"My understanding is that it was a mutual dispute that came up between a player and another student," he said. "It was basically words and behaviors that were inappropriate, and neither wanted to charge the other."

Although police didn't consider

the altercation to be serious, both parties were directed to Student Judicial Affairs, where a mediator will impose a binding resolution to the conflict, Michalec said.

The player and the student both agreed to attend the mediation session, he said.

Despite the episode's public nature, Assistant Basketball Coach Jerry Francis and Assistant Director of Athletic Communications Gerry Emig both denied having any knowledge of the incident Wednesday.

Head Coach Randy Ayers could not be reached for comment, but in a press conference Tuesday he announced that sophomore small forward Jason Singleton would sit out last night's game to take care of some off-the-court responsibilities.

This is the eighth time an OSU player has had a run-in with the law since Ayers replaced Gary Williams as head coach in 1989.

Last spring, freshmen Jamie Bosley and Scott Gradney were kicked off the team after charges were filed against them in connection with the break-ins of three cars in the Arps Hall parking garage.

Three players, including 1993 Big Ten Freshman of the Year Greg Simpson, were kicked off the team before the 1994 season for offenses ranging from assault to shooting a teammate's tire out.

Singleton named in incident

By Paul Hoover
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State basketball coach Randy Ayers acknowledged Thursday that sophomore forward Jason Singleton was the player involved in an altercation last weekend outside of Baker Hall.

A report was filed with University Police on Sunday alleging that Singleton hit a female OSU student in the back of the head with a plastic bottle Feb. 14.

Although the student was injured by the bottle, she refused to press charges.

During an afternoon press conference Ayers said he was disappointed by Singleton's role in the incident, but had already resolved the issue.

"It's just one of those things that happen I guess," Ayers said. "I'm a little disappointed that we didn't handle it in a better situation because we reacted to somebody else's action, and you still have to walk away from that."

Singleton did not start Wednesday's game against University of Minnesota due to academic issues, not Friday's incident, Ayers said.

"I'm satisfied with what I was told from the report, and now its been turned over to Student Judicial Affairs," Ayers said. "Now it's a private matter as far as I'm concerned."

Athletic Director Andy Geiger could not be reached for comment on the incident.

The matter has been referred to Student Judicial Affairs for resolution.

Women's coach aims for championship year

Burns eager to return program to national spotlight

By Matt Oates
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State coach Beth Burns is looking to return the **Lady Buckeyes** to championship form.

"My goal is to establish Ohio State as a contender for the Big Ten title, and to get us to the Final Four and in position to win a national championship," she said.

Andy Geiger, OSU athletics director, described Burns as a consummate professional.

"Beth will do a tremendous job for us. She is a fine coach, a terrific recruiter and a fierce competitor," Geiger said.

Burns acknowledged that she has a huge challenge ahead.

"I look forward to getting to work," she said.

Burns, 39, said the decision was an easy one.

"I accepted immediately," she said. "I am excited about returning to Ohio and becoming a **B u c k e y e** again."

Burns came to OSU from San Diego State University, where she was head coach of women's basketball since 1990.

She made history in the Western Athletic Conference with 151 victories and 81 conference wins. She also brings three WAC coach of the year titles.

Burns believes the key to success will be due in large part to recruiting Ohio talent.

"People play better and do better in school if they're happy," she said of in-state talent.

She served as a graduate



Beth Burns

assistant coach at OSU for two years before serving as an assistant at East Carolina from 1982 to 1983. She was an assistant coach at the University of Colorado from 1984 to 1988.

She then spent one season as an assistant coach at North Carolina State, and began the following season at San Diego State.

"It [leaving San Diego State] was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Burns said.

Burns is the sixth women's basketball head coach at OSU and has agreed to a five-year contract with an annual base salary of \$150,000.

She was a four-year member of Ohio Wesleyan University's women's basketball team, including two years as captain. She ended her senior year season as the all-time leading rebounder.

Burns, a native of Chatham, N.J., graduated from OWU in 1979 and received her master's degree from OSU.

New Staff Digs Into Work Load With Buckeyes

It's often said familiarity breeds contempt, but in the case of the Ohio State women's basketball coaching staff, nothing could be further from the truth.

Knowing what she was dealing with was a major reason OSU boss Beth Burns decided to bring her San Diego State staff east, and they've now settled in Columbus and are hard at work getting ready for various events, including putting the finishing touches on the schedule and preparing for their inaugural Buckeye summer camp. But that will be touched on later.

For the time being, the focus will be on the assistants — Cathy McDonald, Eileen Feeney and Edie Thompson — as well as new director of basketball operations Tammy Stephens.

McDonald, a University of Texas graduate, joined Burns at San Diego State in 1996 after being out of coaching for a year. Previous stints at Rice, Texas A&M and in the Austin high school ranks prepared McDonald for the rigors of coaching, and now she's near the pinnacle of her profession.

"Being at Ohio State allows you to be at your best," McDonald said. "People stand up and take notice when you're from Ohio State. OSU is a great sell when you go out recruiting and just talking to people, they know who you are."

McDonald will be overseeing OSU's post players and, despite her slight stature, she's not afraid to mix it up.

"The first day we were out there Larecha (Jones) took me to the hole pretty good," McDonald laughed. "I think I can bring a guard's mentality to the post players, let them know what the guards are thinking and when to kick it back out and things like that."

Even though McDonald and Feeney both stumped for the San Diego State job, which eventually went to former Buckeye Barb Smith, they revel in the fact they're at one of the top schools in the entire nation.

"I'm very grateful to Beth for waiting," McDonald said. "I know she was kind of up against things because she wanted to put a staff together. When it was apparent that I wasn't going to get the job at San Diego State, I let her know. The rest is history."

Feeney, like Burns a New Jersey native, was a player of some acclaim at Kansas State in the late 1970s, when the Wildcats were a major player in the AIAW. She coached at Texas A&M for 10 years, hooking up with McDonald in the process, and then became supervisor of officials for the Big East Conference. She then joined Burns at San Diego State in the 1996 season and, like McDonald, was enthusiastic about becoming a Buckeye.

"This is a university that's nationally recognized," she said. "I can't think of too many people who wouldn't want to be here. The success of the program in the past is something to shoot for and being in the Big Ten is just about as good as it gets."

Feeney, who will assist Thompson with the perimeter players, will work hand in hand with OSU's academic advisers and stay on top of the players if they seem to be lax in their schoolwork.

Having knowledge of McDonald and Stephens should help Feeney's transition immensely, as should the tried-and-true OSU ties of Thompson.

"Balance and chemistry are important for a staff and we have that," Feeney said. "Knowing Tammy and Cathy from San Diego State, it made it attractive to work with this staff again. Edie knows the program inside and out and a staff needs that, too. We all work very well together and we're excited for

**DOUBLE
DRIBBLE
with
Mike
Wachsman**



NEW OSU STAFF — New OSU women's basketball coach Beth Burns (center) is flanked by her staff, left to right, assistant coaches Cathy McDonald and Edie Thompson, director of basketball operations Tammy Stephens and assistant Eileen Feeney.

the season to get under way."

Thompson, who played at OSU while Burns was a graduate assistant, will head into her sixth year with the program, the last three as an assistant coach under Nancy Darsch.

She agrees with the assertion that her knowledge of Ohio State helps.

"It's a big plus," Thompson said. "But I also have to make an adjustment to how they do things. We all have pluses and we're still trying to work those out."

Thompson came from the business world before latching on with the Buckeyes and thinks that might be the way to go.

"I saw the way things were in business and it's funny that a lot of people in athletics seem to be more interested in things like that, too," Thompson said. "It helps to see how things operate in the real world and apply that to coaching."

Stephens, the only San Diego native on the staff, will oversee the day-to-day operations such as organization, handling team travel, dealing with compliance issues and the like.

While it's more work than at San Diego State, Stephens welcomes it.

"The scope of what I do will increase, certainly," she said. "The budget is larger, too, so that lets us do more things. I'm excited about the energy and support from the administration."

Stephens played basketball and volleyball at San Diego's Mesa Junior College, and while coaching basketball at San Diego State she also was an assistant tennis coach at the University of San Diego.

Stephens has a master's degree in counseling, which "comes in handy when you've got so many diverse personalities on a team."

She also thinks the players are counting the days until practice opens, eager to see how the new staff holds up.

"They may be the only ones more ready to go than we are," Stephens said. "They may be more excited than we are, and that's saying something."

What Time Is It? Game Time!

Though not treacherous, the 1997-98 schedule is at the very least ambitious, mainly due to a lot of at's. You know, at Michigan, at Iowa.

There will be plenty of time to reach mileage incentives thanks to a road schedule dotted with

Kentucky, West Virginia, Xavier and a tournament hosted by Cal, where Howard and George Mason will be in attendance.

Home games with St. Bonaventure, Houston, Kansas State and UMass, with former Columbus Watterson star Joanie O'Brien as coach, are also on tap, as are the normal Big Ten wars.

"You never like to play this many road games, but we're being a little adventurous here," Burns said. "The Big Ten is always tough, but you have to get ready for that with some tough games."

Once the schedule is complete, BSB will have full details.

Practice with OSU women perfect for these guys

BEYOND THE BEAT

By Jim Massie
Dispatch Sports Reporter

Sometimes Jason Matney takes a playful elbow to the ribs when the guys learn that he practices with the Ohio State women's basketball team.

Matney, 21, gives the teasers *The Price is Right* invitation: Come on down and see how sharp an elbow from center Mindy Fusetti is when she has inside rebounding position.

"I tell them to come out here and get schooled," said Matney, a senior team manager who played high school basketball at Fremont Ross. "Mindy will lay the wood on you."

Matney, fellow team manager John Sass, 19, and about a half-dozen other male OSU students have become fixtures at practice this season for coach Beth Burns.

The men — recruited by assistant coach Edie Thompson — run drills with the Buckeyes, perform scout team duties and generally mix it up with the women for as long as practice lasts.

The competition is real, the practices full-bore. Matney called timeout last week after taking a finger in the eye during a rebound scuffle with forward Larecha Jones.

Scott Sekella, 21, a senior who played basketball for Lakeview High School in Cortland, Ohio, said that he didn't know how physical he could be when he joined practice two years ago. Growing up, he hadn't played basketball with women very often.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said. "I didn't know if they'd be real physical or wouldn't be. They're very fundamentally and technically sound. They're the best women



Tyler Wirken / Dispatch

From left, Corey Smith, Jamie Starkey, Scott Sekella, Jason Matney and John Sass play a big part in practice for the OSU women — right down to getting yelled at by coach Beth Burns.

I've ever played against — the quickest."

Sekella heard the Buckeyes needed full-time students for practice last season when Nancy Darsch was coach.

"I called and they said come on in for a meeting," he said. "I went through NCAA compliance, took a physical and started practice."

When the coaching change occurred last spring, Sekella kept in touch with Thompson, the only holdover from Darsch's staff. His reason for wanting to return is echoed by many of the other regulars, including Corey Smith, Jamie Starkey, Craig Howard, Tyler

Hoppes and Josh Thornton.

"It's a chance to play ball and a chance to play in St. John Arena," Sekella said.

Burns, who credits men's practice squads for helping her teams win three Western Athletic Conference championships at San Diego State, counts on the lure of St. John to attract the bodies she needs. At times this season, she has had fewer than nine healthy scholarship players.

"At San Diego, I never asked the guys to come for drills," Burns said. "I need the guys here from 1 o'clock on. You can't run an 11-man break with six people. That's why these

guys have been great. They do the boring stuff."

Prime-time play in St. John Arena isn't the only reason they show up.

"I've learned a ton from listening to coach Burns," said Smith, a 21-year-old senior and two-year practice veteran. "I think it helps our own games. When you're up here practicing or going through drills, you learn things that you never really thought about. It's like a free clinic."

Starkey, 21, a senior and a first-year player, takes what he learns home to New London High School in Sandusky County.

"I'm involved with my high school back home, helping to coach and stuff like that," he said. "It's something I'd like to do with the church teams I'm involved with. Anything I can learn to help me work with people is great."

Often that means grabbing the fuzzy end of the lollipop: Last week Starkey was asked to work on defense, trying to deny inbound passes to OSU guards and then pestering them during a layup drill. The men are part of the team down to — heavens to Latrell Sprewell — the tiniest detail.

"She has no problem yelling at us," Smith said.

"Don't say that," Matney corrected. "Say she has no problem pointing out when you're doing something wrong."

Burns laughed.

"Oh, I yell at them," she said. "I won't hire a manager that isn't like Jason or John, who doesn't want to play. I never want to screw up a kid on a team by making them do something they'll never have to do in a game. They're not going to be in a 2-3 zone, so I don't want to put them in a bad 2-3 zone. Let Jason be in a bad 2-3 zone. He can do that really good, can't you, Jason?"

"Oh, I can play a bad zone," Matney agreed.

As long as it's for a good cause.



Mike Elicson / For The Dispatch

Freshman guard Mandy Stanhope has learned how to juggle athletics and academics.

Class acts

■ OSU women's players Roslyn Barker and Mandy Stanhope work hard to balance books and basketball.

By Jim Massie
Dispatch Sports Reporter

A lone on the team bus before a Friday basketball game at Purdue, Mandy Stanhope had more on her mind than the evening's contest against the Boilermakers or a stop two days later at Penn State.

A freshman guard on the Ohio State women's team, Stanhope knew that when the weekend ended, school would be waiting.

"I've got a math midterm, a women's studies paper due and then a political science midterm all in one day," she said before reburying her nose in a book.

A few days later, Stanhope smiled when asked if she had survived the grind.

"Oh yeah," she said. "I wrote the women's studies paper. We got back Sunday and I typed it Monday. I tried to review and study for political science. It was all stuff I could do on the road except for the typing."

Stanhope, 18, and her teammates must learn early how to balance basketball and classwork if they hope to prosper athletically and academically. The most successful student-athletes arrive on campus knowing that.

Roslyn Barker, a junior guard and mechanical engineering major, came to OSU from Morgan Park High School in Chicago three years ago with goals beyond the basketball court.

"That comes from my mother," Barker said. "In grammar school I didn't just have to pass to play, you had to really excel. You couldn't be in any danger."

In the seventh and eighth grade, she was the first girl to play



Junior guard Roslyn Barker is a stalwart in the classroom and on the court.

basketball on the boys team. Her grades matched her athletic ability.

"I happened to have a good foundation, a good start," Barker said. "My mother wasn't always on me, but she had expectations. And I think when you have high expectations, when people expect you to do this, then you tend to do that

Please see **CLASS ACTS** Page 2F

Professor Burns keeps track, too

The same weekend Mandy Stanhope was worried about the paper and two midterms waiting for her when she returned to Ohio State, Roslyn Barker was carrying around a chemistry lab assignment and her math books.

Buckeyes coach Beth Burns was well aware of their academic responsibilities.

"Mandy was like 'cross-eyed' on that trip," Burns said. "Competitively, there's not much you can do some days. Sometimes I just let them do mindless, physical work. Nobody is going to study 24 hours a day. But sometimes they just can't come in and be challenged and have to do some real cerebral things on the floor. So we'll just go through things we already have learned . . . and get them out so they can study."

Assistant coach Eileen Feeney keeps Burns apprised of what the players have coming up in the classroom. She also receives feedback from many, but not all, professors.

"In terms of attendance and participation," Burns said, "that gives us a good barometer."

"I have a master list of the entire quarter. I know every single test, midterm, quiz and paper that our team has to do."

She'll ask players how history papers are coming, but she also expects them to study basketball while they're in her St. John Arena classroom.

"They have a responsibility here," Burns said. "The thing is, they probably have more pressure in their basketball classroom in terms of peripheral pressure. Not too many people in the stands know what a player's grade-point average is, but they sure know their points per game."

— By Jim Massie

instead of just getting by. Books are first. Fortunately, there was never a time in high school when I couldn't play ball, or couldn't run track because my grades were bad."

Barker, 21, has been similarly successful at OSU. She is a former academic All-Big Ten player and knows what she wants after the ball ceases to bounce. Her career dream stemmed from a drafting course she took in high school.

"I took drafting in place of art my junior year," Barker said. "I wanted to do something different. Our drafting teacher saw that I had a knack for drafting and he encouraged me to keep doing it. Then from drafting, I took architecture. We went to competitions and I won grand prize in one of the categories."

She was a senior when she won the Newhouse Architecture Drafting Contest for her design of a multi-purpose beach facility. The victory was as sweet as anything she has experienced in sports.

