

129 YEARS OF OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

To quote authors Marv Homan and Paul Hornung, who co-wrote "Ohio State – 100 Years of Football": "Ohio State University has experienced an overwhelmingly eventful, colorful, often controversial, ever-intriguing and, above all, enormously successful football history." Much of the information in this section, which peeks at various seasons of Ohio State football between 1900 and 2016, was supplied with permission from the authors of "Ohio State – 100 Years of Football".

1890
Football becomes a varsity sport and Alexander Lilley is the first head coach.

1899
The Buckeyes notch a 9-0-1 record, their first unbeaten season.

1901
Football crowds and support grow at an alarming rate. Columbus newspapers begin devoting more space to football and most importantly, for the first time after 12 seasons of football, the sport turned a modest profit for the ever-struggling university athletic association.

1902
Coaching hero John Eckstorm shocks the university community, announcing his resignation as head football coach after three seasons and a 22-4-3 record. Perry Hale, a star player at Yale, takes over as coach.

1904
E.R. Sweetland became the school's first year-round football coach. Expectations were high for the 1904 team, driving the athletic association to purchase 1,500 additional bleacher seats to be installed on the east side of University Field. Unfortunately, the team and the expected crowds fell way short of all expectations. Ohio State won just six times in 11 tries. Ticket prices ranged from 25 cents to a dollar for "deluxe" games against Michigan and the Carlisle Indians.

1906
Chillicothe native and former Michigan player Al Herrnstein takes over as head coach. Herrnstein, who coached at Purdue in 1905, was instrumental in proving a non-Eastern coach could be successful in college football.

1910
The construction of new bleachers increases the capacity of Ohio Field to 10,000. Football season tickets are sold for $2.50. Howard Jones, an All-American from Yale, is named head coach.

1911
On the recommendation of Howard Jones, the athletic board hires Harry Vaughn, also from Yale, as head football coach. Vaughn shows little interest in coaching and resigns after leading Ohio State to a 5-3-2 season.

1912
The athletic board, growing tired of the constant turnover, decides to try a new approach and make the head football coach also serve as the director of athletics. Weary of choosing Eastern coaches, the board hired John Richards, a former Wisconsin coach, to assume both roles. The strategy backfires, as Richards goes 6-3 and resigns after one season.



With five minutes remaining in the Penn State game and OSU trailing 37-0, Richards took the Buckeyes off the field because of alleged rough play and PSU was awarded a 1-0 win. Ohio State joins the Western Conference, which later became the Big Ten, but could not compete in the conference in football until 1913.

1913
Only after Carl Rothgeb of Colorado College declined to accept the position, John W. Wilce, a former three sport star at Wisconsin, was named head football coach at Ohio State. Wilce went on to a storied 16-year career at OSU, leading the school to three Big Ten championships. The Buckeyes made their football debut in the Western Conference, creating a wave of electric enthusiasm throughout Columbus. Ohio Field's capacity had been increased to 14,000 in anticipation of joining the conference. Ohio State collected its first league win Nov. 13 with a 58-0 trouncing of Northwestern.

1914
Ohio State produced its first All-American, end Boyd Cherry, and went 5-2. Interest in football at the school continued to skyrocket.

1915
Varsity manager William A. Dougherty wrote the fight song "Across the Field." The song was dedicated to Coach John Wilce and was first performed at the Illinois game (Oct. 16, 1915).



1916
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Ohio State went a perfect 7-0 and captured its first Western Conference title – sort of. For a reason still unknown, the conference did not officially recognize football championships in those days. Highlights of the championship season included a school record 128-0 win over Oberlin, the first win over Wisconsin (14-13), and a season-ending 23-3 victory over Northwestern that decided the conference championship. Chic Harley earned the first of what would become three All-America awards. He was OSU's first three-time All-American and one of only eight in school history.

1917
BIG TEN CHAMPION
A powerful Ohio State team finished 8-0-1, capturing its second-consecutive Western Conference championship. Strangely enough, two postseason games were played that year. Ohio State tied Auburn, 0-0, in a game played in Montgomery, Ala., to benefit the Ohio National Guard training in the South. Another game was played the next

weekend, as Ohio State rolled over Camp Sherman, a team from Chillicothe. Chic Harley earned All-America honors for the second consecutive season, and more importantly, became the talk of the Midwest. Fans turned out in record numbers to see Harley. The legendary Walter Camp, who selected the only official college All-America team in those days, visited Columbus to watch Harley play.

