BUCKEYES GET CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS

The 2016 Ohio State baseball team received its Big Ten Tournament championship rings prior to tip-off of the men’s basketball team against Florida Atlantic at the Schottenstein Center. More than 100 friends and family gathered in the Andy Geiger Lounge in the Huntington Club as head coach Greg Beals handed out 35 gorgeous “Block O” diamond rings to each member of the team.

“This is a really fun day for a coach, to be able to hand out championship rings,” Beals said. “I’m really proud of this group and the accomplishment that we did and the things we went through.”

It was a special night for a close group of brothers. At the end of the ceremony, co-captains Nick Sergakis and Jalen Washington presented Larry Farmer, Zach Farmer’s father, his own championship ring. In August of 2015, the Buckeyes lost their teammate and friend Zach Farmer after his battle with leukemia. “Zach, this championship is for you,” Washington smiled.

The Buckeyes received a loud round of applause during their recognition at a timeout break in the first half of the Ohio State men’s basketball game.
**COACHES CORNER**

Happy New Year from all of us in the Ohio State baseball office. We began classes on the January 9 and began our strength and conditioning workout right away. The most critical element of developing our baseball team at this time of year is strategically increasing the pitch count of our pitching staff. It is important to get them in good enough shape for the season without rushing them too fast and create injury. Full team practices begin on Friday January 27 – at which time the pitchers and hitters will begin competing and getting each other game-speed ready. Ready or not baseball season is upon us.

Looking back on the fall semester we did a great job in the classroom increasing our team G.P.A. to 2.98. We WILL raise it above 3.0 after this springs semester. On the field we worked hard to instill the standard of Ohio State Baseball to a large incoming class. This was further emphasized in the clubhouse with our cultural development plan and behavior training. The core values that we live by are Elite Preparation – a “This Pitch” Mentality - and Brotherhood. This training has served us well in preparing a team to work and compete together with toughness.

We are looking forward to “Meet the Team Night” on February 4th. This is a great event for our program as it acts as a pre-season pep rally for our guys. It is a great opportunity to have our family, friends, supporters and fans get together as a group. These people make up our support group which the players and coaches greatly appreciate. Along with meeting the players and hearing from me, those in attendance will also hear from former Buckeye Brad Goldberg who is preparing for big league spring training with the Chicago White Sox.

As the season gets started we are going to Port Charlotte, FL for a weekend of practice and scrimmages on February 11 and 12. This will be our third year of being able to do this training – this is a huge benefit to our program – one that is not afforded to many – it is good to be a Buckeye!! The following weekend we begin competition with a tournament against Kansas State, Pitt and Delaware. The home schedule opens Friday March 17 against Xavier. Our Big Ten season begins that following weekend with a home series against Minnesota. The Big Ten Tournament will be back at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

As always we are excited about our ball club and the prospects of a new season. Whether it is on the road early or our home opener, I look forward to seeing you at the ball park!

Go Bucks!

Greg Beals

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**2017 Schedule Announced**

The Ohio State baseball team will once again play a challenging schedule in 2017 as 13 games will be played against 2016 NCAA Tournament team.

“We have put together a schedule designed to drive our RPI ranking,” seventh-year head coach Greg Beals said. “This is critical in positioning ourselves to once again represent The Ohio State University in the national tournament. We have an exciting weekend in Phoenix for the Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge hosted by Oregon State who will have a preseason national ranking. We open up the first two weekends of conference play here at home. It will be critical to get off to a good start in Big Ten play. Another feature on the schedule is a midweek home series with Texas Tech, who played in the College World Series last year.”

The schedule includes 28 games at Bill Davis Stadium. The Buckeyes were 23-4 at home in 2016, the fifth-most home wins in school history.

Ohio State opens the 2017 season Feb. 17-19 in Viera, Florida. It will follow with trips to Surprise, Arizona, for the Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge Feb. 23-26, the Scarlet and Gray begins the month of March with back-to-back road series. Ohio State will make its first trip to Buies Creek, N.C., for a three-game series against Campbell. The Buckeyes will then travel to Florida Gulf Coast for the first time too, playing the Eagles in Fort Myers, Fla. The squad closes out the early season schedule with games at the Snowbird Classic in Port Charlotte, Fla.

The Buckeyes open Bill Davis Stadium March 17-18 against Xavier. The Buckeyes start Big Ten play hosting Minnesota March 24-26.

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**FIVE BUCKEYES GRADUATE**

Forty-eight Ohio State athletes, including five baseball players received their degrees as part of the autumn commencement ceremonies.