"There's a lot of science and a lot of math in it," Barker said. "You tend to like things you're good at. I like math and working on problems and things like that. It lets me be creative and use my imagination."

During basketball season, Barker and other players often have little time to do much beyond practice, games and study. Home really offers no respite from the road.

"I'm taking 15 hours this quarter," Stanhope said. "I might try to add another class next quarter because it's spring and it's off-season. With conditioning and stuff, I don't know yet if I can work another class in."

Her schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays has her in class from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Practice in St. John Arena begins at 1 o'clock.

"I come straight in here," Stanhope said. "We practice from 1 to 4:15. Then we lift weights. I get done lifting about 5:30. Then I eat and go home, do homework and go to bed."

Freshmen athletes attend study table five days a week. Upperclassmen also attend if the coach or James Hall, the academic counselor, feel it's necessary. Athletes also meet with Hall once a week to discuss their academic progress.

"There is a part of the year when there are no games, but you still need to improve your game," Barker said. "That's part of it. We still have conditioning and weightlifting. You can never stop working. Once you commit, you're in it for four years."

Barker is taking 13 hours this quarter. The team practices six days a week over a 20-hour span that includes games.

"I just wrote my schedule down," she said. "After practice, I have a midterm, which is unusual to have a midterm at night. Then I have

math homework. That will take another four hours or so. Then just reading. I may get to bed 11 or 11:30 or it may get later. To me, there's nothing else after practice but to study. Very few nights do you have time to sit down and relax and watch TV.

"There's no routine," Barker said. "You just put your priorities in perspective. You have to take care of business first."

Stanhope, a Chillicothe High School graduate, is a math major.

"I want to go into education but they don't have college of education here anymore, lucky me," she said. "I'll get an undergrad in math and then there's a graduate master's program in education. It will be the fifth year I'm here. I want to teach. I'd like to be a high school math teacher and a coach."

Like Barker, she was young when she started playing basketball.

"Basketball is really, really important to me now," Stanhope said. "But this is four years of my life. The education that I'm getting here is for the rest of my life. I really feel right

now the most important thing for me is my education. Basketball is a thing that comes and you play and have fun. What I'm learning now may help me in the future if I'm a coach."

Barker spent last summer working for Mettler Toledo, the old Toledo Scales, in Worthington.

"A mechanical engineer can go from fixing scales or TVs or VCRs to designing different types of gym shoes or tennis rackets," Barker said. "I think I'd like to go into the sports end of it. Being an athlete, I'd love to design a new tennis shoe or tennis racket."

"I know what I want to do in life. I can't say basketball will just lead me the way. I love playing basketball and I love playing for Ohio State. But who knows what the future holds? You can't rely on basketball or any sport."

There is one certainty in her life.

"I will finish my degree," Barker said. "There's no question. Then hopefully there's a job out there with my name on it. I can't say what other plans I have. But that's what I see happening."

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

ALL-BIG TEN

First Team (Coaches & Media)

MARRITA PORTER

Second Team (Coaches & Media)

LARECHA JONES

Big Ten Player of the Week

MARRITA PORTER (2/23)

Oakland (Calif.) Tribune Classic

LARECHA JONES, MVP

JAMIE LEWIS, All-Tournament Team



SPECIAL THANKS

The Ohio State Buckeyes basketball team would like to thank the entire membership of The Rebounders Club along with the following individuals and companies for their contributions in making this season and evening a success.

Theresa Bowers

Scott Sekella

Corey Smith

Craig Howard

Jamie Starkey

Greg Meyer

Nike

Airtouch Cellular

Wendy Craver

Jack Strom

WOSU

Herb Howenstine

Toni Roesch

Big Bear

Diana Sabau

Julie Eirich

Tyler Hoppes

Jason Harrison

Josh Hofstetter

Craig Butts

Josh Thoroman

Torrae Harry

WSYX-TV

Clay Hall

Shawn Ireland

Ed Douglas

WBNS

Kristin Watt

Kroger

Ketra Armstrong

Holiday Inn On The Lane

The Crowne Plaza Hotel

David & Audrey McDonald

The Beth Burns Show Crew

Don Huber

Dave Gill Pontiac

Thompson & Ward Leasing

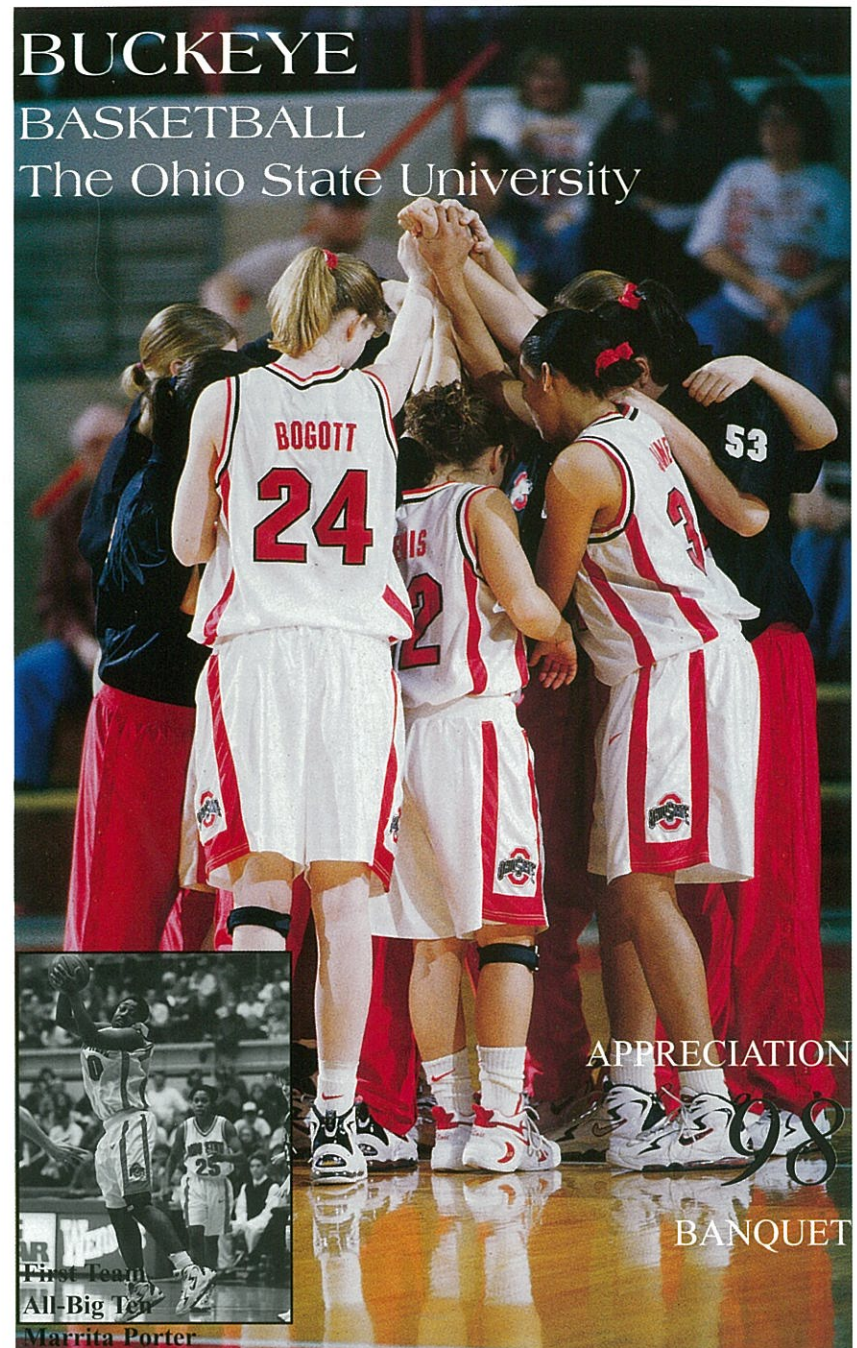
The Ohio Automobile Club

Roberts, Oldsmobile,

Cadillac, Inc.

Roby USA Chevrolet,

Oldsmobile, GEO



St. John Arena

March 31, 1998

WELCOME

Dear Buckeye Basketball Fans: Thank you for joining us this evening as we reflect on and celebrate our 1997-98 season. This was a season where you welcomed many new faces in Scarlet & Gray and, as always, supported us (loudly) throughout.

Pat yourselves on the back ... your energy and enthusiasm made a difference! Have a great time tonight and keep that fire burning. October 17 is only 199 days away!

Together,
Beth Burns, Head Coach

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Opening Remarks & Introductions	Wendy Craver
Invocation	Roslyn Barker
From The President's Office	Interim President Richard Sisson
Welcome	Beth Burns
DINNER	
Blooper Tape	Wendy Craver
Special Recognitions	Andy Geiger, Director of Athletics
Special Remarks	
Big Bear	
The Rebounders Club	Jim Noel, President
Letter Awards	Beth Burns
Endowed Scholarship Recognition	

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Scholar-Athlete	Most Valuable Player
Top Free Throw Percentage	Best Defensive Player
Top Rebounder	Big Ten Awards
Most Improved	Coaches Award
Season Reflections	
Buckeye Video	
Closure	Wendy Craver

THE SEASON IN REVIEW

• The Buckeyes posted the 29th winning season in the 33-year history of the program with a 15-12 finish. The squad also bettered last year's league performance (3-13) with a 7-9 mark.

• Junior forward Marrita Porter received first team all-Big Ten laurels, becoming the 10th Buckeye to gain such honors. Scoring 478 points this season, Porter is the 17th Buckeye to eclipse the 1,000 point plateau, capping the year with 1,063.

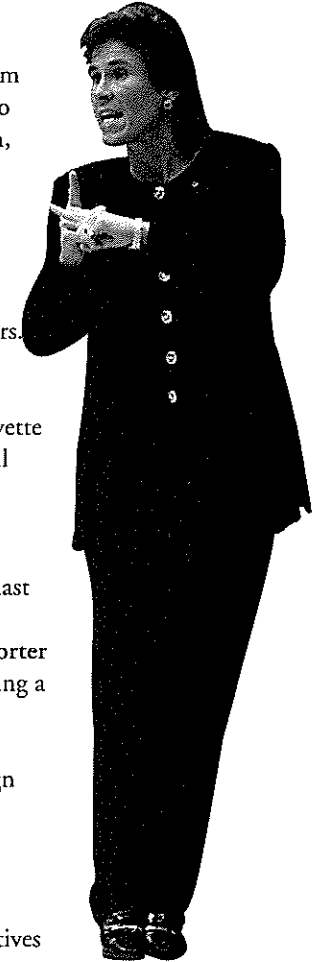
• Junior forward Larecha Jones, averaging 18.0 points and 6.6 rebounds, became the 10th Buckeye to receive second team all-Big Ten honors.

• Freshman guard Jamie Lewis erased the 16-year freshman assists record of OSU Hall-of-Famer Yvette Angel with 159 distributed this season. Lewis fell just nine assists shy of the all-time single season record held by Angel of 167.

• Megan McCabe paced the All-Academic Team last quarter with a 3.8 GPA. Roslyn Barker, Mindy Fusetti, Jamie Lewis, Jennifer Plante, Marrita Porter and Mandy Stanhope were also members, attaining a 3.0 or better

• Coach Beth Burns closes her inaugural campaign and ninth career season with a record of 166-94 (.638).

• The adoption of Coach Burns' "Defense Wins" philosophy resulted in a number of team superlatives in Big Ten play. Ohio State finished first in the league in its 3-pt. fg defense, second in steals, third in rebounding defense and fourth in offensive rebounding and assists.



Appearing in 1998-99...

Future Buckeyes	Ht.	Cl.	Pos.	High School (Hometown)	Ppg/Rpg
Tomeka Brown	5-9	Fr.	G	Marion Franklin (Columbus)	31.1/8.2
Laura Ingham	5-5	Fr.	G	East (Anchorage, AK)	16.0/5.3
Lauren Shenk	5-10	Fr.	G	Minster (Minster)	19.9/5.8

Bloomer Basketball and Its Suspender Suppression: Women's Intercollegiate Competition at Ohio State, 1904–1907

Robin Bell Markels
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Within a decade and a half after its inception in 1891, basketball enjoyed such a widespread popularity that it was easily the premier sport among American women. Its appeal transcended geographic and class boundaries; it was played by college women, working women, and high school students throughout the United States—in everything from private eastern women's colleges to southern finishing schools to midwest YWCAs to western high schools and public universities. As its popularity spread, the game's basic character evolved as well, growing from a simple gym class activity to a nascent modern sport, complete with rule formalizations and revisions, interscholastic and intercollegiate teams and competitions. Managers arranged season schedules, players tried out, teams were selected, captains chosen, and uniforms designed; coaches scheduled practices, fans followed teams to away games, championships were contested, and varsity letters awarded. Local newspapers announced upcoming games and then reported their outcomes, replete with statistics, while articles in national magazines like *Scribner's* and *Harper's Weekly*¹ further insinuated the game into the American cultural consciousness. Then, in 1917, as the standard scholarly story goes, it was the women's physical educators who banned intercollegiate competition and ultimately threw women's basketball back into the gym class and a dark age that lasted until 1972 and Title IX.

When The Athletic Conference of American Women, a national forum for women's athletic associations, met in 1917 and resolved to oppose "intercollegiate competition for women in so far as it involves the necessity of a team going from one college to another,"² their act was the culmination of moves made during the preceding years, principally in the

area of rule changes, aimed at making women's basketball more feminine. These rule changes sought to reduce everything from roughness to overexertion, and—along with the banning of interschool competition—have been interpreted as attempts by women physical educators to curtail and domesticate the sport, make it more feminine, and thereby—in the most generous interpretation—save it from extinction.³ Thus, women physical educators are assumed to be solely responsible for returning women's basketball to the cloistered gymnasium. The role of men in this process has never been examined; for instance, Edward Hitchcock published his rarely mentioned article "Basketball for Women"—promoting basketball as a sport for women—in August, 1894 and anticipated Senda Berenson's own "Basketball for Women" by one month.⁴

An examination of the rise and fall of women's intercollegiate basketball in central Ohio—and especially at The Ohio State University—during the first decade of this century complicates these assumptions. Not only was the popular OSU women's intercollegiate basketball banned by its male Head of Athletics in 1907—ten years before the women's national overseeing body banned the sport—but, as contemporary publications indicate, his belief in the inappropriateness of intercollegiate contests for women was widely endorsed by other male sports administrators and by large segments of the public. While women administrators obviously had the authority to instigate rule changes and even to ban intercollegiate and interscholastic competition, it is not obvious that they would have had sufficient power to enforce such changes by themselves. By 1907 in central Ohio, women's intercollegiate basketball already displayed the features of a modern sport—and thus a public university fixture subject to male-dominated institutional forces beyond the control of the women physical educators.



Women's basketball at Ohio State began in the fall of 1898 as a gym class activity led by Miss Stella Elliot, the Women's Director of the Gymnasium. In the summer of 1899, a team composed of players selected from Ohio State class teams played Miss Blanche Rickey's YMCA team in the University's first ever intra-organization game. Five years later, in February 1904, the women students of OSU ushered in four seasons of genuine intercollegiate basketball by playing two games, one by the "Scrubs" and one by the "Varsity," against teams from nearby Otterbein College.⁵ Unlike the earlier teams pulled together by the very popular Miss Elliot (shortly to become Mrs. Canfield, wife of the OSU president's son, and then to leave the university), the 1904 team was student-sponsored and, even more significantly, sought and received the sanction of the University's Athletic Board, which also presided over men's intercollegiate sports.⁶ The 1904 team was thus a true intercollegiate team: not only in its uniforms, manager, and coach, but also in its status within the university's administrative hierarchy. Women's basketball at OSU was conspicuously out of the gym class.

