

Covering All Bases

Vol. 11, Issue 2

March 15, 2016

BUCKEYES HOLD MEET THE TEAM

Judging by the turnout at the 2016 edition of Meet the Team there is an incredible interest for the 2016 Ohio State baseball season.

It was a day of recognition for both past and present baseball players. Over 250 supporters came to luncheon to meet the 2016 Buckeyes, while also continuing the celebration of the 1966 national championship team for its 50th anniversary "Golden Year".

After a social hour that included a silent auction, lunch was served. A program followed that was led by emcee, Diamond Club President and Ohio State play-by-play announcer Frank Fraas.

Special guests in attendance included Vice President and Wolfe Foundation Endowed Athletics Director Gene Smith, the members of the 1966 national title team and their families, 1965 captain and two-sport captain Dr. Arnie Chonko and former Ohio State baseball coach from 1976-87, Dick Finn.

Smith said. "This is the best baseball staff I've ever worked with. They understand what we are all about. Our responsibility is to help your son become a man in this complex society that they will ultimately go out into. Our No. 1 goal is to help them get their degree, secondly, make sure they are a part of a championship baseball program and lastly strengthen the values that you instilled in them growing up

One-by-one, the 2016 Buckeyes introduced themselves.



The team ended with one of the largest senior classes in program history each on the microphone followed by the captains.

Junior co-captain Jalen Washington, "We've trained at an elite level this past offseason and we are hungry for a ring. I want to shine some light on Zach [Farmer]. His dad and coach are here today and I just want to let you know that Zach is going to be with us

every single day. He's a brother to us and we are going to play every day for him."

Followed by senior co-captain Nick Sergakis, "Thank you to the 1966 team too. You are the goal and why we chose to be Buckeyes. This team is a family. Everyone wants a championship, but not everyone has what we have. We put in the time and that's what we are going to protect."

To highlight the 1966 team's recognition, All-American and captain Chuck Brinkman spoke to the crowd. "Coach Beals, we are honored to be here," Brinkman said. "We love this baseball program and it lives with us, believe me."

Finally, the head coach of the Buckeyes, Greg Beals spoke. "I think the thing we've learned over the course of the year is to stay in the moment," Beals said. "If we take care of each moment and not look too far behind or too far ahead, I truly believe this preparation will allow us to achieve our goals. We have no plans of rising to the occasion. We do have a plan to be prepared for every moment. We will have a great 2016."

BUCKEYES LOOKING FOR CONSISTENCY

With four weeks of the baseball season in the books, the Buckeyes are still in search of an identity. "We have not found ourselves," said coach Greg Beals, "...not at all."

The Buckeyes started the season 3-0-1. In the second weekend, the Ohio State went 2-2 and then the Buckeyes dropped two of three in the Snowbird Classic where they were, once again, subject to shaky fielding and solid pitching.

"The loss to Illinois State is the one that bothers me," Beals said. "We *lost* that game. Against Boston College, we got beat. Their pitcher was just on. We hit some balls hard, but they were right at people or they made a good play... We could never get going. Sunday it was just the cruel game of baseball, and you are going to have those games."

After the BC loss, Beals drove his point home. "Well, they heard it. They heard it pretty good," said Beals, who is not quick to fire on his players.

Beals is also waiting for two of his "Dudes," as he refers to them, to get out of the blocks with the bats. "I'm not pointing fingers," he said, "but if our offense is going to go, then (Troy) Montgomery and (Ronnie) Dawson need to get after it. They were 3-for-23 over the weekend. They need to settle in and get over all the hype, that scouts are coming to see them play, and it's their (draft) year, and focus on *their* season.

(Portions taken from Press Pro's magazine article by Greg Hoard.)

COACHES CORNER

Baseball season is underway!! Our 2016 season began on February 19th with a victory over Toledo in Vero Beach, FL in the Historic Dodgertown Classic. We went 3-0-1 for the opening weekend – yes we have a tie on our record. Due to flight times for our return home we had to set a time limit on the game. Playing at Dodgertown, the former spring training sight of the LA Dodgers, was a cool experience for our guys. Many great players have trained there. We stayed in the villas on site so we were able to walk from our villas to practice fields and the stadium. We got off to a hot start winning 5 of our first 6 games. This past weekend in Port Charlotte, FL we didn't play very well and suffered a few injuries to starters. We are 6-4-1 overall with our last pre-season road series coming up with UNLV. We begin play at home in Bill Davis Stadium on March 18th with Hofstra – this will be our last tune up before conference play begin the following weekend at home with Northwestern. As always we have our eyes set on a BIG championship – we hope to be in position come May 1 to make a championship run with 6 of our last 9 conference games being here in Columbus.

I expect the conference to be extremely competitive – we have a tendency to beat each other up in the Big Ten. That suits us just fine as our guys know how to compete and grind out a game and series.

We are in the process of installing at padded fence in the outfield and re-doing the padding behind home plate. There will be graphics on the padding – this will bring new life to our already beautiful Bill Davis Stadium. If you haven't been to the stadium lately I think you will be pleased with the improvements that have been made.