1918

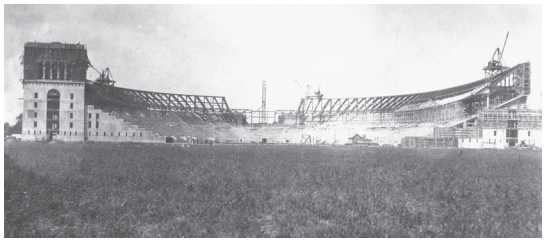
Most of the players off the 1917 team were serving in the military as the United States was involved in World War I in Europe.

1919

Ohio State defeated Michigan for the first time, 13-3, and outscored its opponents 176-12 for the year on its way to a 6-1 season. A loss to Illinois in the final regular season game represented the first loss of the Chic Harley era (21-1-1). The admittance of Ohio State to the Western Conference, the dramatic success of the football team under Coach Wilce and the dazzling play of Harley magnified the inadequacy of Ohio Field.

1920
BIG TEN CHAMPION

A landmark year for Ohio State football. Professor Thomas E. French, a member of the athletic board, and Director of Athletics Lynn Wilbur St. John decided it was time to take advantage of the soaring interest in Ohio State football. An extensive stadium campaign was launched in the fall, with hopes of building a new football facility. The campaign opened Oct. 18, 1920, with a goal of reaching $600,000, a figure considered unrealistic by many. By Nov. 26, 1920, over $923,000 had been pledged. With the campaign in full force, coach Wilce's team kept interest levels high by finishing the regular season 7-0 and capturing the school's third Western Conference title. The undefeated season drove Ohio State football into the national spotlight and caught the eye of the Tournament of Roses Association in Pasadena, Calif. At the conclusion of the regular season, Ohio State received an invitation to play in the Rose Bowl against California Jan. 1, 1921. After heated discussions between members of



the athletic board and St. John, the football team was granted permission to play in the game.

1921

The fact Ohio State went 5-2 and collected its third-consecutive win over Michigan was dwarfed by the construction occurring just a few blocks from Ohio Field in 1921. On Aug. 3, Ohio Governor Harry Davis joined a crowd of over 2,500 to officially break ground on the new stadium. The massive project was scheduled to take only 14 months and originally was to be completed at a cost of $1,341,017. After speculation the new stadium would seat about 35,000, it was officially announced it would actually seat over 60,000, a figure that drew harsh criticism from many. Upon completion, the final cost of the stadium exceeded $1,500,000. More than $1,000,000 of that cost had been pledged by proud and dedicated Ohio State football fans.

1922

Those that cited concerns of Ohio Stadium being too large looked on in awe as the stadium was dedicated prior to the Michigan game Oct. 21. Temporary stands were erected in the south end of the stadium, and a crowd of 72,500 was estimated. The dedication game against the Wolverines was actually the third game played in Ohio Stadium. Ohio State christened its new home with a 5-0 win over Ohio Wesleyan in front of 25,000 people. OSU won the first two games in Ohio Stadium, but finished the season with a disappointing 3-4 mark.



1928

L.W. St. John announces all stadium debt has been paid, a remarkable achievement considering the facility had been standing for only eight short years. Coach Wilce announces his resignation, to take effect in June, 1929, citing the desire to enter the private practice of medicine. After capturing three Western Conference championships and producing 14 All-Americans, Wilce left football and did postgraduate research at Harvard and Columbia before becoming the Director of the Ohio State University Student Health Services in 1934.

1929

Sam Willaman, an assistant on Wilce's staff and a 1913 Ohio State graduate, was named the 13th head coach in the history of Ohio State football. He led the team to a 4-3-1 finish in his first season.

1930

Wes Fesler becomes only the second three-time All-American in Ohio State history, captaining the Buckeyes and leading them to a 5-2-1 record. He also is the first recorded winner of the team's Most Valuable Player Award. Fesler, one of the school's top all-time all-around athletes, earned nine total varsity letters – three each in football, basketball and baseball.