OSU was not alone. In 1904 five other colleges in central Ohio—Ohio Northern, Miami, Otterbein, Heidelberg, and Defiance—fielded teams. Six high schools, including the private Columbus School for Girls, Columbus's East High, as well as teams from the towns of Clyde, Spencerville, Marion and Kenton, engaged in interscholastic and interscholastic/intercollegiate games. By 1907, Ohio University, Muskingum, Wilmington,

Ohio Wesleyan, Bliss College, Lima College, and Cedarville College and the high schools of Columbus Central, Worthington, Columbus School for Girls, Reynoldsburg, Cambridge, Bellaire, Lima, Zanesville, and Marysville were also fielding teams. There was no formal league binding all these schools, but, at various times and in various combinations, they all played one another. Between 1904 and 1907, for instance, Ohio State played Muskingum, Ohio Northern, Otterbein, Miami, Wilmington, and the Columbus School for Girls, while Ohio Northern competed against Defiance, Otterbein, Bliss, and six different high school teams, along with Ohio State. Seasons consisted of as few as four games and as many as twelve, depending on what the coach or team manager could schedule. Ohio State played six games in 1904, eleven in 1905, seven in 1906, and six in 1907, all spread over the winter months.⁷

Within this loose, geographically based alliance, rivalries and pecking orders soon developed and championships were contested. Helping to fuel these rivalries was the early tradition of schools playing home-and-away series with one another. Even then teams looked forward to homecourt advantage. Sometimes that advantage lay with the traditional source—fan support—but sometimes the advantages were more quixotic, particularly at the smaller schools. When Otterbein traveled to Heidelberg College in Tiffin, its team overcame the "inconvenience"⁸ of a smaller than usual gymnasium, while Ohio Northern triumphed over a "slippery"⁹ floor at Clyde, with "goals two inches smaller than regulation," and at Defiance with a "ball that was about worn out."¹⁰ Otterbein also had to endure other travails: at Muskingum it had to play by the home team's rules—men's. Otterbein lost, but avenged that loss when entertaining Muskingum at home with women's rules.¹¹ Otterbein also had another home court advantage: "Instead of a solid they used screens back of the basket," which Muskingum found a "great hindrance."¹²

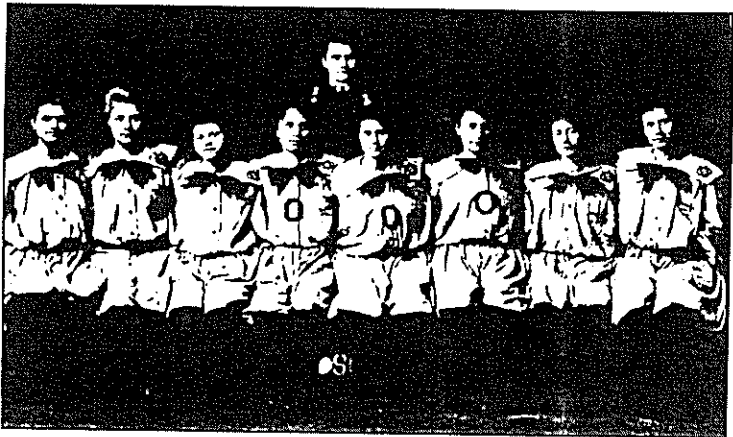
Probably the biggest home court advantage was, just as today, the officiating, which even then seemed to favor the home team. *The University Herald*, Ohio Northern's hometown paper, unwittingly deflated Ohio Northern's victory over Clyde in 1904: "A just criticism upon the visiting team was their persistent dissatisfaction improperly expressed over the referee's decisions."¹³ More straightforwardly, Otterbein attributed its loss to Central High to the "disgusting number of fouls"¹⁴ called during the game, as did Muskingum on several occasions, but most loudly about a loss to OSU, which would have "no doubt been a victory had it not been for O.S.U.'s rotten referee."¹⁵ Ohio State was also involved in one of the more bitter contests of the era when Miami, after winning their first 1904 game, lost its return game with the Buckeyes. According to the Miami school paper, "OSU was determined to win, by fair or by foul," and had "officials emphatically disagreeing on several decisions."¹⁶ The disagreeing officials happened to be Ohio State's manager Miss Wacker, who apparently got the better of Miami's male Coach Stone. Home-and-away between OSU and Miami ended with that game.

Among these twelve colleges and universities, Ohio State consistently enjoyed prestige status, even when other schools—particularly Ohio Northern—played equally solid and winning basketball. In 1907, tiny Wilmington College was "wild with excitement,"¹⁷ because its team had beaten the three state schools of Miami, OSU, and Ohio University, while Otterbein's victory over OSU that same year was called its "greatest triumph," one that would "stand the team well in the rank of state teams."¹⁸ Those two defeats gave the

Ohio State women a mediocre 4–2 record for 1907, quite a comedown from the previous two years when it competed for the informal state championship.

Just as in college football, those early basketball championships were based on the number and quality of wins. In 1904, Ohio Northern claimed the state championship with an undefeated season. Then in the next two seasons, 1905 and 1906, Ohio Northern and Ohio State vied for the title. Even though the two teams split their series in 1905, Ohio State invoked the “quality of schedule” criterion and with its 10–1 record¹⁹ claimed the championship because its schedule also included fewer high school games.²⁰ In 1906 the two remained on a collision course for the state title, once again splitting their series, leading to much speculation in the newspapers about a third and deciding game on a neutral court.²¹ (Remember that home court advantage!) Before such a tie-breaker could be played, however, the Ohio State team disbanded. The team fell victim to internal dissension—players actually quit—because of perceived favoritism on the captain’s part, and their aborted season ended with a 7–1 record.²²

These early basketball games, open to the public and in fact quite popular, were typically played on Friday nights or Saturday afternoons and could entail the visiting teams’ traveling several hours on trains, with chaperons accompanying the high school teams. The Big Four and C., H., & D. railroads offered fans a round-trip fare of \$4.72 from Columbus to Oxford,²³ and if fans did follow their teams, they might also have to spend \$0.25 or \$0.30 for admission, depending on the school,²⁴ in addition to their train fare. At Ohio Northern the fans “packed” the gymnasium,²⁵ and at OSU “enthusiastic” crowds ranged from 500 to 1,000.²⁶ The games were more than just athletic contests, as they also provided occasions—at least initially—for the social elite to congregate. “Society” was “out in force” to watch games between OSU and Otterbein,²⁷ and also at an Ohio Northern–Kenton High School game played before an audience “composed chiefly of prominent society and business people of Kenton.”²⁸ The crowds cheered, yelled, hung



Ohio State University women's basketball team of 1905 (date of photograph unknown).
Courtesy Ohio State University Archives.

from the balcony, waved banners, and, on at least two occasions, enjoyed the OSU band during halftime.²⁹

By today's scoring standards, these early fans' enthusiasm seems unfathomable, with game scores of 11–3, 9–4, and 11–6 being typical. But newspaper coverage, which invariably praised defensive play—noting, for instance, the “splendid play” by the guards that prevented the other team from scoring and such other non-scoring skills as passing and footwork—suggests a different kind of basketball appreciation at work.³⁰ Games were described by newspapers as “fast,”³¹ “spirited,”³² “snappy,”³³ “pretty,”³⁴ and “clean,”³⁵ with “remarkable nimbleness”³⁶ and “skill”³⁷ that often involved “splendid teamwork.”³⁸ At Ohio Northern, play in one game was “swift”³⁹ enough to “doubtless draw out a big crowd,”⁴⁰ and in another “excited the admiration of the gentlemen and elicited much favorable comment.”⁴¹

Admiration for the women and their basketball prowess extended beyond the particulars of snappy passes and quick footwork in ways that both confounded and confirmed traditional gender roles. For one thing, the public approved not only of the women's play, but of their playing basketball in general. At Ohio State, according to the school newspaper, the women's team “attracted as much if not more attention than the men's basketball team,”⁴² which at the time sported a less distinguished record than the women's team. Just as in men's sports of the day, much of the attention was prompted by the women's athletic success, not by their bloomer-girded pulchritude: “The O.S.U. girls bid fair to make a record in basket ball that rivals the athletic achievements of the university men.”⁴³ A similar emphasis on winning, this time in the Muskingum school paper, even more explicitly connects the women's success, like the men's, with school prestige:

If the prospect for a good boy's [sic] team to represent Muskingum on the basketball floor this winter is bright, that of a fast team composed of the lovelier sex is even brighter. Last year the girls made a record to be proud of, but this year the outlook is that they will go beyond that.... In fact, it looks as if the girl's [sic] team will bring home many laurels to Muskingum during the coming season and the boy's [sic] will have to hustle to keep up with them.⁴⁴

This connection between basketball success and school prestige was echoed by the local New Concord paper: “Muskingum has a right to be proud of the way the ladies basketball team has been advertising her this season.”⁴⁵ Another school's newspaper, the *Otterbein Aegis*, reiterates these sentiments: “Captain Smith of the Varsity and Miss Bailey of the girls' team, deserve much credit in building up the teams that have represented the University so creditably during the portion of the season just passed.”⁴⁶ This emphasis was the repeated in an end-of-the-year wrap-up:

The girls' team played an unprecedented series, losing but one game.... Thus the result of this season's participation in athletics is an evidence of the revival of the true Otterbein interest and spirit which, mixed with earnest endeavors and ability, has made possible the development of the strong teams which have brought honor to the institution by meeting and generally defeating their opponents representing universities of equal or greater standing.⁴⁷

This esteem is arresting because women playing competitive basketball before a paying public for school prestige and state championships flies in the face of so many gender platitudes of the time. It reflects women seeking and finding achievement in the public

rather than private sphere; within that public sphere, it represents women earning accolades for accomplishment within a traditionally male domain rather than a traditionally female one like caregiving; finally, it represents women achieving recognition not for who they are or for how they look, but for what they do—what they accomplish on the basketball court.

While women's basketball in Ohio thus appropriated functions traditionally associated with men's athletics, it was also enfolded into traditional female roles and rituals. The most prominent of these were the after-game receptions given for the visiting team. A regular feature of all the games, these receptions were variously given by coaches, teams, school administrators and faculty, townspeople, and even on two occasions by the college men:

Because of the friendly relationship existing between the Heidelberg and Otterbein girls, the boys of Heidelberg gave a very delightful reception to our girls after their game at Tiffin. So the boys of the Philophronean and Philomathean societies, wishing to return the compliment, gave an informal reception to the Heidelberg girls and friends after the game in Westerville.⁴⁸

Once the game concluded, whatever respite it offered from traditional female responsibilities, rituals, and rites likewise expired, and the women returned to the world of social graces where conviviality, hospitality, and decorum outweighed fast feet and snappy passes, as the newspapers covered the receptions as regularly as they did the games themselves.



From 1904 through 1907, women's basketball in central Ohio, led by the teams from Ohio State, exploded onto the sport scene and enjoyed a public exposure, popularity, and institutionalization that was not seen again in Ohio until the 1980s, when women at Ohio State began playing in the Big Ten under NCAA auspices. Newspaper coverage in both school and town newspapers, particularly in the two Columbus papers, rivaled the coverage given to men's basketball. Stories about games, both those played and those upcoming, team photographs, and boxscores brought women's high school and college basketball to the general public. And the public responded with exceptional support with crowds of 500 and even 1,000, numbers far exceeding those for the first years of women's basketball's second coming in 1965, when OSU played its home games in front of 50–60 friends and family members.⁴⁹ These early crowd estimates are even more astonishing in light of Ohio State's enrollment at the time. Between 1904 and 1907, the total enrollment at Ohio State ranged from 1,827 (1,580 men and 247 women) to 2,277 (1,832 men and 445 women); thus, the number of fans at some of those early games eclipsed the total number of OSU women students.⁵⁰

Appropriate to such fan support, the women's basketball program was thoroughly institutionalized, beginning with its sanctioning by the Athletic Board. The women's teams had coaches (frequently male), trainers, managers, and captains; games were played under the management of referees, timers, and scorekeepers. Varsity "O"s were awarded to deserving players, who took pains to include their basketball years alongside other school activities in their yearbook entries. Indeed, women's basketball was such a flourishing sport that weak coaches could find themselves publicly rebuked, like the unfortunate Tallmadge Rickey at Otterbein:

The coaching of Miss Rickey was extremely poor. New girls received no encouragement from her. The beginning of the season was unsatisfactory because of this. After Christmas Miss Milne, the new coach, took the team in charge and veritably transformed it from a collection of good individual players to a team.⁵¹

The sport-savvy, enthusiastic crowds notwithstanding, during the first decade of the twentieth century intercollegiate basketball in central Ohio was played over a social minefield for the women involved. Basketball's physicality, its potential for player contact and public spectacle, challenged gender orthodoxies which, for some people, no post-game selection of tea and cookies could domesticate. The sport soon fell out of favor. Newspaper references to society's attendance at games disappeared; by 1907, coverage of the OSU women team in the Columbus papers had shrunk dramatically, to a few lines in the back pages of the sports section. The final blow was the banning of intercollegiate play.

At Ohio State, Dr. H. Shindle Wingert, the University's Director of Physical Education, banned women's basketball in the fall of 1907, asserting that public athletic contests were "morally and physically detrimental to women," even though "that hadn't been the case here!"⁵² Appealing to social status, he also noted that: "None of the first class institutions of the country allow the coeds to leave the university to play basketball anymore..." In case the possibility of social impropriety seemed insufficient, Wingert also justified his decision by noting that the team had consistently failed to produce revenue. But if the women's game was not financially self-supporting through the 25-cent admission charge, the team nevertheless generated sufficient funds to purchase new uniforms for the 1904–05 season,⁵³ while the men's team, established in 1899, as late as 1903 had never been self-supporting.⁵⁴ Indeed, compared to the women game, the men's was very slow to catch on; even in the midst of the OSU men's star championship season, 1905, attendance was reported at only 600 for its victory over Oberlin.⁵⁵ After women's intercollegiate play was banned at OSU, other central Ohio schools apparently followed suit, since newspaper and yearbook references to their game disappeared after 1907—with the exception of Muskingum, which played until 1910 against high school teams. It is interesting to note that Muskingum was the only school to play (for one year) by men's rules, and also the only one to schedule the women's games as preliminaries to the men's.⁵⁶

Given the popularity of women's intercollegiate basketball in central Ohio, with its nascent but vital subculture, its abrupt and apparently unchallenged termination by Wingert at Ohio State is shocking and should beggar the imagination. Yet, at another level, Wingert's action was utterly commonplace—a supporting footnote in the standard history of women's basketball. During the century's first two decades, colleges and universities from coast to coast followed a similar pattern of sequestering, and ultimately suppressing, the sport behind closed gymnasium doors—either by never endorsing interschool play, like eastern women's colleges such as Vassar and Wellesley, or by eventually prohibiting it, like Ohio State. Again, according to the traditional history, the impetus for suppression came from the women physical educators who "domesticated" the sport through progressively restrictive and "feminizing" rule changes, at first informally and then formally with the publication of the *Spalding Women's Basketball Guides* beginning in 1901. Between the rule changes

and the policy statements published in both the basketball guides and the women's professional journals, there is no doubt that women physical educators opposed rough play, rowdiness, and the interschool competition that promoted such unwomanly behaviors. As Elma Warner succinctly stated, "There is absolutely no reason for our contests for girls partaking of the same public character as those for boys and men."⁵⁷ Strikingly, despite this widely and well-articulated condemnation of intercollegiate play, not one of the succession of four women physical educators who presided over women's physical education at Ohio State between 1897 and 1907 ever mounted any attack against the activity. Indeed, it was the very first one, Stella Elliot, who introduced the activity to OSU women.

Conceivably, these women believed that the later basketball teams were beyond their administrative jurisdiction. Unlike the eastern women's schools or even some private midwestern schools like Oberlin College, the OSU women's basketball team operated under the auspices of an athletic association, just like the OSU men's teams. When the women formed their own basketball team in 1904, they also created a women's athletic association. Besides its existence and the fact that it orchestrated women's intercollegiate basketball, little is known of this organization, not even its name. It originated in January of 1904, when the University Athletic Board granted the women's petition requesting permission to organize. After receiving the Board's sanction, the women's association operated independently of it, although not always by financial choice. When the association petitioned the Athletic Board for financial backing for the basketball team's scheduling needs in January, 1906, their request was denied: "The girls have their separate organization and are expected to meet their obligations. They are privileged to whatever games they choose so long as they maintain strict responsibility."⁵⁸ Thus, except for the teams of 1899 and 1900, which Elliot organized in her position as the Associate Director of Gymnastics, women's intercollegiate basketball was administratively independent of the women's physical education program. Its closest administrative connection was the 1906 team's employment of Frances Paterson, a student gymnasium assistant, as manager.⁵⁹ Regardless of this apparent lack of administrative authority over the women's team, the women physical educators' response to the team must have been cordial since in their university positions of Associate Director of Gymnastics (1897-1900), Associate Professor of Physical Education (1900-1903), and then Director of Physical Education for Women (1903-1907),⁶⁰ they did oversee women's use of gymnasium time and permitted the women's team to both practice and play in the OSU gymnasium, the Armory.