The five Buckeyes include Jake Brobst (Health Sciences), Trace Dempsey (Economics), Troy Kuhn (Communication), Craig Nennig (Family Resource Management) and Pat Porter (Sports Industry).
2016 PRO RECAP

Jacob Bosiokovic-Bosiokovic played for the Boise Hawks (Colorado Rockies – Northwest League – Short Season A). Bosi finished the year hitting .274 with four home runs and 27 RBI.

Ronnie Dawson-Dawson played for the Tri City ValleyCats (Houston Astros – NY Penn League – Short Season A). Ronnie finished the year hitting .225 with seven home runs and 36 RBI.

Josh Edgin - Edgin, split time with the New York Mets and Triple A Las Vegas. He was 1-0 with the Mets and a .523 ERA.

Eric Fryer – Fryer finished the season with the Pittsburgh Pirates after starting with the St. Louis Cardinals. Fryer hit .267 with 13 runs batted in.

Brad Goldberg- Goldberg finished the year with the Charlotte Knights (Chicago White Sox – International League – AAA). At Double A and Triple A, Goldberg was 3-5 with a 2.70 ERA and 10 saves.

Jake Hale-Hale pitched for the Sugarland Skeeters. (Atlantic League – Independent). Hale was 6-3 with a 3.73 ERA.

Michael Horejsei-Horejsei finished the year with the Kannapolis Intimidators (Chicago White Sox – South Atlantic League – A). In the rookie league and Single A, Horejsei was 0-1 with a 0.90 ERA and two saves.

John Kuchno- Kuchno finished the year with the Indianapolis Indians (Pittsburgh – International League – AAA). Between Double A and Triple A, Kuchno was 3-5 with a 4.59 ERA.

Jaron Long- Long finished the year with Harrisburg (Washington Nationals – Eastern League – AA) Between Double A and Triple A Long 5-6 with a 3.20 ERA.

Brett McKinney – McKinney played for the Altoona Curve (Pittsburgh – Eastern League – AA). McKinney was 2-2 with a 3.90 ERA and two saves.

Troy Montgomery-Montgomery finished the year with the Burlington Bees (Los Angeles Angels – Midwest League – A) Montgomery hit .291 with seven home runs and 30 RBI.

Pat Porter – Porter finished the year with Quad City River Bandits (Houston Astros – Midwest League – A) – Porter hit .208 with 12 home runs and 57 RBI.

Ryan Riga – Riga finished the year Winston-Salem Dash (Chicago White Sox – Carolina League – A) Riga, who split time between low A and high A, was 2-4 with a 5.40 ERA and one save.

Drew Rucinski – Rucinski pitched for the Iowa Cubs (Chicago Cubs- Pacific Coast League – AAA). Rucinski finished the 7-15 with a 5.92 ERA.

Nick Sergakis-Sergakis played for the Brooklyn Cyclones (New York Mets – New York Penn League – Short Season A). Sergakis hit .252 with two home runs and 15 RBI.

J.B. Shuck – Shuck split time between Chicago White Sox and Triple A Charlotte. With the White Sox, J.B. hit .205 with four home runs and 14 RBI.

Striking Gold with Goldberg

A big man at 6-foot-4, 200 pounds, Brad Goldberg has a big fastball to match.

“I know everyone is kind of infatuated with velocity,” said Goldberg, who can run his fastball up to 99 mph. “I try to use it to my advantage but at the same time, you’ve got to get people out. No one cares how hard you throw if you’re not getting people out.”

Goldberg, the White Sox’s 10th round pick in 2013 made a steady climb through the system’s first three season. After adding a split finger fastball last spring, the right-handed reliever took off.

Crediting coaches in the White Sox system, Goldberg was promoted from AA Birmingham to AAA Charlotte after just four relief appearances. The 26-year-old was a combined 3-5, 2.70 with 10 saves and 31 strikeouts in 56.2 innings pitched.

“I try to throw it in the zone and let it bottom out” Goldberg says of the splitter. “It’s another look, another pitch they have to have in the back of their heads.”

Goldberg who also throws a slider had his contract purchased by the White Sox and he’s thrilled to be on the 40-man roster.

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“I lot of emotions, man” Goldberg said. “Happy, a little bit relieved. The calls to my parents, grandparents, my friends, it was just a good feeling. Essentially, nothing has really changed immediately, but it was a lot of hard work just to get there and now the real work has to start. It’s just exciting overall.”

Goldberg will head for his first spring training in major league camp and he’ll go in with a chance to make the Sox’s 25-man roster.

“I haven’t set any goals at this point,” Goldberg said. “Obviously, one is to be healthy and two, have a great showing front of everyone at camp.”

Goldberg will have a big decision to make. He helped lead Israel to the World Baseball Classic to be played this spring. Goldberg told the Cleveland Jewish News he’s weighing the pros and cons of playing versus not playing in the WBC “by doing as much due diligence and homework as possible – talking with officials from the White Sox, Team Israel and my family regarding the best decision for me to make.”