1933

Fueled by an incredible defense, Ohio State finished 7-1, dropping only a 14-0 decision to Michigan. The Buckeyes allowed only 26 points the entire season, while scoring 161.

1934

Francis Schmidt is named the head football coach, ushering in not only a new era but also a new style of football. With an offensive scheme dubbed "razzle-dazzle" by the press and featuring double and triple reverses, laterals, and passes, Schmidt's inaugural team scored 267 points – the second most in OSU history at that point. Schmidt's off-the-field antics were just as colorful as his on-field plays, making him an instant hit with the community. After accepting the coaching position, he was asked how he expected to cope with the OSU nemesis from Ann Arbor. Dressed in his inevitable bow tie, his matter-of-fact answer developed into a cliché: "They put their pants on one leg at a time same as everybody else." Schmidt's comment leads to the formation of the "Gold Pants Club," which awarded miniature gold football pants to all players who had a hand in a victory over the Wolverines. The tradition of an annual Captain's Breakfast, where all former grid captains are invited to a breakfast and welcome the current team captains, also began.

1935
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Ohio State collected its second-consecutive 7-1 season under Schmidt, claiming the school's first Big Ten title in 14 years. The Buckeyes capped the year with a 38-0 season-ending win over Michigan. That season finale launched the now famous season-ending rivalry. Since then, Ohio State has ended its regular-season schedule with a battle against the Wolverines every year but one. Also in 1935, Ohio State and Notre Dame play what was hailed as the "greatest college game ever played," for many years after. The Buckeyes held a 13-0 lead entering the fourth quarter, but Notre Dame scored three times in the final stanza – twice in the last two minutes – for an 18-13 win.

1936

The Ohio State Marching Band performed "Script Ohio" for the first time at the Pittsburgh game (Oct. 10, 1936). OSU dropped its Big Ten opener to Northwestern, 14-13, but steamrolled through its remaining conference schedule with four shutouts in four games.

1939
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Ohio State won its first outright Big Ten title in 19 years. It is the only outright title for Ohio State in a season when it lost to Michigan.

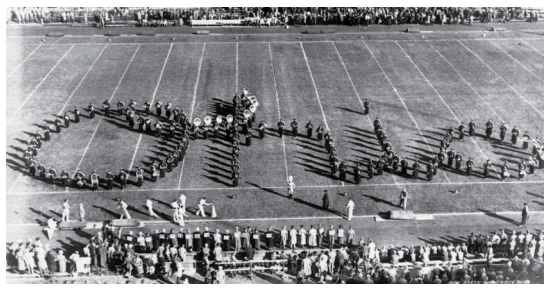
1941

After a dominant high school coaching career in Massillon, Ohio, Paul Brown was named Ohio State's 15th head coach. An incredibly organized, meticulous man, Brown led Ohio State to a 6-1-1 mark in his debut season. He also earned OSU's first West



1942
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Though World War II loomed over the nation, Ohio State football fans reveled in one of the most glorious seasons ever. The Buckeyes captured the school's first national championship as well as a Big Ten title, finishing the year 9-1 and ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press poll. Led by a star-studded backfield that included Les Horvath, Paul Sarringhaus and Gene Fekete, OSU rolled to 337 points, a record that stood until 1969. The only loss of the season, a



1943
With a game apparently ending in a 26-all tie, Ohio State and Illinois left the field. But the teams were called back 20 minutes later when it was discovered the Illini were called for a penalty on the Buckeyes' final play. With little of the crowd remaining, John Stungis kicked a 27-yard field goal – the first of his career – for a 29-26 OSU win. Coach Paul Brown, a Lieutenent Junior-Grade, left Ohio State for the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in April of 1944.

1944
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Carroll Widdoes, an assistant of Paul Brown's at Massillon and Ohio State, was named acting head coach. In his first season, the Buckeyes finish 9-0 and claim the Big Ten championship, but finish No. 2 in the Associated Press poll, behind Army. OSU fans claim an unofficial "civilian national championship." Les Horvath became the school's first Heisman Trophy winner. Ohio State received an invitation to the Rose Bowl, but faculty representatives from around the Big Ten disallow the trip.