When Wingert disbanded women's intercollegiate basketball, he was presumably acting as head of the Department of Physical Education for Men and Athletics, a position newly created by the University in 1906. Until this time, men's intercollegiate sports were entirely under the auspices of the Ohio State Athletic Association, the same organization⁶¹ to which the women applied in 1904 for sanctioning of their intercollegiate sports. The Association consisted of three faculty members, three students, and three alumni, all male. It operated independently of the nascent physical education department at OSU, which had begun in 1897 with the hiring of Dr. Christopher P. Linhart as Director of the Gymnasium.⁶² In June, 1906, however, the Board of Trustees accepted the faculty's approval of a report from the Athletic Council which recommended, among other things, the employment of a single official as both the Head of the Department of Physical Education for

Men and Athletics and the Director of the Gymnasium. Among the duties of this new official were overseeing the Gymnasium; directing the physical education of men; and supervising athletics, which included coaching, scheduling, purchasing, and approving all expenses connected with athletic contests.⁶³ In the women's case, Wingert apparently extended these duties to include his personally certifying each sport as an intercollegiate one. This contrasts markedly with his management of men's sports. In his first report to the Athletic Board, he recommended that the men's baseball team be disbanded due to lack of interest. He did not simply disband it by fiat but worked with the Athletic Board in performing his supervisory role.⁶⁴ But he did not extend that same collegial and supervisory relationship to the women's association. Thus, despite the independent status of the Women's Athletic Association in the eyes of the Athletic Board, Wingert apparently felt that his authority exceeded that of the association.

The gender role reversals displayed at Ohio State, where the women administrators endorsed intercollegiate basketball and Wingert dismissed it, raise questions about the general process by which women's intercollegiate basketball was suppressed. At very least, the tacit approval given the sport by four successive Ohio State women physical educators disrupts the traditional, essentialized story in which all women physical educators systematically opposed intercollegiate sports. It also exposes that story's regional, and probably class, biases. For instance, Steveda Chepko's article, "The Domestication of Basketball," which otherwise offers one of the best histories of early women's basketball, consistently makes universalizing comments like these: "Women physical educators faced the dilemma of how to make a competitive game appear noncompetitive. The women adopted a 'cookies and milk' strategy...."⁶⁵ But in the evolution of women's basketball, even in its infancy, the privileged role of eastern women physical educators is unequivocal. Sophia Foster Richardson of Vassar, an eastern woman physical educator, first promulgated an anti-competition platform in her 1897 article, "Tendencies in Athletics for Women in Colleges and Universities," writing: "In this connection the question has arisen whether we shall endeavor to stimulate general interest in athletic games by intercollegiate contests. The Western colleges seem inclined to answer this question in the affirmative.... On the other hand the Eastern colleges unite in disapproving of intercollegiate contests."⁶⁶ In 1898, Helen Ballantine of Vassar wrote in an *American Physical Education Review* article that "We do not advocate intercollegiate contests...."⁶⁷ In her 1903 book, *Athletics and Outdoor Sports for Women*, Lucille E. Hill of Wellesley passes on her Dean's warning that

The girl of to-day ... may ride a horse without an accompanying groom; she may bestride a horse; she may row and run and swim and take part in a hundred athletic exercises without being one whit less a woman, but some things she had better leave to men. Fiercely competitive athletics have their dangers for men, but they develop manly strength. For women their dangers are greater, and the qualities they tend to develop are not womanly.⁶⁸

At the famous 1899 Conference of Physical Training held in Springfield, Massachusetts, the first committee appointed to standardize the rules of women's basketball was dominated by eastern physical educators. Besides the influential Senda Berensen of Smith College, the committee also included Ethel Perrin of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics and Elizabeth Wright of Radcliffe.⁶⁹ The lone midwesterner was Alice Foster of Oberlin College. She had a medical degree, which itself suggests acculturation to the dominant

male values. Similarly, Oberlin's women's athletic director, Delphine Hanna, another medical doctor trained in the east by Dudley Sargent at his Sargent School for Physical Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts, also opposed women's intercollegiate athletics. Given these circumstances, it is unclear to what extent Foster represented a midwestern point of view.⁷⁰

The extent to which histories of women's basketball gloss over a possible eastern-midwestern division of opinion can be suggested by an anonymous writer's observation in *The Miami Student* for 1903: "Those people in the East who have been trying to make the decisions that basket ball is detrimental to the health have surely never played the game, or at least never played it by the modified rules."⁷¹ The plausibility of such a regional difference is also suggested by the results of a 1909 survey which reported "that most of the women's colleges in the East and many of the co-educational institutions do not play outside games but have interclass contests. . . . In the Middle West and West, intercollegiate contests are more common, but the percentage playing them is less than one half."⁷²

Unfortunately, we have little biographical information on those four OSU women who supported intercollegiate basketball. Stella Elliot, the first Director of Physical Education for Women, had been a student for three years at the University of Nebraska,⁷³ and Bertha Hopkins, the last director, was a 1902 graduate of Ohio State and played on Ohio State's very first intercollegiate team, coached by Elliot. Yet without knowing precisely why, we can still infer that these midwestern women were indifferent to the feminizing ideology of the eastern women physical educators, a group who in 1907 had not yet coalesced themselves into the national professional juggernaut of the 1920s and later.



The regional acceptability, at least for some in the midwest, of women's interschool play could also explain why Dr. Christopher P. Linhart, Wingert's predecessor as Ohio State's Director of the Gymnasium from 1897–1904, originally allowed Stella Elliot to form the women's team. Linhart, a native Ohioan, attended Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio, and received his medical degree from Western Reserve University in Cleveland.⁷⁴ Before his tenure at Ohio State, he held various physical education positions in New York and New Jersey, and was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Physical Education. We can only speculate that Linhart's eastern and professional experiences were insufficient to overcome the apparently midwestern acceptability of women's intercollegiate basketball.

Shindle Wingert, a graduate of Philadelphia Normal School of Physical Training, the Yale University Summer School of Physical Training, the Philadelphia School of Anatomy, and the medical department of Maryland College, was thoroughly eastern in his education⁷⁵ and apparently harbored no conflicting views on women and intercollegiate competition. Given Wingert's background, it is conceivable that he acted wholly on behalf of eastern women physical educators and their anti-intercollegiate principles—bringing their message to the Ohio hinterland—but it seems just as likely that he was acting on behalf of other males: physical educators in particular and many middle class men in general.

For while many women physical educators found much of competitive basketball objectionable by 1907, as national publications attest, they may have been only echoing—

even following—their male counterparts. Clearly the main theme in Chepko's "The Domestication of Basketball" is that women physical educators acted defensively in steadily removing all "vestiges of rough play" so that the game would be "safely within the boundaries of acceptable behavior for women."⁷⁶ Certainly no male physical educator ever published an article advocating intercollegiate competition for women; in 1906, a bellwether year just before Wingert shut down women's intercollegiate play at Ohio State, a number of male leaders publicly opposed women's intercollegiate basketball. Dr. Luther Gulick concluded his Presidential Speech to the Public School Physical Training Society with this very clear anti-competition crescendo:

I believe, for the reasons already stated, that athletics for women should for the present be restricted to sport within school; that they should be used for recreation and pleasure; that the strenuous training of teams tends to be injurious to the body; that public, general competition emphasizes qualities that are on the whole unnecessary and undesirable. Let us have athletics for recreation, but not for serious, public competition.⁷⁷

William Orr, also in a 1906 speech read before the American Physical Education Association meeting and then published in 1907, flatly asserts: "One proposition can be regarded as established, girls should under no circumstances engage in struggles for supremacy with teams from other schools. These games are necessarily spectacular and sin against the psychical as well as the physiological well being of women."⁷⁸ Intercollegiate basketball, with its intensity, its inevitable collisions and bumps, and aggressive competition for the ball, exemplified precisely the kind of women's sport that men objected to as a perceived threat to their masculinity. As Dudley Allen Sargent put it in 1906 in the *American Physical Education Review*: "In nearly every instance, however, it will be found that the women who are able to excel in the rougher and more masculine sports, have either inherited or acquired masculine characteristics."⁷⁹ And if women become more "masculine," men will inevitably suffer, for "The time may come when effeminate man will succumb to virile woman."⁸⁰ Given this climate of male opposition to basketball competition, Wingert's action appears to reflect a widespread professional antagonism to women playing basketball publicly rather than a specifically women-centered opposition.

Male physical educators have always played some role in regulating women's basketball. It was James E. Sullivan, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amateur Athletic Union, who first invited Senda Berenson to submit her now famous "women's rules" to the American Sports Publishing Company for publication.⁸¹ The notoriety of Berenson's women's rules can lull us into forgetting that men had already begun modifying and adapting the rules of basketball specifically for women, as Berenson herself reminds us in her "Editorial" in the first edition of the Spalding rules: "Dr. Sargent made some [rule] changes . . . His Normal School pupils play the game with his rules and it is natural to infer that the pupils teach it with his modifications."⁸² Theodore Houg, in his article "Physiological Effects of Basket Ball for Women" in that first 1901 *Guide*, justifies Berenson's modifications of the men's game for women on a physiological basis. When the Women's Basketball Committee, the sponsor of the Spalding rules, became a part of the American Physical Education Association in 1905, a new Executive Committee on Basketball Rules was created; three of its seven members were men: Luther Halsey Gulick; George T. Hepbron, editor of the *Men's*

Official Basketball Guide; and Harry Fisher, editor of the *Official Collegiate Basketball Guide*.⁸¹ In this context, Berenson's *Guide* appears to be as much a codification of men's rules for women as women's rules for other women.

The professional antagonism of physical educators towards women's interschool competition mirrors a similar antipathy held by some segments of the general public. Women's basketball may well have been popular, but because it pushed the boundaries of acceptable middle-class feminine behavior, it was also controversial. The greatest controversies concerned anything perceived as roughness, a feature that interschool competition with its high stakes was believed to inspire and inflame. Senda Berenson, through the *Spalding Guides*, relentlessly campaigned to eliminate or curtail any behavior that promoted it:

Unless a game as exciting as basket ball is carefully guided by such rules as will eliminate roughness, the great desire to win and the excitement of the game will make our women do sadly unwomanly things. Rough and vicious play seems worse in women than in men. A certain amount of roughness is deemed necessary to bring out manliness in our young men. Surely rough play can have no possible excuse in our young women.⁸⁴

The conceit of acceptable female behavior which Berenson is evoking here, as Gerda Lerner points out, is wholly a construction of the middle and upper classes and has nothing to do with the experiences of lower class women. Their sense of the feminine was entirely ignored.⁸⁵ As Lerner also observes, this conceit arose with the industrialization of the northeast: one "result of industrialization was in increasing differences in life styles between women of different classes. . . . As class distinctions sharpened, social attitudes toward women became polarized."⁸⁶ Eventually, this eastern and middle class concept of femininity evolved into something like a national standard, so that during their games, women had to consciously avoid crossing an invisible, but nonetheless real, boundary between acceptable hard play and unacceptable rough play—a line that lay somewhere between "good clean play" and play fraught with "disgusting fouls." Overstepping this boundary invariably led to comment and censure.

Being highly gendered and distinctly regionalized, this boundary fluctuated. In a key game between OSU and ONU in 1906, some eighteen fouls were called on OSU and thirteen on Ohio Northern, prompting the Columbus *Evening Dispatch* to report them as "a matter of dissatisfaction among the spectators. . . . The men present thought perhaps politeness had something to do with the girls' foul rule and therefore made no objection [sic]."⁸⁷ But if the men thought it fitting and appropriate that women play a polite and restrained game, the women themselves did not: "The girls, however, were wise to the game and a number of arguments, highly interesting to the spectators, followed the decisions of the officials."⁸⁸ The patronizing "highly interesting" comment, elicited by the women for merely disputing the officials' calls, escalated in the *Dispatch's* coverage of another game remarkable for its spirited play: "Ohio State met the Otterbein lassies at basketball. . . in a game which was amusingly rough for a ladies contest [sic]."⁸⁹ Similarly, in an OSU–Wilmington game: "At times the contest waxed warm and pressed closely any boys' contest in degree of roughness. Some of the mix-ups afforded much amusement to the large crowd present."⁹⁰ Another game, this time between OSU and Muskingum, exasperated *The Lantern*, the Ohio State school newspaper, into this commentary: "Roughness, which seemed to prevail throughout the game, would hardly have provoked com-

ment regarding the 'gentler sex.'"⁹¹ On occasion, the implicit rationale for all the patronizing and snide remarks burst into the open: "From the reports that the girls make and the way they were treated we think that the New Concord girls acted about as masculine as their rules of playing indicate."⁹²

The tension between popularity and offensiveness is nowhere more vividly illustrated than in two *Evening Dispatch* stories published within nine days of each other in 1904, just as women's intercollegiate basketball was blossoming in central Ohio. In the February 4 story, a headline blared "Typical Ohio College Girl is Now of Strong Athletic Trend," while the story itself reports "that women are in the college sporting arena to stay"⁹³ with four area basketball teams ready to compete that winter. Even Oberlin had entered the athletic arena with the formation of a woman's sporting association that had already collected \$1,200 from peanut and candy sales for its own athletic field. The story concluded with the following: "Here is a hand to the athletic Ohio girl, who has dared to assert herself."⁹⁴ The second front-page story in the sport section suggests just how daring these women were, as quadruple headlines blare: "Athletic Girls Do Not Suit Elliot: Tendency of Young Women in College to Imitate Their Brothers Condemned: Young Women Students Worry Older Heads: Maidens Will Have to Fight Opposition in Their Effort to Secure Strong Bodies."⁹⁵ Almost twice as long as the previous week's moderately favorable story, this one relies on lengthy quotes from Harvard's President Elliot and a Boston physician to criticize and attack women's athletics. Typical of much of the era's thinking, these men saw athletics as unwomanly and hysteria-producing: Elliot complained that "Had nature intended for her to compete in man's sports she would have been differently constructed anatomically."⁹⁶ Only an unnamed, "serious-minded alumna of a woman's college,"⁹⁷ offers any rebuttal to the article's negative slant: "And it is astonishing, when one thinks of it, how very few accidents happen to girl athletes. I guess the athletic girl is here to stay, no matter how much college presidents may preach against athletics for women."⁹⁸ In a newspaper whose sports section's most provocative articles typically dealt with speculation about upcoming seasons, the appearance of this pair of stories is extraordinary and signals the presence of a deep, polarizing breach in public opinion about women's interschool basketball.

In such a social climate, which women had to negotiate, Wingert would hardly need to look to women physical educators' policy statements to justify terminating the OSU program. Besides the published objections of his male peers, various physicians, and the president of Harvard, Wingert could also draw on sexologists for whom lesbianism had suddenly become a preoccupying topic. Between 1896 and 1916, some 566 articles on women's sexual "'perversions,' 'inversions,' and 'disorders'" were published in America, compared with only one article between 1740 and 1895.⁹⁹ Sexologists' early concern about inappropriate gender behavior shifted to concern with inappropriate sexuality (in their eyes) as explained by no less a male authority figure than Richard von Krafft-Ebing, an influential purveyor of sexuality in Europe and leading influence on American sexologists. Krafft-Ebing escalated the male physical educators' association of sports with masculinity to an outward sign of lesbianism:

Uranism may nearly always be suspected in females wearing short hair, or who dress in the fashion of men, or pursue the sports and pastimes of their male acquaintances. . . . The masculine soul, heaving in the female bosom, finds pleasure in the pursuit of manly sports, and in manifestations of courage and bravado.¹⁰⁰

Havelock Ellis, America's own Krafft-Ebing, observed in 1902 that "it was women's colleges that were 'the great breeding ground' of lesbianism."¹⁰¹ In this male-inscribed environment, it is not surprising that women physical educators tried to domesticate basketball or that Chepko reports that a "recurring theme in the first two decades of the *Guides* is the 'fear' of the effect competition would have on a woman."¹⁰²



Instead of viewing women physical educators as the primary instigators of basketball's retreat into closed gymnasiums, which clearly ascribes to them exceptional power and authority—sufficient at Ohio State to dismantle a popular and growing sport—I think it is more realistic to assume that with their anti-interschool competition platform, the women physical educators were fulfilling the traditional female function of overseeing and implementing the dominant social mores of the time. These mores were defined by men who viewed strenuous women's sports, not only as unseemly, unwomanly and possibly even deviant, but as threats to their own masculinity. Viewed through the lens of patriarchy—the system of male dominance over both physical resources and women—the end of women's basketball competition because of, rather than in spite of, its popularity seems predictable, and it may well be one of the first instances of male backlash. That women physical educators should participate in that backlash seems equally predictable, for hegemony is typically sustained by mechanisms through which those dominated buy into their own domination. Except in the eastern women's colleges, men controlled the educational institutions in which the women worked. This insured economic coercion, while public ridicule and opprobrium provided equally potent instruments of social control. Complementing these restraints was the very real fact that the women physical educators benefited organizationally from reduced women's competition because it meshed with the concept of separate male and female spheres of expertise and authority, thus enabling them to retain their own power in marginalized arenas like women's sports.