March 1 marks the date when we are allowed to get back out on the recruiting trail to evaluate the next generation of Buckeyes. The 2016 recruiting class (13) have all signed their Letter of Intent and will be on campus this fall provided the MLB draft doesn't steal them away. Our recruiting efforts are tireless as we look for the next generation of Buckeyes.

I look forward to seeing you at the ball park! Go Bucks!

Greg Beals

BOSIOKOVIC AND CHERRY HONORED

A pair of Buckeyes have picked up conference honors for their early season play.

Jacob BosioKovic was named the Big Ten Player of the Week and Louisville Slugger National player of the week following the first weekend of the season. BosioKovic, who missed the majority of 2015 due to injury hit .412 (7-for-17) with seven runs scored, eight RBI, three home runs, including a two-run, game-tying and three-run walk-off dinger vs. Niagara. It was his first player of the week honor and he becomes the first Buckeye since the 2009 campaign to be recognized as a national player of the week.

In the second weekend, freshman infielder Brady Cherry was named the Big Ten Freshman of the Week. Cherry hit .667 with two home runs, two runs, three RBI and a pair of walks at the Baseball at The Beach Tournament hosted by Coastal Carolina. 22.

TRIO NAMED PLAYERS TO WATCH

Juniors Troy Montgomery, Ronnie Dawson and Tanner Tully, were named to the Big Ten Preseason Players to Watch List.

Montgomery, a third team NCBWA Preseason All-American, was a 2015 second team All-Big Ten selection Defensively, Montgomery did not commit an error in 55 starts. This is Montgomery's fifth preseason honor after being named to the all-conference list by Perfect Game, Top 300 College Players by D1Baseball and Top 10 BIG prospect list by Baseball America.

Tully, the 2014 Big Ten Freshman of the Year, returns to the hill for his third season after finishing 4-4 with a 4.32 ERA in 75.0 innings pitched last year. Tully allowed just 15 walks, fifth-lowest mark in the league, while fanning 44 batters as the Buckeyes' Friday night starter. Tully was named a top 20 BIG prospect by D1Baseball.

Last summer, Dawson, a 2014 Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American, was named an All-Star in the talented Cape Cod League and was named MVP of the 2016 Scarlet and Gray World Series this past fall. He is also a Top 300 College Prospect by D1Baseball and Top 10 BIG prospect by Baseball America.

Michigan Preseason Favorite

Michigan was voted the preseason favorite to claim the 2016 Big Ten Baseball Championship as voted on by the conference coaches. The Wolverines were followed in the preseason poll by Maryland in second place, No. 3 Indiana, Iowa in fourth place, No. 5 Illinois and Michigan State in sixth place.

Michigan is coming off its first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2008 and posted a 39-25 record.

Maryland advanced to the NCAA Super Regional for the second straight season and finished with a 42-24 overall record last year.

EARLY SEASON HONORS

Junior outfielders Ronnie Dawson and Troy Montgomery have been 2016 Preseason All-Big Ten team by Perfect Game and Jalen Washington has been named to Johnny Bench Award Watch List.

Dawson, batted .279 with 15 doubles, seven home runs, 34 RBI along with 16 stolen bases as a sophomore.

Montgomery, batted .317 with 22 extra base hits and led the Big Ten with 35 stolen bases, which tied the OSU single-season record. As a sophomore, Montgomery was named a second team All-Big Ten selection. Montgomery has also been named to the second team all-conference preseason list by collegesportsmadness.com.

Both Montgomery (110) and Dawson (121) were also listed on the Top 300 College players by D1baseball.

Washington, a junior co-captain, is the fifth Buckeye catcher to appear on the list. He joins, Derek Kinnear (2003), Eric Fryar (2007), Dan Burkhart (2009 and 2010) and Aaron Gretz (2015).

Seventy-four catchers were nominated for the award by their coaches. Because the award is given annually to the top division collegiate catcher it is updated throughout the year.



1966 National Champs Honored

The 1966 National Championship team was honored last month at the annual Columbus Touchdown Club dinner.

The team was recognized for the 50th anniversary of winning the National Championship.

Former Buckeye and member of the 1965 team, Dr. Arnold Chonko was given the Touchdown Club's Presidents Award.

SEASON TICKETS AND MINI PACKS ON SALE

With the season underway, season tickets and four game mini plan tickets packages are now available.

Season ticket packages include tickets to all 28 Buckeye home games and offer fans a 35% discount off of single game ticket prices. Prices per seat are: Box Seat Reserved: \$ 190.00, Senior (62+): \$ 150, and Youth/Student: \$ 150.

The Diamond Deal Four game mini packages include four tickets to any regular season home game. Box Seat Reserved: Adults \$ 36 and General Admission Bleachers: \$ 23. Tickets for the Diamond Deal can be purchased on line at: go.osu.edu/BaseballMiniPlans16

The Buckeyes open the season March 18th against Hofstra.