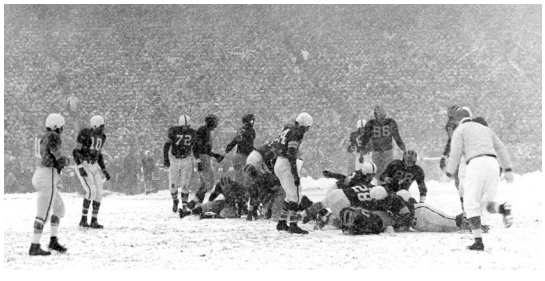
1946
In one of the program's more unique coaching moves, offensive coordinator Paul Bixler and head coach Carroll Widdoes switched roles prior to the season. Following the season, Bixler turns in his resignation.

1947
In the same meeting Bixler announces his intentions to resign, L. W. St. John proposes to the athletic board that Wes Fesler be the next head coach at Ohio State. The board concurs, and Fesler, a three-time All-American at Ohio State in the 1930s, becomes the program's fifth head coach in eight years. In one of the stranger games during the 1900s, Ohio State was afforded three plays after time had expired because of Northwestern penalties and came away with a 7-6 victory in Ohio Stadium.

1949
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Ohio State captures a share of the Big Ten championship and collects its first Rose Bowl win, beating California, 17-14.

1950
Vic Janowicz puts on arguably the greatest individual display in college football history against Iowa. He sent two kickoffs out of the endzone for touchbacks, recovered two fumbles on defense, scored on an 11-yard touchdown run, returned a punt 61 yards for a touchdown, threw a 12-yard scoring strike, and kicked three extra points – all in the first five minutes of the game. The famous "Snow Bowl" game with Michigan was played in late November. Somehow, between the swirling winds and zero visibility, Janowicz boots a 27-yard field goal in what would later be called one of the "Greatest Feats in American Sports" by a panel of sportswriters. To no one's surprise, Janowicz wins the Heisman Trophy. On Dec. 9, Fesler submits a lengthy resignation statement.

1951
After a highly-scrutinized selection process, Wayne Woodrow "Woody" Hayes begins his 28-year tenure as head coach. A tireless worker, meticulous planner, and a Lieutenent Commander in the Navy, Hayes led his initial Buckeye team, which struggled to adjust to his T-formation style, to a 4-3-2 finish. Many thought Hayes' days at Ohio State were numbered. They were wrong.





1954
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Ohio State claims its second national championship with a perfect 10-0 season, beating Southern Cal, 20-7, in a rainy, mud-soaked Rose Bowl game. The rift between West Coast writers and Hayes is born when the OSU coach criticizes the Tournament of Roses Association for not covering the field before the game and allowing the bands to perform at halftime.

1955
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Ohio State uses a 17-0 blanking of Michigan to claim its second-consecutive Big Ten championship. Howard "Hopalong" Cassady becomes Ohio State's third Heisman Trophy winner. During the season, Hayes voices his displeasure over the fact several other football conferences had started awarding scholarships to student-athletes, but the Big Ten had failed to follow suit. After a series of meetings and heated debates, the conference adopts a complicated grant-in-aid program based on financial need, marking the first form of athletics scholarship available at Ohio State.

1956
Ohio State sets a Big Ten record with 17 consecutive victories, breaking Michigan's previous mark of 15. Offensive guard Jim Parker became the first OSU player to win the Outland Trophy.

1957
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION
After dropping the season opener, the Buckeyes win nine consecutive games to capture the school's third national championship and second under Hayes. OSU knocked off Oregon 10-7 in the Rose Bowl for its third consecutive win in Pasadena.

1961
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Ohio State finishes 8-0-1, defeats Michigan, 50-20, wins the Big Ten and is named national champions by the Football Writers. A bitter dispute among the school's faculty council erupted when a Rose Bowl invitation arrived. By a narrow margin, the council voted not to accept the invitation and skip the bowl game. A livid Hayes claimed for years the decision hampered his recruiting efforts.

1963
Ohio State defeated Michigan in Ann Arbor, 14-10, marking the fourth consecutive Buckeye win over the Wolverines. The game was delayed a week as the nation mourned the death of President John F. Kennedy. The attendance of 36,424 was the smallest at Michigan Stadium in 20 years.