The history of women's intercollegiate basketball, especially in the midwest, is a much more tangled story than that of simple suppression initiated by women physical educators. Its demise is far more highly overdetermined than that simple causality suggests; men worked for its suppression as well, directly and indirectly in efforts that varied according to their region and class. Ever since its introduction, girls' high school basketball thrived in the state of Iowa, as is well documented, despite the women physical educators' best efforts to eradicate it. It thrived because, for reasons that remain unclear, Iowa's male authorities rejected the women physical educators' anti-competition platform. Lerner's correlation of the doctrine of "the lady" with industrialization does, however, offers a possible explanation for both Iowa and Ohio. In rural and agriculturally dominated Iowa, in contrast to the industrialized northeast, the position of women might have resembled the position of colonial and frontier women for whom "class distinctions were not so great... and [women's] economic contribution was more highly valued, their opportunities were less restricted and their positive participation in community life taken for granted."¹⁰³ In Ohio, where industrialization and urbanization were having a real impact on rural culture and mores, the story is more mixed. In 1904, just when Linhart authorized intercollegiate play at OSU, the male-dominated faculty of Heidelberg voted to forbid the women to play inter-

collegiate games in public.¹⁰⁴ Then, after women's basketball bloomed at Ohio State in accordance with the wishes of the dominant male, it withered because it deviated from the doctrines of femininity spread by the eastern women physical educators but unmistakably sown, endorsed, and enforced by the dominant males with their bourgeois sense of femininity. That the issue of what constitutes femininity should be contested in Ohio reflects in Lerner's theory, the dynamic flux between agriculture and industry and their respective values.

Of all the groups touched by this dynamic process, the group that benefitted least—not at all, really—were the women athletes themselves, and I have always wondered why they did not protest. Certainly the women back then who did dare to play would not have been shrinking violets. Indeed, yearbook entries for members of the first OSU teams reveal student leaders. Margaret Kaufman, captain of the 1899 team and "one of its best players,"¹⁰⁵ was also a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma and Mu Alpha Phi sororities, a member of the editorial board for the school yearbook, Secretary of Arms for the Browning Literary Society, Secretary of the Student debate Society, and Vice-President of the Tennis Association.¹⁰⁶ Tallmadge Rickey, who also played in 1899 and was the inept coach about whom the Otterbein players complained so bitterly, went on to become the Assistant Supervisor of Physical Education for the Columbus Public Schools.¹⁰⁷ Francis Hite, forward on the 1904 team, went on to become the first woman architect in Mexico,¹⁰⁸ while Alma Wacker Paterson, the manager of the 1904 team who had the fierce wrangle with Coach Stone of Miami University, became Ohio State University's first woman trustee.¹⁰⁹ Since the women who played basketball clearly were not suffering followers of the status quo, perhaps their acceptance of Wingert's decision can be explained by their other activities. I am convinced that they saw themselves as New Women first and New Ohio Athletic Women second, so that basketball was for them just one among many areas of competition. As an anonymous author wrote in *The Miami Student* in 1903:

What if we jumped your hurdles?
What if we skinned your cats?
What if we played basketball?
All of this is but the beginning
Of a not too distant day,
When we shall enter a larger field,
For the state now says we may.¹¹⁰

This author couldn't have known how much more the state would have to say before her great-granddaughter got to play.

1. "College Girls and Basket-Ball," *Harper's Weekly*, Feb. 22, 1902, 234–35; J. Parmsly Paret, "Basket-Ball for Young Women," *Harper's Bazaar*, Oct. 20, 1900, 1563–67.
2. "News Notes," *American Physical Education Review* 23 (Jan. 1918): 55.
3. See, for instance, Paula Welch, "Interscholastic Basketball: Bane of Collegiate Physical Educators," in *Her Story in Sport: A Historical Anthology of Women in Sports*, ed. Reet Howell (West Point, NY: Leisure Press, 1982); Stevda Chepko, "The Domestication of Basketball," in *A Century of Women's Basketball: From Frailty to Final Four*, eds. Joan S. Hult and Marianna Trekell (Reston, VA: American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 1991); Susan K. Cahn, *Coming On Strong: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Women's Sport* (New York: Free Press, 1994).

4. Edward Hitchcock, "Basket Ball for Women," *Physical Education* 3 (Aug. 1894): 100; Senda Berenson, "Basket Ball for Women," *Physical Education* 3 (Sep. 1894): 161-63.
5. *Columbus Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 23, 1904, 13.
6. *Dispatch*, Jan. 29, 1904, Section III, 3.
7. References to games appear in the *Columbus Evening Dispatch* from January 1904 through March 1907. See also *Makio* [Ohio State University Yearbook] (1904), 273; *Makio* (1905), 274; *Makio* (1906), 283; *Makio* (1907), 314.
8. *Otterbein Aegis* 13 (Mar. 1903): 16.
9. Ohio Northern University's *University Herald*, Mar. 15, 1904, 1.
10. *Herald*, Mar. 25, 1904, 1.
11. *Aegis* 15 (Feb. 1905): 173.
12. Muskingum College's *The Black and Magenta*, Mar. 1905, 11.
13. *Herald*, Mar. 4, 1904, 2.
14. *Aegis* 13 (Apr. 1903): 13.
15. *Aegis* 13 (Feb. 1903): 13.
16. *The Miami Student*, Apr. 1904, 234.
17. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 16, 1907, 6.
18. *Aegis*, 17 (Jan. 1907): 17.
19. *Makio* (1905), 273.
20. *Lantern*, Mar. 22, 1905, 1.
21. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 1, 1906, Section II, 2.
22. *Lantern*, Feb. 2, 1906, 2.
23. *Lantern*, Feb. 24, 1904, 3.
24. *Herald*, Jan. 11, 1907, 1.
25. *Herald*, Mar. 1, 1906, 2.
26. *Herald*, Feb. 9, 1906, 2; *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 16, 1907, 6; *Lantern*, Jan. 25, 1905, 1.
27. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 23, 1904, 13.
28. *Herald*, Apr. 22, 1904, 1.
29. *Lantern*, Mar. 16, 1904, 2; *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 28, 1907, 13.
30. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 24, 1907, 8.
31. *Evening Dispatch*, Mar. 12, 1905, 6.
32. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 28, 1904, 9.
33. *Evening Dispatch*, Mar. 12, 1905, 6.
34. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 4, 1905, 8.
35. *Evening Dispatch*, Jan. 27, 1906, 6.
36. *Herald*, Mar. 1, 1906, 2.
37. *Ibid.*
38. *Ibid.*
39. *Herald*, Mar. 11, 1904, 2.

40. *Ibid.*
41. *Herald*, Jan. 29, 1904, 1.
42. *Lantern*, Feb. 24, 1904, 3.
43. *Ibid.*
44. *Black and Magenta*, Jan. 1905, 15.
45. *New Concord (Ohio) Enterprise*, Feb. 13, 1907, 1.
46. *Aegis* 17 (Mar. 1907): 12.
47. *Ibid.*
48. *Aegis* 14 (Mar. 1904): 15.
49. Phyllis J. Bailey, retired Associate Athletic Director, Ohio State University, Interview, Apr. 14, 1990.
50. Pounce M. Alcott, "Women at The Ohio State University in the First Four Decades 1873-1912, 1979, unpub. ms, Ohio State University Archives, 96.
51. *Aegis* 15 (Apr. 1905): 218.
52. *Lantern*, Nov. 27, 1907, 5.
53. *Lantern*, Mar. 22, 1905, 1.
54. *Lantern*, Jan. 28, 1903, 4.
55. *Lantern*, Feb. 1, 1905, 1.
56. *New Concord Enterprise*, Feb. 16, 1910, 3; *New Concord Enterprise*, Mar. 13, 1907, 1.
57. Elma Warner, "Inter-School Athletics," *American Physical Education Review* 11 (1906): 184.
58. *Lantern*, Jan. 17, 1906, 3.
59. *Lantern*, Feb. 21, 1906, 2.
60. Ralph Joseph Sabock, "A History of Physical Education at The Ohio State University—Men and Women's Divisions 1898-1969" (Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 1969), 387.
61. *Ibid.*, 8.
62. *Ibid.*, 13.
63. *Ibid.*, 25.
64. James E. Pollard, *Ohio State Athletics 1879-1959* (1959: Athletic Department, Ohio State University), 62-63.
65. Chepko, "Domestication," 116.
66. Sophia Foster Richardson, "Tendencies in Athletics for Women in Colleges and Universities," *Popular Science Monthly* 50 (Feb. 1897): 521.
67. Harriet Isabel Ballintine, "Out-of-Door Sports for College Women," *American Physical Education Review* 3 (1898): 40.
68. Lucille E. Hill, *Athletics and Outdoor Sports for Women* (New York: Macmillan, 1903), 2.
69. Betty Spears, "Senda Berenson Abbott: New Woman: New Sport," in Hult & Treckell, *A Century of Women's Basketball*, 28.
70. Debora Lynn Contrell, "Women's Minds, Women's Bodies: The Influence of the Sargent School for Physical Education," (Master's thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1993); Marc Horger, "Basketball and Athletic Control at Oberlin College, 1896-1915," *Journal of Sport History* 23 (Fall 1996): 256-83.

71. *The Miami Student* (school paper for Miami University), Dec., 1903, 11.
72. Gertrude Dudley and Frances Keller, *Athletic Games in the Education of Women* (New York: Holt, 1909), 99.
73. Robert Marker O'Neill, "A History of the Men's Physical Education Service Classes at The Ohio State University" (Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 1948), 17.
74. Bruce L. Bennett, "Christopher P. Linhart, M.D., Forgotten Physical Educator," *The Research Quarterly* 35, (Mar. 1964), 3-20.
75. *Lantern*, Oct. 10, 1906, 2.
76. Chepko, "Domestication," 120.
77. Luther Gullick, "Athletics from a Biological Viewpoint," *American Physical Education Review*, 11 (1906): 160.
78. William Orr, "Athletics in Secondary Schools," *American Physical Education Review*, 12 (1907): 57.
79. Dudley Allen Sargent, "What Athletic Games, If Any, Are Injurious for Women in the Form in which They Are Played by Men," *American Physical Education Review*, 11 (1906): 176.
80. *Ibid.*, 177.
81. Judith Lee Jensen, "The Development of Standards for Women's Athletics and their Influence on Basketball Competition in the State of New York" (Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 1972), 35.
82. Senda Berenson; "Preface," *Spalding's Official Women's Basket Ball Guide*, ed. Senda Berenson (New York: American Sports Publishing, 1901), 5.
83. Senda Berenson, ed. *Spalding's Official Women's Basket Ball Guide 1905-06* (New York: American Sports Publishing, 1906).
84. Berenson, *Spalding Guide* (1901), 32, 33.
85. Gerda Lerner, "The Lady and the Mill Girls: Changes in the Status of Women in the Age of Jackson," *Midcontinent American Studies Journal*, 10 (Spring 1969): 5-15, esp. 10-12.
86. *Ibid.*, 12.
87. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 4, 1906, Section II, 1.
88. *Ibid.*
89. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 28, 1907, 13.
90. *Lantern*, Feb. 8, 1907, 2.
91. *Lantern*, Feb. 27, 1907, 2.
92. *Aegis* 14 (Feb. 1904): 16.
93. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 2, Section II, 7.
94. *Ibid.*
95. *Evening Dispatch*, Feb. 16, 1904, Section II, 1.
96. *Ibid.*
97. *Ibid.*
98. *Ibid.*
99. Lillian Faderman, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America* (New York: Penguin, 1991), 49.
100. Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 271, citing Richard von Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis with*

- Especial Reference to the Antipathic Sexual Instinct*, trans. F.J. Rebman (Brooklyn: Physicians and Surgeons Book Co., 1908), 333. Krafft-Ebing's book was first published in 1886.
101. Faderman, 49.
 102. Chepko, "Domestication," 118.
 103. Lerner, 12.
 104. *Evening Dispatch*, Dec. 14, 1904, Section II, 9.
 105. *Lantern*, Feb. 1, 1899, 1.
 106. *Makio* (1901), 57.
 107. *Makio* (1900), 57.
 108. *Evening Dispatch*, Nov. 24, 1907, 1.
 109. *Halls of Honor*, pamphlet, Ohio State University Archives, 24.
 110. *The Miami Student*, 1903, 10.

2005-06 FAN GUIDE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



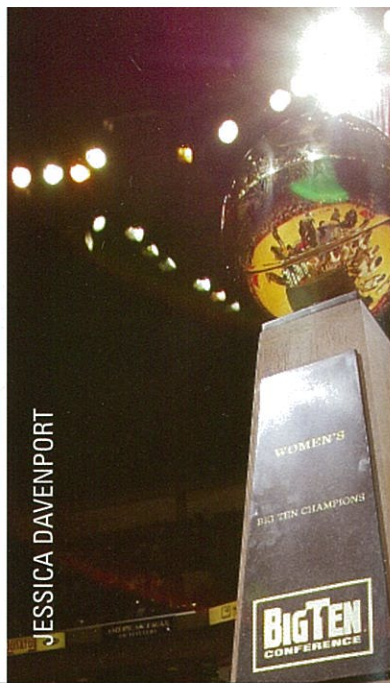
KIM WILBURN



CANDACE DARK



ASHLEY ALLEN



JESSICA DAVENPORT

BRING A FRIEND DAY

November 30 vs. Dayton

- Purchase 2 tickets for \$8 when any Ohio State fan brings a friend to the game, limited to single game sales.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DAY

November 26 Buckeye Classic, January 15 vs. Michigan

- Purchase \$4 tickets for Ohio State Alumni Association members with proof of membership at the game.

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

January 29 vs. Illinois

- The Buckeyes honor the achievements of girls and women in sports. Show your support for female student athletes and help encourage their participation in sports.
- Free player trading cards to first 5,000 fans, courtesy of Honda.

FAMILY 4 PACK GAMES

December 20 vs. Sacred Heart, January 19 vs. Indiana, February 7 vs. Wright State

- For only \$42 buy 4 tickets, 4 hot dogs, 4 popcorns and 4 sodas. Enjoy a value of more than \$80.



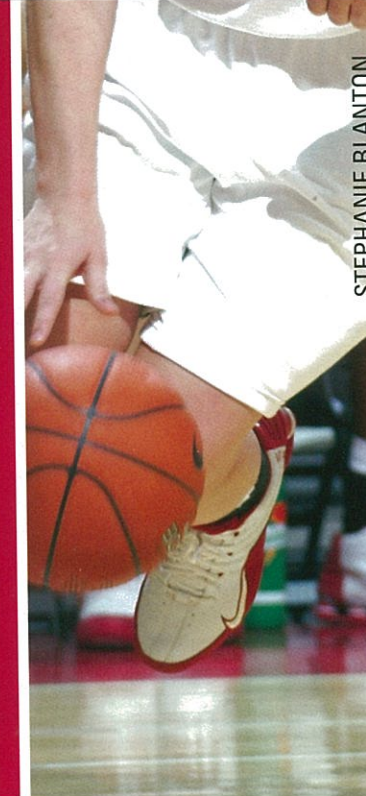
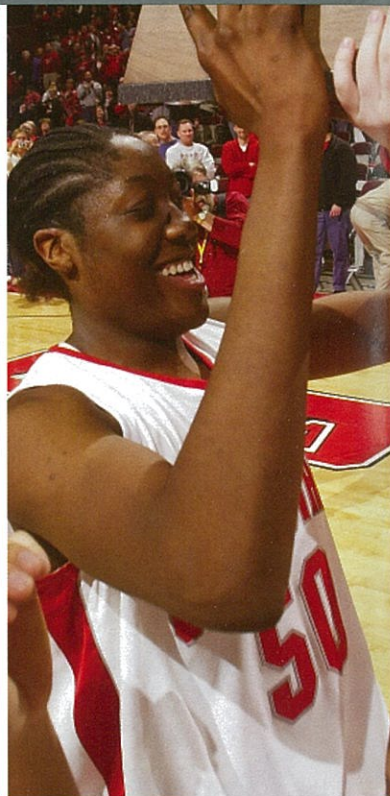
POINTS OF PRIDE

SUPPORT YOUR BUCKEYES!

