University to receive $550,000 for football game

By Matt Welch
Lantern staff writer

The upcoming football clash between Southern powerhouse Alabama and Ohio State will bring an estimated $550,000 to the university, Athletic Director Richard M. Bay said.

The Chase Kickoff Classic, sponsored by Chase Manhattan Corporation, is set for August 27 in East Rutherford, N.J. It will be the first game Ohio State has played on the East Coast since 1940.

Mary Homan, OSU sports information director, said the $550,000 figure is almost twice the amount that Ohio State gets from normal games and is nearly the amount some teams get for bowl games.

He said this is the first time he can recall that a business has sponsored an entire OSU football event.

"I can't think of any other instance where there is an outright sponsorship. I mean that," Homan said. "For bowl games, a group of people who volunteer handle different phases of the bowl operations, but that's an individual thing rather than an individual company or a corporate sponsor."

But Bay said it's not all that unusual.

"Various corporations sponsor holiday basketball games and last year Sunkist corporation tied into the Fiesta Bowl, so this is not all that unique," Bay said.

Richard C. Bittenbender II, president of Chase Bank of Ohio, said in addition to the national TV coverage of the game, Ohio State will receive more than a half million dollars for its participation.

But Bay said the teams participating in the Kickoff Classic were guaranteed to make a minimum of $550,000 before Chase Manhattan worked out a sponsorship deal with Meadowlands where the Kickoff Classic will be played.

"We're extremely excited about playing in this game, which matches two schools with great football traditions, and which will provide national exposure for our program," Bay said.

Homan said the athletic department may gain additional benefits with the aid of two factors.

First, gate receipts may exceed anticipated sales and this money would filter to Ohio State.

Secondly, television rights were sold to an independent package who will attempt to re-sell them to major networks who would cover the game.

If they are successful, the increased revenue collected from advertising on the networks will supply the Meadowlands with additional money which will be given to Ohio State.
Alumni to kick off classic in Meadowlands stadium

By Jill E. Allemang
Lantern staff writer

Buckeye football fans who attend the Kickoff Classic Aug. 27, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, can begin their pre-game festivities with thousands of other OSU enthusiasts at the Buckeye Bash cosponsored by the OSU Alumni Association and the OSU Alumni Club of Greater New York.

The bash, which is expected to draw 2,000 to 5,000 OSU alumni and friends, will take place on game day in an enclosed racetrack stadium at Meadowlands Sports Complex less than a quarter of a mile from Giant Stadium, Dan L. Heinlen, director of Alumni Affairs, said.

The alumni association is planning this party on the scale of the California Rose Bowl Bash in 1984 because the Ohio State football team has not played on the East coast since 1938, Heinlen said.

The bash will feature the OSU marching band, OSU cheerleaders and WBNS radio music, David F. Ullman, Buckeye Bash chairman for the Greater New York Alumni Club, said. OSU officials will also attend.

"It will be a convivial party, a place where people can meet and show enthusiasm for their school," Ullman said. "It should be an OSU day."

Ullman considers the marching band the biggest selling point for the party.

"We're hoping that the band will set New York on its ear," he said.

The Greater New York Alumni Club has designed a special t-shirt to commemorate the game, Ullman said. The t-shirt will be available at the bash.

Ullman predicts a large OSU following at the game, as well as the bash, partly because Kickoff game tickets are easier for New York area alumni to get than Columbus game tickets.

The alumni association sent letters to OSU alumni from Boston to Washington, D.C., to tell them about the bash and the game, Ullman said. Those alumni can buy game tickets through the New York club's block of seats.

"All of the ticket orders that go out from Columbus will also have a small flyer announcing the party," Ullman said.

Paul R. Krebs, athletic ticket director, said the athletic department hopes to sell at least 15,000 tickets to the game. "We anticipate a great response from our people," he said.

The alumni association often arranges tours to major, away games like bowls and the Kickoff Classic, Heinlen said.

It is not sponsoring a tour to the New Jersey game, however, because transportation to the New York area is fairly low cost and easy to arrange, Heinlen said.

"People can do it just as well on their own."

However, alumni can call the association to learn about special hotel rates, he said.

The Buckeye Bash, which is free, will begin at 4:30 p.m. Concession stands will sell refreshments. For more information, call the OSU Alumni Association at 422-2500.