1968
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Arguably the finest Ohio State team in history uses a dominating 50-14 win over Michigan and a 27-16 come-from-behind victory over Southern California in the Rose Bowl to earn the school's fifth national championship. Before the final polls crowning the Buckeyes champions are released, Coach Hayes departs for Vietnam for a volunteer trip to talk football with U.S. servicemen. Later, the Sporting News called this team one of the 10 greatest college football teams of all-time.

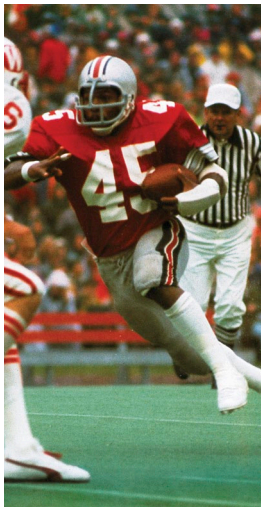
1969
BIG TEN CHAMPION
A squad Coach Hayes called "the best team we ever put together, probably the best team that ever played college football," rolled easily to a 9-0 record, but a season-ending loss to Michigan ended OSU's 22-game unbeaten streak and bid for a second consecutive national title.

1970
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Jim Stillwagon wins both the Outland and the first Lombardi Award. Ohio State rolls to nine consecutive wins – including a 20-9 triumph over Michigan that has been called one of the most emotional games in Ohio Stadium history – before falling to Stanford in the Rose Bowl. Ohio State still was awarded a national championship by the National Football Foundation. A senior class featuring six All-Americans and nine all-Big Ten selections leaves OSU with a three-year mark of 27-2.

1972
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Freshmen are cleared to play for the first time, signaling the start of the Archie Griffin era. Against the better judgment of Coach Hayes but after strong urging from backfield coach Rudy Hubbard, Griffin comes off the bench against North Carolina and rushes for a then-Ohio State record 239 yards in only his second collegiate appearance. OSU uses two goal-line stands – one in each half – to beat Michigan, 14-11, and claim a share of the Big Ten title and a trip to the Rose Bowl.

1973
BIG TEN CHAMPION
Ohio State goes unbeaten, finishing 10-0-1 including a 42-21 trouncing of USC in the Rose Bowl. OSU becomes the first school to own three of the Top 5 vote-getters in the Heisman Trophy balloting. With five Big Ten titles, two national championships, and four Rose Bowl trips all in a six-year span, Ohio State football popularity hits an all-time high. Columbus becomes known as the "Capital of College Football."

1974
BIG TEN CHAMPION
On June 5, Coach Hayes suffers a heart attack, but pledges to return by OSU's opener Sept. 14. The fiery coach, who by this point had become larger-than-life in Columbus, did return and led OSU to its third consecutive Big Ten championship and yet another Rose Bowl. Archie Griffin won the Heisman Trophy, becoming the fifth non-senior to win the award.



1975
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Hayes gives West Coast reporters a now famous quote about Archie Griffin: "He's a better young man than he is a football player, and he's the best football player I've ever seen." Griffin becomes the first (and 41 years later still only) two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy, leading the Buckeyes to their conference-record fourth consecutive Rose Bowl. He also becomes the NCAA's all-time leading rusher in a midseason game against Purdue.

1976
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Just one year after the Big Ten changes the rule to allow more than just the conference champion to attend a bowl game, the Buckeyes notch a share of the Big Ten championship and beat Colorado, 27-10, in the Orange Bowl.

1977
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Ohio State won a Big Ten Conference championship for a record sixth consecutive year and for the 13th, and final time, under coach Woody Hayes.

1978

A win over Baylor gave Coach Hayes his 200th win as an Ohio State coach. He would coach his last game three months later against Clemson in the Gator Bowl, ending a 28-year Ohio State career with a record of 205-61-10 with five national championships and 13 Big Ten crowns.

1979
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Former Ohio State player and assistant coach Earle Bruce is named head coach. The Buckeyes finish the regular season 11-0 and come within a point of a national championship, falling 17-16 to Southern California in the Rose Bowl. Bruce is named the Big Ten and national coach of the year in his first season.