The Ohio State women's basketball team celebrated its 40th season in 2004-05 with a Big Ten co-championship and its first appearance in the "Sweet 16" since 1993. The Buckeyes established a program record by becoming the first OSU squad to win 30 games in a single season, finishing 30-5 and 14-2 in the Big Ten. The Scarlet and Gray not only established a program record for wins in a single season but netted several additional team records.

The Buckeyes need your help to defend the home court at Value City Arena during the 2005-06 season. The Scarlet and Gray return a core group of players and have high expectations. As a fan of Ohio State women's basketball, your support is valued and appreciated. Some season highlights include ...

- **Game Day ...** Experience affordable interactive family entertainment in an electrifying atmosphere
- **Competitive Schedule ...** boasts seven home games against NCAA tournament teams from 2004-05
- **Home-court Advantage ...** 17-game win streak at home and three-year home winning percentage of .935
- **Tradition ...** four decades of competition supplies a foundation for success
- **People ...** role model student-athletes who you can be proud to support
- **Excellence ...** four seniors and four returning starters provide leadership and NCAA tournament experience



STEPHANIE BLANTON

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TICKET INFORMATION

SEASON TICKETS

Adult: **\$85** Faculty/Staff: **\$68**
 Children/Student: **\$42.50**

- **Exceptional Value...**save more than 50% per single game ticket
- **Best Seats...**same premium reserved seat for the entire season
- **Priority Treatment...**first option to purchase tickets for post season tournaments and renew tickets for next season

SINGLE GAMES

Adult: **\$11** Student/Child: **\$6**

- Reserved tickets are available

HOOPS 'N GROUPS

Price Per Person: **\$4**

- **Special Rate...**advance purchase 10 or more tickets and sit close to the action in a reserved seat
- **Options...**packages and unique benefits available to customize your experience
- **Companionship...**make the game an event with your team, friends, family or co-workers

BIG TEN TOURNAMENT

All Session Pass: **\$55**

Indianapolis, Indiana

Thursday, March 2 – Monday, March 6



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

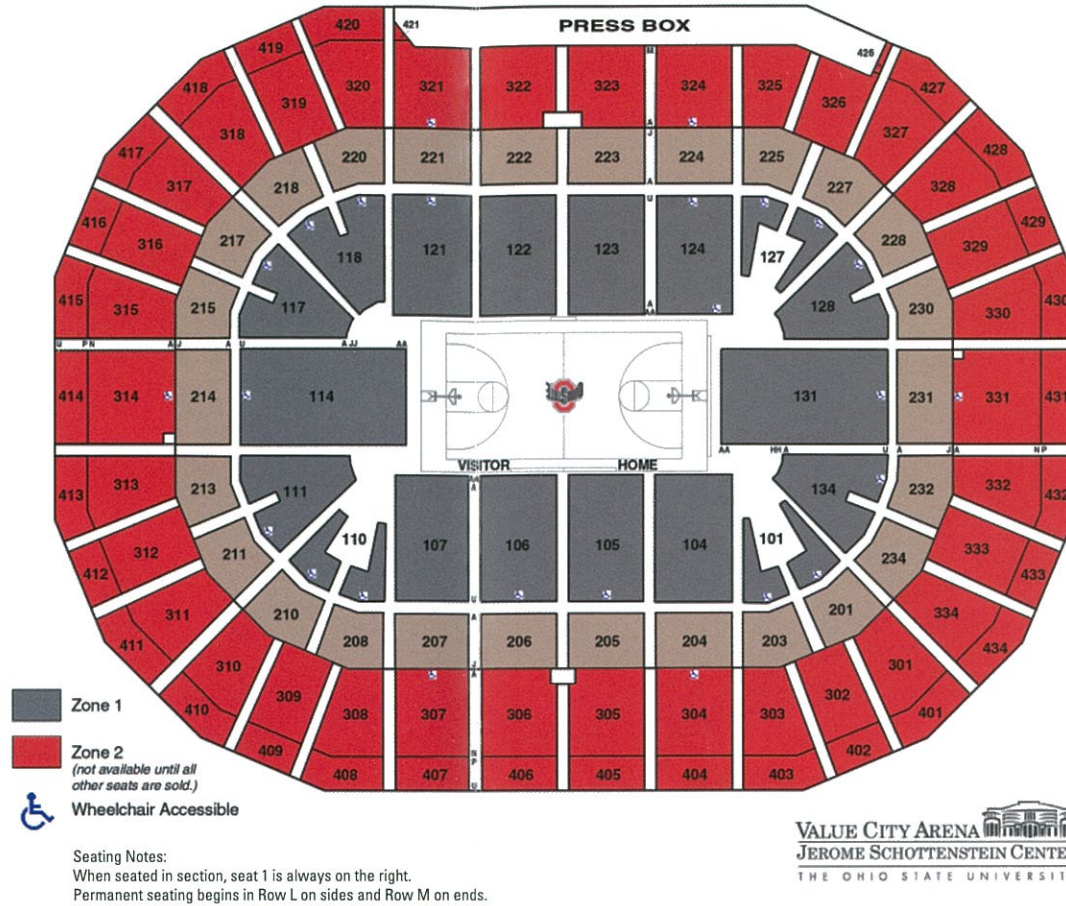
10 Person Party: **\$125**

Additional Guests: **\$10**

- 10 game tickets
- One personalized birthday cake
- One scoreboard announcement
- One Buckeye gift for the guest of honor
- Pizza/hot dogs and soda for each guest
- One visit from Brutus Buckeye during the game
- Access to Fun Zone before the game
- Contact marketing@buckeyes.ath.ohio-state.edu for more information



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SEATING CHART



VALUE CITY ARENA
 JEROME SCHOTTENSTEIN CENTER
 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ORDERING IS EASY

Online: www.hangonsloopy.com

Phone: 1-800-GO-BUCKS or 614-292-2624

Athletics Ticket Office:

Schottenstein Center
 555 Borrer Drive
 corner of Lane and Olentangy

for more Ohio State Women's Basketball promotional information and special offers, visit ohiostatebuckeyes.com



BRANDIE HOSKINS

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Value City Arena at the Schottenstein Center is located on The Ohio State University campus at the corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road accessible directly off Route 315. Traffic should exit at Ackerman Road from Route 315 North or South and proceed east to designated lots.

FROM SOUTH (CINCINNATI):

Take I-71 north to Route 315 north; Follow Route 315 north for approximately six miles; Take the Ackerman Road exit; Turn right on Ackerman Road. Turn right on Fred Taylor Drive. Follow parking attendants' directions.

FROM EAST (PITTSBURGH):

Take I-70 west to Route 315 north; Follow Route 315 north for approximately six miles; Take the Ackerman Road exit; Turn right on Ackerman Road. Turn right on Fred Taylor Drive. Follow parking attendees' directions.

FROM WEST (INDIANAPOLIS):

Take I-70 east to Route 315 north; Follow Route 315 north for approximately six miles; Take the Ackerman Road exit; Turn right on Ackerman Road. Turn right on Fred Taylor Drive. Follow parking attendants' directions.

FROM NORTHEAST (CLEVELAND):

Take I-71 south to I-270 west; Take I-270 west for approximately 2-3 miles; Take Route 315 south for approximately four miles; Take Ackerman Road exit; Turn left on Ackerman Road. Turn right on Fred Taylor Drive. Follow parking attendants' directions.

FROM NORTHWEST (TOLEDO):

Take I-75 south to Findlay; At Findlay, follow Route 15 to Route 23 to Columbus; Take I-270 west for approximately 2-3 miles; Take Route 315 south for approximately four miles; Take Ackerman Road exit; Turn left on Ackerman Road. Turn right on Fred Taylor Drive. Follow parking attendants' directions.



THE REBOUNDERS CLUB

The Club for Supporters of Ohio State Women's Basketball

The primary goal of The Rebounders Club is to inspire enthusiasm for the team and increase attendance at the games, both home and away. As a member of The Rebounders Club, your annual membership fee (**\$20 individual and \$30 family**) entitles you to several benefits. Visit thereboundersclub.com for more information.

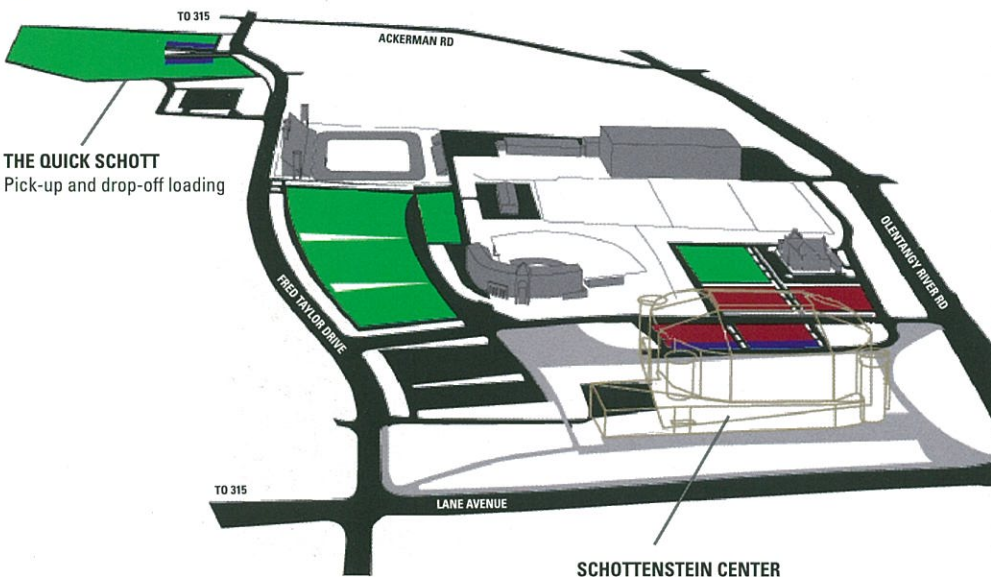
OHIOSTATEBUCKEYS.COM

Follow the Buckeyes from around the state of Ohio, across the country and even internationally at ohiostatebuckeyes.com, which features the latest news and updates during the season and throughout the offseason. Fans also can listen to Buckeye games live and follow along with game action and statistics on live game tracker as well.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PARKING

- Suite Holders Permit Parking: Scarlet 1-4
- Public Parking: Gray 3-7, Buckeye Lot
- Disability Parking: Scarlet 1-2, Buckeye Lot



FOLLOWING THE BUCKEYES

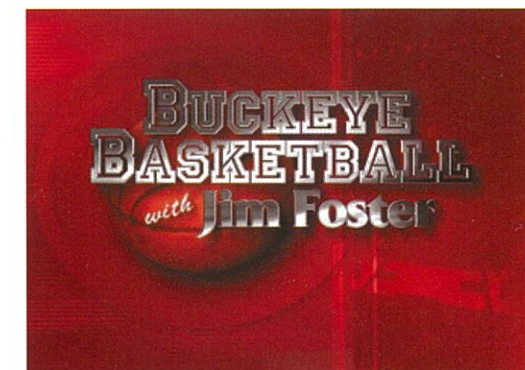


THE JIM FOSTER SHOW

January 8, 2006 - March 12, 2006

Watch the following stations to view highlights and game recaps with Buckeye head coach Jim Foster.

- **WBNS TV**
Sundays @ 11 am
- **Ohio News Network**
Sundays @ 7 pm and Wednesdays @ 7 pm





2005-06 HOME SCHEDULE

- Nov. 21 **EASTERN KENTUCKY**
7 pm
- Nov. 26 **SCHWABEL'S BREAD BUCKEYE CLASSIC**
E. Washington vs. W. Illinois, 1 pm
Nicholls State vs. Ohio State, 3 pm
(games played at St. John Arena)
- Nov. 27 **SCHWABEL'S BREAD BUCKEYE CLASSIC**
Consolation Game, 1 pm
Championship Game, 3 pm
(games played at St. John Arena)
- Nov. 30 **DAYTON**
Bring A Friend Day, 7 pm
- Dec. 15 **LSU**
7:30 pm
- Dec. 20 **SACRED HEART**
Family 4 Pack, 7 pm
- Dec. 22 **CANISIUS COLLEGE**
7 pm
- Dec. 29 **PENN STATE**
7 pm
- Jan. 9 **OKLAHOMA**
7 pm
- Jan. 15 **MICHIGAN**
Alumni Association Day, 1 pm / 5 pm
- Jan. 19 **INDIANA**
Family 4 Pack, 7 pm
- Jan. 26 **WISCONSIN**
7 pm
- Jan. 29 **ILLINOIS**
National Girls and Women in Sports Day, 2 pm
- Feb. 7 **WRIGHT STATE**
Family 4 Pack, 7 pm
- Feb. 12 **IOWA**
5 pm
- Feb. 20 **MICHIGAN STATE**
7:30 pm
- Feb. 23 **PURDUE**
7 pm

All promotions, giveaways and events are subject to change.
Visit ohiostatebuckeyes.com for complete promotional calendar and updated game times.

2005-06

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



2006-07 OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

ROW 1 (left to right): Brandie Hoskins, Stephanie Blanton, Jessica Davenport, Andrea Walker, Star Allen, Alice Jamen.

ROW 2: Maria Moeller, Shavelle Little, Cherise Daniel, Lesslee Mason-Cox, Tamarah Riley, Marscilla Packer, Ashlee Trebilcock.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



2006-07 SCHEDULE

Sun.	Nov. 12	@ Army	3:30 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 19	USC	Noon
Tue.	Nov. 21	Boston College	7 p.m.
Sat.	Nov. 25	Buckeye Classic vs Cornell	1 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 26	Buckeye Classic vs. Davidson-Montana	Noon/2 p.m.
Thurs.	Nov. 30	Longwood	7 p.m.
Sun.	Dec. 3	Washington	2 p.m.
Sun.	Dec. 10	@ LSU	3 p.m.
Tue.	Dec. 12	Alabama A&M	Noon
Sun.	Dec. 17	Howard	2 p.m.
Wed.	Dec. 20	@ Oklahoma	7 p.m.
Sun.	Dec. 31	@ Iowa	3 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 4	Minnesota	8 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 6	Kentucky	Noon
Thurs.	Jan. 11	@ Penn State	8 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 14	Northwestern	2 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 18	@ Wisconsin	8 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 21	Illinois	2 p.m.
Thurs.	Jan. 25	Indiana	7 p.m.
Mon.	Jan. 29	@ Purdue	7 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 1	@ Northwestern	8 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 4	Iowa	2 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 8	@ Minnesota	8 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 11	@ Illinois	3 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 15	Wisconsin	7 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 18	Michigan State	1 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 22	Penn State	7 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 25	@ Michigan	2 p.m.
Thur-Mon	March 1-5	Big Ten Tournament	TBA

Home games are in **bold** and played at Value City Arena

-2006 Klosterman's Buckeye Classic is at St. John Arena

Game dates and times are subject to change.

SEASON OUTLOOK

Now in his fifth season at Ohio State, head coach Jim Foster is presented with the challenge of meshing seven accomplished veterans with six talented newcomers. The two-time reigning Big Ten champion Buckeyes return senior center Jessica Davenport, who is a two-time All-American and has claimed back-to-back conference player of the year honors. Davenport has topped the league in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots the last two seasons. She led the conference in field goal percentage last year, connecting on nearly 62 percent of her tries from the floor.

The senior class also boasts guards Stephanie Blanton and Brandie Hoskins. Hoskins touted all-conference honors for the second-consecutive time last season and was named 2006 Big Ten Tournament Most Outstanding Player in leading the Buckeyes to their first league tourney title. She led the conference in field goal percentage in 2005, narrowly beating out Davenport with a .596 clip.

The Buckeye backcourt also features the Big Ten's leading 3-point shooter in Marscilla Packer, who connected on 46 percent of her 3-point tries in 2005-06. Ashlee Trebilcock, a transfer from UCLA, can play all three guard

spots and should compliment Ohio State's outside scoring threat.

Juniors Alice Jamen and Tamarah Riley, and sophomore Star Allen, combined with the versatile Blanton, who also can play in the paint, add to the Buckeyes' frontcourt depth.