Tickets for the game are $20. Kickoff time is 8 p.m.
Loss of players, lack of time hamper both teams

Buckeyes face Tide in Kickoff Classic

By Richard A. Crofton
Lantern staff writer

Alabama and Ohio State both go into the Chase Kickoff Classic tonight feeling they need more time to prepare for the college football season opener.

In the past week, the Crimson Tide has had to overcome the death of Willie Rylies. The sophomore defensive tackle from Phenix City, Ala., collapsed during football practice Aug. 18 and went into a coma. He died last weekend from a blood clot on the brain.

The Tide also lost another key defensive player in All-America linebacker Cornelius Bennett. He pulled a hamstring during practice last week and is expected to miss the 8 p.m. kickoff today.

As for the Buckeyes, they have had their share of problems with players, but in a different respect.

At the first press conference of the season, Coach Earle Bruce announced that Terry White, a starting safety from Cambridge, Ohio; Bates, a reserve running back from Memphis, Tenn., and Derek Isaman, a starting linebacker from Fremont, Ohio, were being penalized for breaking team rules.

Bruce refused to say what rules were broken.

White and Bates were kicked off the team permanently, while Isaman was suspended for the Alabama game. The two starters were defensive players, and their absence will hurt what Bruce thought was the strongest point of the Buckeyes.

The defense will be without Sean Bell, a second-team rover from Middletown. He broke his leg last week and will miss the first six weeks. Ray Jackson, a junior from Akron, will replace Bell on passing downs as the fifth defensive back.

The Buckeyes will also be minus two freshmen: offensive tackle Jeff Davidson from Westerville and cornerback Zack Dumas of Deptford, N.J., both have sprained ankles.

With all of that has happened to Ohio State and Alabama, both on and off the football field, Bruce and Tide Coach Ray Perkins still hold the other's team in high regard.

"They are a fine football team," said Bruce about the Crimson Tide. "Look at what they did to USC in the Aloha Bowl. They really finished strong, and they have most of their team back."

Alabama defeated Southern Cal 24-3. With "Most Valuable Player" honors going to Gene Jelks for his offensive performance (79 yards on 17 carries) and Cornelius Bennett for his defensive play (nine tackles and one blocked pass), Bruce said, "Perkins has outstanding credentials and is very dedicated."

He had the opportunity to work with Perkins at the East-West Shrine Game that was played Jan. 11.

"He thinks a lot like I think," Bruce said.

He believes the key to Perkins' team is the offense, with its strongest point being the players at the "skill" positions.

One of Perkins' best players is starting quarterback Mike Shula, the son of Miami Dolphin Coach Don Shula.

Last season, Shula completed 138 of 229 passes for 2,009. He threw 16 touchdowns and had only eight passes intercepted.

"He has a good touch of the ball and is a good reader," Bruce said.

Gary Blackney, the defensive coordinator for the Buckeyes, agreed with Bruce. "Mike Shula is the key," he said.

"His name is just Alabama in bad position with poor decision making."

The men behind Shula are also getting respect from the Buckeyes coaches. "They have one of the finest 1-2 punches in Jelks and Humphrey," Blackney said.

Bobby Humphrey, as a freshman last year, had a 5.1-yard average per carry. He also had three touchdowns and was selected second-team Freshman All-America by Football News.

Jelks, the other half of Tide backfield in '85, gained 588 yards on 93 carries. He was considered one of the best backs in the Southeastern Conference in the final four games.

"He is outstanding," Bruce said of Jelks. "He runs the sweep well."

Perkins offered the same kind of praise for Bruce's players, especially for Bruce's defense. "I think Ohio State is a great football team," he said.

Perkins called inside linebacker Chris Spielman, a junior from Massillon, the backbone of the OSU defense. Spielman had nine tackles for losses, intercepted three passes, batted down three passes, caused two fumbles and recovered one last season.

"They have one of the best secondaries that I have seen since I have been back in college football for the past three years," Perkins said. "They play a good, tough, aggressive, swarming defense."

On offense, Perkins believes the Buckeyes have a good, strong runner in fullback George Cooper, a junior from Wyandanch, N.Y. He was the second leading rusher for Ohio State last season with 581 yards.

"They have the key guy that you have got-to have on offense, Karsatos the quarterback," Perkins said. Jim Karsatos, a senior from Fullerton, Calif., set season records last year by completing 61.2 percent of his passes and throwing 19 touchdowns.

"They have good team speed," Perkins said of the Buckeyes. "They don't have any weaknesses."
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