Portion from Baseball America

2016 PRO RECAP (Con’t)

Tanner Tully – Tully pitched for the Mahoning Valley Scrappers (Cleveland Indians – New York Penn League - Short Season A). Tully was 4-1 with a 1.17 ERA.

Alex Wimmers-Wimmers split time with the Minnesota Twins and Triple A Rochester. With the Twins, Wimmers was 1-3 with a 4.15 ERA.
**BUCKEYE BITS**

Congratulations to Buckeye recruit Jake Ruby who led the Bishop Hartley Hawks football team to their second straight Division IV state title.

Congratulations to former Buckeye Derek Kinnear and Lauren Cutillo on their recent wedding.

Congratulations to former Buckeye Cory Kovanda and his wife Ainsley on the birth of their son Shepard.

Congratulations are also in order for former Buckeye assistant coach and current Colorado Rockies scout Ed Santa. Ed was inducted into the Mid-Atlantic Scouts Hall of Fame last year.

**CURLIS SHINES IN SUMMER BALL**

Buckeye pitcher Connor Curlis had summer to remember playing for the Lima Locos this past summer. Curlis was named a Great Lakes League All-Star and was also named the league’s pitcher of the year.

Curlis started seven games for the Locos and finished the regular season with a 6-0 record with a 1.06 ERA. Curlis pitched 42.1 innings, striking out 39. He allowed just 25 hits. In the post season Curlis started two games, going 1-1 with a 1.07 ERA. He struck out eight in 13 innings pitched.

Curlis also had the honor of starting the Great Lakes League all-star game and pitched a scoreless inning.

Other Buckeyes to earn summer honors include: Kyle Axcell was named to the Great Lakes post season All-Star team as a reliever.

**Join the Diamond Club**

The Buckeye Diamond Club is an organization comprised of Ohio State Buckeye baseball fans, parents and former players who support the well-being of the student athletes in all phases of their careers at the Ohio State University.

The Buckeye Diamond Club assists the baseball program by generating the revenues necessary to meet the program’s goals during the season and leave in place the platform needed for future teams to maintain the tradition.

To become a member of the Buckeye Diamond Club, contact the club at Buckeyediamondclub@hotmail.com.

Membership is $50.00 per year. The Ohio State University requires all members to sign a yearly Certificate of Compliance. Without a signed form on record, you will not be considered a member of the Buckeye Diamond Club.

The Buckeye Diamond Club does not sell or give the organizations e-mail addresses to anyone.

**SCARLET AND GRAY RECAP**

Even though the Scarlet and Gray World Series played all five games, it took only four games for the Gray team to win series. After dropping game one, the Gray team led by former Buckeye Matt Angle, won three straight to win the series.

**Game One**

The Scarlet bats tallied seven hits behind a strong pitching performance from Ryan Feltner to win, 6-3. Fifth-year senior Zach Ratcliff went 2-for-3 with a run scored, two RBI and home run, while sophomore third baseman Brady Cherry was 2-for-3 with a run scored, two RBI and double for team Scarlet.

**Game Two**

Junior first baseman Bo Coolen hit a walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the ninth as the Gray squad won, 4-3, in nine innings. Senior shortstop Jalen Washington worked a one-out walk and stole second base to put the go-ahead run in scoring position. Coolen, from Honolulu, Hawaii, then drove in Washington with a hard-hit single through the right side. Washington beat the throw into home plate to end the game. For Gray, junior second baseman Noah McGowan was 3-for-4 with a run scored to lead the team. Coolen was 2-for-4 with a RBI, while redshirt freshman Matt Carpenter was 2-for-4 with a double and RBI.

**Game Three**

After a thrilling win in game two, Gray came out and thumped Scarlet, 11-2, to take a 2-1 lead. In all, six different Gray hitters recorded at least one hit vs. the Scarlet hurlers to combine for 11 hits. Tyler Cowles was 2-for-6 with a run scored, double, stolen base and three RBI, while Shea Murray was 2-for-3 with two runs scored, three RBI, walk and hit by pitch.

**Game Four**

Gray claimed a 5-3 win over Scarlet in game four. For Gray, Jalen Washington was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and a stolen base, while Coolen was 1-for-2 with with two runs scored, double, RBI and walk. Gray right-handed starting pitcher Seth Kinker improved to 2-0 in the fall series. The OSU junior tossed 4.0 scoreless innings on one hit, one walk and three strikeouts.

**Game Five**

The Scarlet bats plated 12 runs on 10 hits to claim a 12-2 win in the finale of the 2016 Scarlet & Gray World Series. Ratcliff closed out the series with a solid day at the plate, going 3-for-3 with two doubles, two runs scored and drove in a pair of runs scored.