A deep and highly-touted recruit class also joins the Ohio State squad this season. The group features three guards and a pair of frontcourt players. Cherise Daniel, Maria Moeller and Shavelle Little all should see significant playing time this season. Daniel, a 5-11 product of Columbus Eastmoor Academy, adds height and athleticism, while Moeller is a prototype point guard from Marion Local in Maria Stein, Ohio. Little comes to Ohio State after pocketing nearly seven steals per game at Huron High School in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Leslee Mason-Cox and Andrea Walker will play on the block. Mason-Cox, from Cincinnati, is an athletic forward. At 6-1, she can score and rebound. Walker will spell Davenport at center. The 6-5 West Allegheny, Pa., native swatted more than five shots per game and converted at almost a 70 field goal percent clip as a senior.

NON-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE PACKED WITH TOUGH TESTS

This season, the Buckeyes face seven non-league foes that reached the 2006 NCAA Tournament, including the second half of home-and-home series at LSU and at Oklahoma, and home dates vs. Boston College and Southern California.

Ohio State's non-conference schedule also features NCAA tourney squads Washington and Kentucky at Value City Arena. The Buckeyes and Wildcats contest will be nationally televised by CBS at noon Jan. 6. OSU also opens the season with a national broadcast on ESPN2, when it travels to Army at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 12.

Ohio State begins its home schedule with a test against USC Nov. 19, just two days prior to a rematch with Boston College Nov. 21. The Golden Eagles bounced the Buckeyes from the 2006 NCAA tournament last season after Ohio State knocked off BC in overtime in their regular season meeting in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Last season, the Buckeyes traveled to the west coast and defeated the Trojans, 68-57.

The home docket continues with the 2006 Klosterman Buckeye Classic Nov. 25-26 at Ohio State's second home, historic St. John Arena. OSU takes on Cornell in the

opening round and either will face Davidson or Montana in the second day of the tournament.

The Buckeyes return to VCA to wrap up their first home-stand with Longwood (Nov. 30) and Washington (Dec. 3). The Huskies reached the second round of the NCAA tourney last season before losing to LSU, which is the next challenge on OSU's 2006-07 schedule. The Lady Tigers visited Columbus last season and knocked off the Buckeyes. Ohio State returns the home-and-home Dec. 10 in Baton Rouge, La. This year, LSU will have to replace two-time Wade Trophy winner Seimone Augustus. The contest features a pair of All-American centers in Buckeye Jessica Davenport and Lady Tiger Sylvia Fowles.

Ohio State is back in action six days later, welcoming Alabama A&M (Dec. 16) and Howard (Dec. 17) for its second set of back-to-back home games.

Another challenging road matchup awaits the Buckeyes Dec. 20 when they travel to Norman, Okla., to face 2006 National Freshman of the Year Courtney Paris and defending Big 12 champion Oklahoma. The Buckeyes edged the Sooners last season at VCA, when Davenport banked in the game-winning shot over Paris in the waning seconds.



BUCKEYES FACE CHALLENGING CONFERENCE SLATE

Ohio State, the two-time defending league champion, will look to extend a 17-game win streak against Big Ten opponents with the conference opener at Iowa Dec. 31. The Buckeyes also travel to Purdue Jan. 29 for a national spotlight game on ESPN2. Ohio State will wrap up the regular season with three of its last four games at home.

Although the Big Ten schedule begins Dec. 28, the Buckeyes have an open date before traveling to Iowa City. Ohio State swept the Hawkeyes last season in two high-scoring contests. Iowa, a 2006 NCAA Tournament qualifier, makes the return trip to Columbus Feb. 4. Ohio State's league home opener is against Minnesota, also an NCAA tournament team, Jan. 4. The Buckeyes travel to Minneapolis Feb. 8.

Ohio State alternates away and home games for the next four contests, traveling to Penn State (Jan. 11), playing host to Northwestern (Jan. 14), trekking to Wisconsin (Jan. 18) and returning home vs. Illinois (Jan. 21). Northwestern visits Ohio State Feb. 1, while the Buckeyes face Illinois in Champaign, Ill., Feb. 11. Ohio State went a perfect 6-0 against those teams last season.

The Badgers and Nittany Lions are part of the Buckeyes' longest Big Ten home stretch in late February. Wisconsin (Feb. 15) and Penn State (Feb. 22) sandwich Ohio State's only scheduled tilt with Michigan State Feb. 18. OSU swept three games from the Spartans in 2006, including a victory on a last-second, game-winning layup by Davenport in East Lansing, Mich.

Ohio State and Purdue, which placed second to the Buckeyes in the Big Ten race last year, match up only once during the regular season Jan. 29 in West Lafayette, Ind. The contest against the Boilermakers follows Ohio State's only meeting with Indiana, a Jan. 25 home date. The Buckeyes play Michigan once as well, completing the regular season slate Feb. 25 in Ann Arbor, Mich.

2006-07 BIG TEN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON HONORS

From the Big Ten Conference Media Day on October 29, 2006

TEAM RANKINGS - COACHES

1. OHIO STATE
2. Purdue
3. Michigan State
4. Penn State
5. Iowa
6. Wisconsin
7. Illinois
8. Minnesota
9. Michigan
10. Indiana
11. Northwestern

TEAM RANKINGS - MEDIA

1. OHIO STATE
2. Purdue
3. Michigan State
4. Penn State
5. Iowa
6. Wisconsin
7. Illinois
8. Indiana
9. Minnesota
10. Michigan
11. Northwestern

PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN COACHES

Megan Skouby, IOWA, SO, C
Jessica Davenport, OSU, SR, C
 Amanda Brown, PSU, SR, F/C
 KATIE GEARLDS, PUR, SR, G/F
 Jolene Anderson, WIS, JR, G

PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN MEDIA

Megan Skouby, IOWA, SO, C
Jessica Davenport, OSU, SR, C
 Amanda Brown, PSU, SR, F/C
 KATIE GEARLDS, PUR, SR, G/F
 Jolene Anderson, WIS, JR, G

PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR COACHES

Jessica Davenport, OSU, SR, C

PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR MEDIA

Jessica Davenport, OSU, SR, C

UNANIMOUS SELECTION IN ALL CAPS

SEASON TICKET HOLDER CARD

Your support of Ohio State women's basketball is greatly appreciated. You will be receiving a card that identifies you as a season ticket holder. The account holder who ordered the tickets can visit the marketing promotional table in the Northeast Rotunda near Section 127 to receive the cards on November 30.

Use this card to take advantage of special offers and experiences exclusively for season ticket holders. Please bring the card to the games to be recognized as a season ticket holder. Also, bring your own camera for the pictures on November 30.

Additional opportunities will be announced in the January newsletter.

Picture with Big Ten Championship Trophy

November 30 – Northeast Rotunda near Section 127

Priority for postgame autograph session

December 3 – Stephanie Blanton

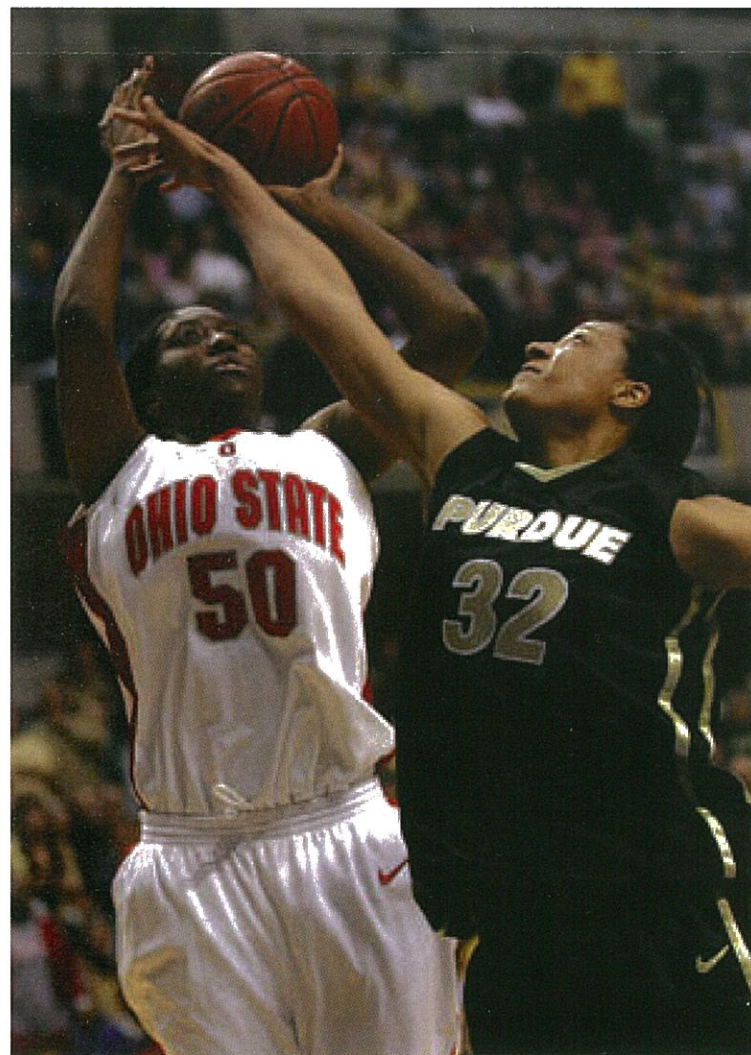
January 21 – Brandie Hoskins

February 4 – Jessica Davenport

Priority for postgame lay-ups (bring your family)

January 14 – meet at section 114 after the game

February 18 – meet at section 114 after the game



55 Star Allen
 F 5-11 So./So. *
 Columbus, Ohio
 Columbus Independence



34 Stephanie Blanton
 F/G 5-11 Sr./Sr. ***
 Lancaster, Ohio
 Lancaster



24 Cherise Daniel
 G 5-11 Fr./Fr.
 Columbus, Ohio
 Eastmoor Academy



50 Jessica Davenport
 C 6-5 Sr./Sr. ***
 Columbus, Ohio
 Columbus Independence



1 Brandie Hoskins
 G 5-9 Sr./Sr. ***
 Dayton, Ohio
 Chaminade-Julienne



32 Alice Jamen
 F 6-3 Jr./Jr. **
 Cameroon, Africa
 Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy (Wheeling, W. Va.)



20 Shavelle Little
 G 5-8 Fr./Fr.
 Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Huron



33 Lesslee Mason-Cox
 F 6-1 Fr./Fr.
 Cincinnati, Ohio
 Princeton



14 Maria Moeller
 G 5-7 Fr./Fr.
 Maria Stein, Ohio
 Marion Local



22 Marscilla Packer
 G 5-9 Jr./Jr. **
 Pickerington, Ohio
 Pickerington



45 Tamarah Riley
 F 6-2 Jr./Jr. **
 Detroit, Mich.
 Detroit St. Martin
 DePorres High School



00 Ashlee Trebilcock
 G 5-9 So./So.
 Boise, Idaho
 Hart (Newhall, Calif.)
 UCLA



51 Andrea Walker
 C 6-5 Fr./Fr.
 West Allegheny, Pa.
 West Allegheny

*Letters won

STARTERS RETURNING: 3

No.	Name	Ht.	Cl./El.	Pos.	Ppg	Rpg
22	Marscilla Packer	5-9	Jr./Jr.	G	10.8	2.0
50	Jessica Davenport	6-5	Sr./Sr.	C	18.7	8.9
1	Brandie Hoskins	5-9	Sr./Sr.	G	12.3	3.0

OTHER LETTERWINNERS RETURNING: 4

No.	Name	Ht.	Cl./El.	Pos.	Ppg	Rpg
34	Stephanie Blanton	5-11	Sr./Sr.	F	2.8	1.2
32	Alice Jamen	6-3	Jr./Jr.	F/C	1.5	1.2
45	Tamarah Riley	6-2	Jr./Jr.	F	3.0	2.7
55	Star Allen	5-11	So./So.	F	2.8	1.7

TRANSFERS RETURNING: 1

No.	Name	Ht.	Cl./El.	Pos.	2005-06 UCLA Stats	Hometown/High School
00	Ashlee Trebilcock	5-9	So./So.	G	3.0 ppg, 4 games	Boise, Idaho/ Hart (Calif.)

NEWCOMERS: 5

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Cl./El.	Hometown	High School
14	Maria Moeller	G	5-7	Fr./Fr.	Maria Stein, Ohio	Marion Local
20	Shavelle Little	G	5-8	Fr./Fr.	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Huron
24	Cherise Daniel	G	5-11	Fr./Fr.	Columbus, Ohio	Eastmoor Academy
33	Lesslee Mason-Cox	F	6-1	Fr./Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Princeton
51	Andrea Walker	C	6-5	Fr./Fr.	West Allegheny, Pa.	West Allegheny

STARTERS LOST: 2

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Ppg	Apg	Rpg	Reason for Leaving
24	Ashley Allen	5-9	G	3.8	3.8	2.8	Graduation
31	Debbie Merrill	6-1	F/C	10.4	3.2	5.7	Graduation

OTHER LETTERWINNERS LOST: 3

No.	Name	Ht.	Pos.	Ppg	Rpg	Reason for Leaving
12	Tia Battle	6-0	G/F	1.7	1.2	Graduation
23	Candace Dark	5-9	G	2.2	1.4	Graduation
11	Kim Wilburn	5-6	G	5.0	2.3	Graduation

Michigan Cuts Synchs' Streak

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — One of the nation's longest winning streaks in women's collegiate athletics came to an end Saturday when Ohio State's synchronized swimming team finished second to Michigan in the Bowling Green figure invitational meet.

The loss was the first in the nine years of the Ohio State team's existence and the first for Coach Mary Joe Ruggierie, who took over the team in 1970.

THE LADY Buckeyes, in their first competition of the season, were without two of their top performers, Jill Vincent and Heather Bruce, both in bed with the flu.

After winning both the senior and junior divisions, Ohio State fell in the novice, placing no higher than fourth. Michigan won the first three places in novice competition.

Ohio State's Cindy Ott (42.0) and Cory Lamb (40.85) finished one-two in the senior division. Myfawny Borel was fourth (38.6) and Carrie Hein ninth (35.2).

IN THE JUNIOR division, the Lady Buckeyes' Martha Boss was first with 30.9 points with Irene Abrahams third, 29.3, and Karen Murphy fifth, 29.3.

Ohio State hosts the fifth annual college association meet Jan 21 at Peppe Aquatic Center.

Jordan Paces Cage Victory

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Kim Jordan's 10 points in the second half rallied Ohio State's women's basketball team to a

68-65 victory over 12th ranked Southern Connecticut for consolation honors in the Penn State Invitational tournament Saturday.

The Lady Buckeyes trailed 33-31 at halftime. In pushing their season record to 7-4, Ohio State held an edge in field goal shooting, counting 31 of 74 while the Owlettes hit on 28 of 62. The Buckeyes were 4-of-9 at the free throw line. Connecticut 9-of-19. OSU ruled the boards 42-29.

June Brewer was the Lady Buckeyes' leading scorer with 18 points but game honors went to the losers' Laura Van Ness with 21.

Ohio State plays at West Virginia Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

fered its first loss of the season Saturday, bowing to Bowling Green by 1/10th of a point. Final score was Bowling Green 128.4, Ohio State 128.3.

Ohio State's outstanding performer was Donna Silber, who won the uneven bars (8.75), floor exercise (9.0) and all-around (33.65). Silber was also second in balance beam with a score of 8.4 and tied for second with teammate Sue Del Balso behind the Buckeyes' winning Laurie Schultz in vaulting. OSU's Carol Draper was third in balance beam.

The Lady Buckeyes open their home season Saturday in a triangular meet with Ball State and Wisconsin-Eau Claire at 10 a.m. at Larkins Hall.

Peppe Aquatic Center Saturday. The Daytonians rolled up 91 points while Michigan State was second with 78 and Ohio State third with 64.

Ohio State's Olympic gold medal winner Jenni Chandler won the 1- and 3-meter diving with teammate Barb Weinstein finishing second in both events.

The Lady Buckeyes' only other win came in the 200 fly where Pam McGill was clocked in 2:19.789.

Ohio State hosts West Virginia Saturday at 2 p.m.