2016 BIG TEN TOURNEY TICKETS ON SALE

Single-session tickets and all-tournament passes for the 2016 Big Ten Baseball Tournament to be held May 25-29 at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Neb., are now on sale.

All-tournament passes, which feature at least 13 games over five days, cost \$50 each, while single-session tickets are \$11. In addition, club level seating is available with all-tournament passes for \$55 and single-session tickets for \$13.50. For youth attendees, all-tournament passes cost \$25, while single-session tickets are \$6.

Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com, by calling 1-800-745-3000.

The Big Ten Baseball Tournament was held in Omaha for the first time in 2014 and established multiple attendance records. The attendance of 19,965 for the championship game on Sunday, May 25, ranked as the largest single-game conference tournament attendance in NCAA history.

The tournament bracket will be announced at the conclusion of the regular season. The Big Ten Baseball Tournament is a double-elimination event. The Big Ten Champion is the team or teams that finish atop the regular-season standings, while the Big Ten Tournament Champion receives the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

EJECTIONS UP LAST SEASON

Head coaches across college baseball were thrown out at a record pace last season. Ejections were up 35 percent from 2014. A total of 150 coaches were tossed.

National Umpire Coordinator George Drouches said "many of the ejections were caused by bad behavior from baseball coaches." Drouches says the arguments are escalated to being laced with profanity and that doesn't leave the umpire much choice. He says umpires have been at fault too because in many cases they didn't know how to handle situations that keep escalating."

Drouches says having a mandatory warning given to coaches before ejections might help ease the problem. "We only had five prolonged arguing suspensions called on coaches which resulted in a two-game suspension." Drouches says he wants to see the number of ejections reduces substantially.

BUCKEYES ON BIG TEN REGULAR NETWORK THREE TIMES

The Big Ten Network will offer its most extensive baseball ever in 2016, with over 360 games airing on BTN/BTN2Go and BTN Plus for the upcoming season.

The Buckeyes will appear three times on the regular network and 26 times on Big Ten Plus.

The network games are March 27th against Northwestern, April 8th against Maryland and May 15th against Michigan.

Highlights and coverage of Big Ten baseball will be featured on *This Week in the Big Ten*, which airs Sunday nights beginning on April 3.

BUCKEYE BITS

Former Buckeye Connor Sabanosh has been signed to a minor league contract by the San Francisco Giants. Sabanosh says he was invited to practice and at the end of the day was told they wanted to sign him. "Pretty unbelievable how it all came together. I'm just excited to get my shot" said Sabanosh.

Former Buckeyes Tyler Engle and Ryan Cypert are assistant coaches at the collegiate level. Engle has been hired as an assistant at Marietta while Cypert is at the University of Dayton.

Congratulations to former Buckeye Mike Madsen and his wife Lauren on the birth of their daughter Madelyn.

NCAA NIXES PITCH CLOCK

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee has withdrawn an experimental rules proposal for a 20-second pitch clock, meaning the measure will not be coming to the sport this spring.

The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel had in August referred the proposal back to the Baseball Rules Committee to determine how many conferences would implement the rule in 2016. The proposal didn't receive enough support, scuttling the measure.

After seeing the average time of a nine-inning game College World Series game increasing 26 minutes from 2011 to 2015, the introduction of the pitch clock to speed up the game gained some momentum. -Teddy Cahill (Baseball America)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

City, State, Zip _____

Membership Fee \$ 50.00

Send Signed Compliance Form and Payment to:

Check _____

Buckeye Diamond Club

Visa/MC _____ Name on Card _____

PO Box 1674

Card Number _____

Columbus, OH 43216

Ex. Date _____ Security code _____

The Ohio State University requires the signing of a Certification of Compliance by all members of athletic booster organizations. Please sign the form below and return with the membership form. All Buckeye Diamond Club members are required to sign a compliance form each year.

BUCKEYE DIAMOND CLUB MEMBER CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

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

1. I have not offered or provided a prospective student-athlete or an enrolled student-athlete an improper inducement or extra benefit, and I have not engaged in any other violations of NCAA, Big 10 or University rules and policies applicable to Ohio State's intercollegiate athletics program.
2. I am not currently aware of any violations of NCAA, Big Ten or University rules and policies applicable to Ohio State's intercollegiate athletics program.
3. I will abide by all NCAA, Big Ten, University rules and policies applicable to Ohio State's intercollegiate athletics program and will report to the Director of Athletics or his/her designee and to the Assistant Athletics Director of Compliance Service any violations of those rules and policies of which I become aware.
4. I will not participate in any organized gambling activities involving intercollegiate athletics in violation of NCAA, Big 10 or University rules and policies or applicable laws.
5. I understand that if I engage in conduct that is determined to be in violation of NCAA, Big 10 or University rules and policies applicable to Ohio State's intercollegiate athletics program, both this organization and the Ohio State university may withhold any benefits or privileges related to Ohio State's intercollegiate athletics program to which I may be otherwise entitled.

Full Name of Member (Print or Type)

Signature of Member

Date