1981
BIG TEN CHAMPION

The Buckeyes capture their second Big Ten championship in three years under Bruce and top Navy in the Liberty Bowl. Art Schlichter completed 31 of 52 passes for 458 yards – all OSU records – against the Florida State Seminoles.

1984
BIG TEN CHAMPION

After a five-year absence, Ohio State returns to the Rose Bowl with an undisputed Big Ten championship. Chris Spielman makes his debut a memorable one in the season opener against Oregon State, making 10 tackles in the second half after coming off the bench. Keith Byars rushes for a then school-record 274 yards and scored five touchdowns in a 45-38 win over Illinois. Byars' memorable day also included a 67-yard touchdown run where he lost one shoe 35 yards from the goal line.

1985

The first night game in Ohio Stadium history – thanks to portable light standards – ends in a 10-7 Ohio State win over Pittsburgh. Flanker Mike Lanese becomes the first OSU football player to win a Rhodes Scholarship. A preseason foot injury to Heisman Trophy favorite Keith Byars dampens Ohio State's hopes for a championship season.

1986
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Ohio State loses its first two games of the season for the first time since 1894, but wins nine consecutive games to earn a share of the Big Ten title.



1987

College football fans everywhere mourn the death of Woody Hayes on March 12. President Richard Nixon, joined by a crowd of over 10,000, speaks at Hayes' memorial service. That fall, linebacker Chris Spielman wins the Lombardi Award and the season - and nine-year coaching run for Earle Bruce - ends with a thrilling 23-20 win at Michigan.

1988

John Cooper, then head coach at Arizona State, is named the school's 21st head football coach after an intense search conducted by new Director of Athletics Jim Jones.

1989

Ohio State celebrates its 100th season of intercollegiate football. The Buckeyes overcome a 31-0 deficit to win 41-37 at Minnesota, equaling the largest comeback in NCAA history. OSU competes in the Hall of Fame Bowl, its 10th different postseason bowl appearance.

1990

Natural grass returns to Ohio Stadium. Robert Smith gains 1,126 yards to break Archie Griffin's OSU freshman rushing record.

1991

Thanks to 5,000 new bleacher seats, home total (654,500), average home (90,500) and single game (95,357 vs. Iowa) attendance records fall.

1993
BIG TEN CHAMPION

OSU records its best record since 1979 by going 10-1-1, capturing a share of the Big Ten title and winning the Holiday Bowl.

1994

The Buckeyes defeat Michigan 22-6, ending a six-game winless streak against the Wolverines.



1995

Ohio State dominated college football's individual awards. Eddie George becomes OSU's sixth Heisman Trophy winner. Orlando Pace becomes the first sophomore to win the Lombardi Award, and Terry Glenn wins the Biletnikoff Award. The Buckeyes tie a school record with 11 wins and play in the Citrus Bowl. OSU sets a school record with 475 points scored. A then Ohio Stadium record crowd of 95,537 is on hand for Ohio State's 45-26 win over Notre Dame.



1996
BIG TEN CHAMPION

The Buckeyes win their 27th Big Ten title and defeat Arizona State in the Rose Bowl, winding up No. 2 in both national polls. Orlando Pace repeats as the Lombardi Award winner and wins the Outland Trophy. It marks the fourth consecutive season Ohio State has finished among the nation's Top 10 in one of the major polls.

1998
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Ohio State notched its fourth-consecutive 10-win season. The Buckeyes spend 10 weeks as the No. 1 team in the Associated Press Poll and cap the season with a 24-14 win over Texas A&M in the Sugar Bowl. Joe Germaine wins the Chicago Tribune's Silver Football Award as the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player, and the Buckeyes go a perfect 5-0 against teams ranked in the Top 25. Antoine Winfield wins the Thorpe Award.

1999

Athletics Director Andy Geiger announces the retirement of Archie Griffin's No. 45 at the Sept. 30 Iowa game. It is the first number retired in any sport in Ohio State history.

2000

The jersey numbers of former Heisman Trophy winners Vic Janowicz (31) and Howard "Hopalong" Cassady (40) are retired at home games against Penn State and Michigan, respectively. Following the 8-4 season that included season-ending losses to Michigan and South Carolina in the Outback Bowl, former OSU assistant Jim Tressel is named to replace John Cooper as head coach of the Buckeyes.