OSU Gymnasts Fraction Loser

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — Ohio State's women's gymnastics team suf-

Wright Wrongs Buck Swimmers

Wright State of Dayton won 11 events and swept a women's triangular swimming meet at Ohio State's



OHIO STATE ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Fawcett Center, 6th Floor | 2400 Olentangy River Rd. | Columbus, Ohio 43210

2013-14 Women's Basketball Schedule

as of Oct. 1, 2013

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (ET)	TV
NOVEMBER					
Sun.	3	Bellarmine (exhibition)	Columbus, Ohio	TBD	
Fri.	8	at West Virginia	Morgantown, WVa.	5:30 p.m.	
Sun.	10	Florida Atlantic	Columbus, Ohio	2 p.m.	
Thur.	14	VCU	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	
Sun.	17	Georgia	Athens, Ga.	2 p.m.	
Fri.	22	Old Dominion (1)	Columbus, Ohio	8 p.m.	
Sat.	23	Marist (1)	Columbus, Ohio	8 p.m.	
Sun.	24	Bowling Green (1)	Columbus, Ohio	3:30 p.m.	
Wed.	27	Lehigh	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	
DECEMBER					
Sun.	1	UConn (1)	Springfield, Mass.	5 p.m.	ESPN2
Wed.	4	at Maryland (2)	College Park, Md.	7 p.m.	
Sun.	8	Gonzaga	Columbus, Ohio	Noon	
Fri.	13	Army	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	
Sun.	15	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	2 p.m.	
Tue.	17	UT Martin	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	
Fri.	20	Appalachian State	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	
Sun.	29	North Carolina Central	Columbus, Ohio	Noon	
JANUARY					
Thur.	2	Purdue	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	BTDN
Sun.	5	Michigan	Columbus, Ohio	TBA	BTN
Sat.	11	at Indiana	Bloomington, Ind.	4:30 p.m.	BTN
Thur.	16	at Penn State	University Park, Pa.	7 p.m.	BTN
Sun.	19	Iowa	Columbus, Ohio	3 p.m.	BTN
Thur.	23	at Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.	7 p.m.	BTDN
Sun.	26	Michigan State	Columbus, Ohio	12:30 p.m.	BTN
Thur.	30	Illinois	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	BTDN
February					
Sun.	2	at Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.	3 p.m.	BTDN
Thur.	6	at Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.	7 p.m.	BTDN
Sun.	9	Penn State	Columbus, Ohio	2 p.m.	ESPN2
Sat.	15	at Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	5:30 p.m.	BTN
Thur.	20	Nebraska	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.	BTDN
Sun.	23	Northwestern	Columbus, Ohio	Noon	BTN
Thur.	27	at Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	7/8/9 p.m.	BTN/BTDN
MARCH					
Sun.	2	at Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	2/4/6 p.m.	BTN/BTDN
Thur-Sun.	6-9	Big Ten Tournament	Indianapolis, Ind.	TBD	

Home Games in **Bold** played at Value City Arena

(1) Basketball Hall of Fame Challenge

(2) ACC/Big Ten Challenge

Times and dates are subject to change



2016 – 17 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

OHIO STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TV</u>
Sun.	Nov. 6	Ashland University (Exhibition)	Columbus OH	1:00 pm	
Fri.	Nov. 11	Duquesne University (St. John)	Columbus OH	12:00 pm	
Mon.	Nov. 14	University of South Carolina	Columbus OH	6:00 pm	
Wed.	Nov. 16	Cleveland State University	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	
Sat.	Nov. 19	LIU-Brooklyn Gulf Coast Showcase	Columbus OH	12:00 pm	
Fri.	Nov. 25	Florida Gulf Coast	Naples FL	5:30/7:30 pm	
Sat.	Nov. 26	Syracuse/Geo Washington	Naples FL	TBA	
Sun.	Nov. 27	TBA	Naples FL	TBA	
Thurs.	Dec. 1	University of Miami FL (ACC/Big Ten)	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	BTN
Sun.	Dec. 4	University of Cincinnati	Columbus OH	2:00 pm	
Wed.	Dec. 7	Southern University	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	
Sun.	Dec. 11	Canisius College	Columbus OH	2:00 pm	
Fri.	Dec. 16	Alabama State University	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	
Mon.	Dec. 19	@ Connecticut	Hartford CT	7:00 pm	CBS SN
Wed.	Dec. 21	Winthrop University	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	
Wed.	Dec. 28	Minnesota	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	BTN Plus
Sat.	Dec. 31	@ Indiana	Bloomington IN	3:00 pm	CBS
Tue.	Jan. 3	@ Northwestern	Evanston IL	9:00 pm	BTN
Sat.	Jan. 7	Michigan	Columbus OH	12:00 pm	BTN
Tue.	Jan. 10	@ Michigan State	East Lansing MI	8:00 pm	BTN
Sun.	Jan. 15	@ Purdue	West Lafayette IN	3:30 pm	ESPN 2
Thurs.	Jan. 19	Wisconsin	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	BTN Plus
Sun.	Jan. 22	Illinois	Columbus OH	5:00 pm	BTN Plus
Thurs.	Jan. 26	@ Minnesota	Minneapolis MN	8:00 pm	BTN Plus
Sun.	Jan. 29	Nebraska	Columbus OH	12:00 pm	BTN
Wed.	Feb. 1	Penn State	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	BTN Plus
Sat.	Feb. 4	@ Wisconsin	Madison WI	2:00 pm	BTN
Sun.	Feb. 12	Iowa	Columbus OH	12:00 pm	BTN
Thurs.	Feb. 16	@ Nebraska	Lincoln NE	8:00 pm	BTN Plus
Mon.	Feb. 20	Maryland	Columbus OH	7:00 pm	ESPN2
Sun.	Feb. 26	@ Rutgers	Piscataway NJ	3:00 pm	ESPN2
Wed - Sun	March 1 – 5	Big Ten Tournament	Indianapolis IN		
	March 17 – 20	NCAA First & Second Rounds	16 campus sites		
	March 24 – 27	NCAA Regionals	Bridgeport CT Lexington KY Oklahoma City OK, Stockton CA		
	March 31 – April 2	NCAA Final Four	Dallas TX		

Home games are bolded and will take place in Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center

Times and dates are subject to change. All times listed are Eastern Standard Time

9/28/2016

**2016-17 Ohio State Women's Basketball
Ohio State Combined Team Statistics
All Games**

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
All Games	25-5	16-2	7-2	2-1
Conference	15-1	8-0	7-1	0-0
Non-conference	10-4	8-2	0-1	2-1

#/ Player	gp-gs	min	Total			3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
			avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg								
03 Kelsey Mitchell	30-30	1016	33.9	235-522	.450	100-265	.377	131-158	.829	9	78	87	2.9	69	0	121	76	2	39	701	23.4
01 Stephanie Mavunga	21-20	465	22.1	98-171	.573	0-1	.000	51-75	.680	102	135	237	11.3	59	2	10	43	48	13	247	11.8
32 Shayla Cooper	30-28	697	23.2	115-238	.483	21-69	.304	57-71	.803	36	145	181	6.0	51	0	56	59	8	19	308	10.3
04 Sierra Calhoun	30-30	664	22.1	97-267	.363	61-155	.394	47-58	.810	33	74	107	3.6	40	0	36	27	8	20	302	10.1
15 Linnae Harper	19-0	359	18.9	63-148	.426	9-28	.321	21-35	.600	37	56	93	4.9	27	0	30	26	2	29	156	8.2
00 Tori McCoy	30-5	486	16.2	101-160	.631	0-0	.000	33-68	.485	57	85	142	4.7	79	3	5	24	40	19	235	7.8
23 Kiara Lewis	30-10	598	19.9	74-180	.411	12-50	.240	57-80	.713	17	33	50	1.7	64	0	55	45	4	37	217	7.2
20 Asia Doss	30-20	674	22.5	57-155	.368	21-65	.323	30-46	.652	15	54	69	2.3	33	1	80	33	1	34	165	5.5
22 Alexa Hart	29-7	446	15.4	56-101	.554	0-1	.000	19-40	.475	38	76	114	3.9	37	1	25	24	36	10	131	4.5
24 Makayla Waterman	30-0	404	13.5	32-69	.464	0-1	.000	26-40	.650	23	67	90	3.0	57	0	30	32	13	14	90	3.0
33 Jensen Caretti	16-0	153	9.6	15-38	.395	6-15	.400	4-8	.500	12	27	39	2.4	9	0	20	18	4	4	40	2.5
34 Theresa Ekhelar	3-0	20	6.7	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3	1	4	1.3	2	0	0	0	2	0	6	2.0
05 Chelsea Mitchell	10-0	43	4.3	5-18	.278	4-13	.308	0-0	.000	1	2	3	0.3	5	0	3	5	0	0	14	1.4
TM TEAM										53	77	130					4				
Ohio State	30	6025		951-2070	.459	234-663	.353	476-679	.701	436	910	1346	44.9	532	7	471	416	168	238	2612	87.1
Opponents	30	6025		742-1971	.376	231-687	.336	419-567	.739	388	786	1174	39.1	592	20	446	491	77	154	2134	71.1

Team Statistics	OSU	OPP
SCORING	2612	2134
Points per game	87.1	71.1
Scoring margin	+16.0	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	951-2070	742-1971
Field goal pct	.459	.376
3 POINT FG-ATT	234-663	231-687
3-point FG pct	.353	.336
3-pt FG made per game	7.8	7.7
FREE THROW-ATT	476-679	419-567
Free throw pct	.701	.739
F-Throws made per game	15.9	14.0
REBOUNDS	1346	1174
Rebounds per game	44.9	39.1
Rebounding margin	+5.7	-
ASSISTS	471	446
Assists per game	15.7	14.9
TURNOVERS	416	491
Turnovers per game	13.9	16.4
Turnover margin	+2.5	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.1	0.9
STEALS	238	154
Steals per game	7.9	5.1
BLOCKS	168	77
Blocks per game	5.6	2.6
Attendance	93921	43505
Home game-Avg/Game	18-5218	9-4629
Neutral site-Avg/game		3-615

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.
11/11/16	DUQUESNE	W 89-69	3434
11/14/16	SOUTH CAROLINA	L 80-92	6683
11/16/16	CLEVELAND STATE	W 96-78	4023
11/19/16	BROOKLYN	W 113-54	4296
11/25/16	vs FCGU	W 79-66	873
11/26/16	vs Syracuse	W 77-72	503
11/27/16	vs Baylor	L 68-85	468
12/01/16	MIAMI (FL)	Lot 89-94	4165
12/04/16	CINCINNATI	W 80-38	5850
12/07/16	SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	W 108-73	3973
12/11/16	CANISIUS	W 89-56	4598
12/16/16	ALABAMA STATE	W 118-61	4469
12/19/16	at Connecticut	L 63-82	9379
12/21/16	WINTHROP	W 88-48	4347
* 12/28/16	MINNESOTA	W 87-62	7105
* 12/31/16	at Indiana	W 92-82	4281
* 01/03/17	at Northwestern	W 94-87	971
* 01/07/17	MICHIGAN	W 96-87	6636
* 01/10/17	at Michigan State	L 75-94	5538
* 01/15/17	at Purdue	W 61-56	6803
* 01/19/17	WISCONSIN	W 70-61	4466
* 01/22/17	ILLINOIS	W 88-64	5694
* 01/26/17	at Minnesota	W 88-76	2896
* 01/29/17	NEBRASKA	W 95-75	6457
* 02/01/17	PENN STATE	W 87-72	4541
* 02/04/17	at Wisconsin	W 96-68	4454
* 02/12/17	IOWA	W 88-81	6679
* 02/16/17	at Nebraska	W 87-69	4278
* 02/20/17	MARYLAND	W 98-87	6505
* 02/26/17	at Rutgers	W 73-45	3061

* Conference game
@ - Gulf Coast Showcase (Estero, Fla.)

Score by periods	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Ohio State	730	566	738	573	5	2612
Opponents	533	452	611	528	10	2134

**2016-17 Ohio State Women's Basketball
Ohio State Combined Team Statistics
Conference**

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
All Games	15-1	8-0	7-1	0-0
Conference	15-1	8-0	7-1	0-0
Non-conference	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

# Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds					pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
				fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fga	ft%	off	def	tot	avg									
03 Kelsey Mitchell	16-16	561	35.1	127-288	.441	55-145	.379	78-93	.839	5	48	53	3.3	34	0	72	37	1	16	387	24.2	
01 Stephanie Mavunga	12-12	249	20.8	51-96	.531	0-0	.000	25-35	.714	55	76	131	10.9	37	1	4	23	28	6	127	10.6	
04 Sierra Calhoun	16-16	336	21.0	46-132	.348	35-81	.432	20-25	.800	17	40	57	3.6	21	0	18	12	5	13	147	9.2	
32 Shayla Cooper	16-15	380	23.8	52-112	.464	12-31	.387	29-35	.829	20	73	93	5.8	25	0	29	28	5	10	145	9.1	
15 Linnae Harper	16-0	308	19.3	52-122	.426	7-23	.304	17-28	.607	28	47	75	4.7	24	0	24	19	2	26	128	8.0	
00 Tori McCoy	16-4	276	17.3	52-86	.605	0-0	.000	17-39	.436	29	47	76	4.8	46	2	2	14	28	10	121	7.6	
23 Kiara Lewis	16-10	320	20.0	39-94	.415	8-23	.348	27-39	.692	8	18	26	1.6	34	0	25	24	2	14	113	7.1	
20 Asia Doss	16-6	323	20.2	27-72	.375	12-33	.364	15-20	.750	4	24	28	1.8	17	0	47	19	1	18	81	5.1	
22 Alexa Hart	15-1	218	14.5	29-50	.580	0-0	.000	14-28	.500	20	36	56	3.7	18	1	14	9	20	4	72	4.8	
33 Jensen Caretti	7-0	31	4.4	4-8	.500	1-2	.500	4-6	.667	4	5	9	1.3	3	0	4	4	1	1	13	1.9	
05 Chelsea Mitchell	8-0	29	3.6	5-13	.385	4-10	.400	0-0	.000	1	1	2	0.3	3	0	2	5	0	0	14	1.8	
24 Makayla Waterman	16-0	169	10.6	9-24	.375	0-0	.000	9-11	.818	8	18	26	1.6	27	0	11	17	7	4	27	1.7	
TM TEAM										31	31	62					2					
Ohio State	16	3200		493-1097	.449	134-348	.385	255-359	.710	230	464	694	43.4	289	4	252	213	100	122	1375	85.9	
Opponents	16	3200		408-1049	.389	116-345	.336	234-307	.762	211	425	636	39.8	317	10	242	257	46	85	1166	72.9	

Team Statistics	OSU	OPP
SCORING	1375	1166
Points per game	85.9	72.9
Scoring margin	+13.0	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	493-1097	408-1049
Field goal pct	.449	.389
3 POINT FG-ATT	134-348	116-345
3-point FG pct	.385	.336
3-pt FG made per game	8.4	7.3
FREE THROW-ATT	255-359	234-307
Free throw pct	.710	.762
F-Throws made per game	15.9	14.6
REBOUNDS	694	636
Rebounds per game	43.4	39.8
Rebounding margin	+3.6	-
ASSISTS	252	242
Assists per game	15.8	15.1
TURNOVERS	213	257
Turnovers per game	13.3	16.1
Turnover margin	+2.8	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.2	0.9
STEALS	122	85
Steals per game	7.6	5.3
BLOCKS	100	46
Blocks per game	6.3	2.9
Attendance	48083	32282
Home game-Avg/Game	8-6010	8-4035
Neutral site-Avg/game		0-0

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.
* 12/28/16	MINNESOTA	W 87-62	7105
* 12/31/16	at Indiana	W 92-82	4281
* 01/03/17	at Northwestern	W 94-87	971
* 01/07/17	MICHIGAN	W 96-87	6636
* 01/10/17	at Michigan State	L 75-94	5538
* 01/15/17	at Purdue	W 61-56	6803
* 01/19/17	WISCONSIN	W 70-61	4466
* 01/22/17	ILLINOIS	W 88-64	5694
* 01/26/17	at Minnesota	W 88-76	2896
* 01/29/17	NEBRASKA	W 95-75	6457
* 02/01/17	PENN STATE	W 87-72	4541
* 02/04/17	at Wisconsin	W 96-68	4454
* 02/12/17	IOWA	W 88-81	6679
* 02/16/17	at Nebraska	W 87-69	4278
* 02/20/17	MARYLAND	W 98-87	6505
* 02/26/17	at Rutgers	W 73-45	3061

* Conference game
@ - Gulf Coast Showcase (Estero, Fla.)

Score by periods	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Ohio State	349	328	357	341	1375
Opponents	263	267	296	340	1166