2001

Jim Tressel becomes the Buckeyes' 22nd head football coach. The jerseys of Les Horvath (22) and Eddie George (27), Ohio State's first and most recent Heisman Trophy winners, respectively, are retired. The Buckeyes defeat Michigan in Ann Arbor, their first win there since 1987. The three-year, $194 million stadium renovation is completed.



2002
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Ohio State captures the school's seventh national championship and the Big Ten's first unanimous crown since 1968 by compiling a 14-0 record and defeating Miami in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 3. The 14 victories set an NCAA Division I-A record. Their 31-24 double-overtime victory over Miami is typical of a heart-pounding season in which they win five games by six points or less. Quarterback Craig Krenzel and two-way (flanker and cornerback) star Chris Gamble, share team MVP honors.

2003

The Buckeyes extend their winning streak to 19 games – the second longest in school history at the time – before a 17-10 loss at Wisconsin ended that streak. A triple overtime win over North Carolina State was the first OT game in Ohio Stadium and the longest game in OSU history: 4:17. OSU won its second consecutive BCS game with a 35-28 win over Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl.

2004

The senior class had the satisfaction of being just the second class in Ohio State history to post winning records against Michigan (3-1) and in bowl play (3-1). Chic Harley, Ohio State's first three-time All-American, had his jersey retired.

2005
BIG TEN CHAMPION

The Buckeyes captured a share of their 30th Big Ten title and closed the season with seven consecutive wins en route to a 10-2 record. Coach Jim Tressel's squad posted rare back-to-back wins over Michigan and Notre Dame, the latter in the Fiesta Bowl for the Buckeyes' fourth consecutive bowl victory and third BCS triumph in four years. Quarterback Troy Smith was the MVP of the Fiesta Bowl, where he accounted for 408 yards in total offense.



2006
BIG TEN CHAMPION

The 2006 Buckeyes opened the season at No. 1 in the polls and remained there throughout the regular season. Jim Tressel's team compiled a perfect 12-0 regular season record and won the school's first outright Big Ten title since 1984. The Buckeyes defeated No. 2 Texas in Austin and No. 2 Michigan in Columbus, the latter a 42-39 shootout that will go down as one of the most thrilling games every played in the storied rivalry. After a loss to Florida in the National Championship game in Arizona, the Buckeyes wound up No. 2 in the final polls. Individually, the story of the season was senior quarterback Troy Smith, who threw for a school record 30 touchdowns, won unanimous All-America honors and became Ohio State's seventh Heisman Trophy winner.

2007
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Picked third in the preseason Big Ten race, the young and offensively inexperienced Buckeyes went on to win another Big Ten outright title and finished the regular season with an 11-1 mark, the only loss coming to Illinois. Ohio State, which moved to No. 1 in the polls by mid-October, finished with a 14-3 win at Michigan; after a number of upsets across the nation during the next two weeks, the Buckeyes were No. 1 in the BCS standings entering the bowl season. Ohio State went to play LSU in New Orleans, dropping a 38-24 decision to finish ranked fourth. Junior James Laurinaitis, the Butkus Award winner, was a finalist for five national awards. Coach Jim Tressel won his 200th career game with the victory at Washington. Bill Willis, the pioneering 1940s All-American, had his No. 99 jersey retired.

2008
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Ohio State posted a fifth straight win over Michigan (42-7) for the first time in the storied rivalry. The Buckeyes also won a share of their fourth straight Big Ten title and played in their fourth consecutive BCS bowl, losing 24-21 to Texas in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

2009
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Capturing their fifth straight Big Ten title, the 11-2 Buckeyes advanced to Pasadena for the first time in 12 years, defeating favored Oregon 26-17 behind the play of Rose Bowl MVP Terrelle Pryor. Winning the conference crown outright, Ohio State closed the regular season with wins over nationally ranked Penn State, league-leading Iowa (in overtime) and at Michigan (21-10), the sixth consecutive victory over the Wolverines, an OSU record.

2010

All wins from the 2010 football season were vacated by the NCAA Committee on Infractions. Ohio State, therefore, is not credited as being the first team in Big Ten history to win at least 10 games in six consecutive seasons; with winning 12 of 13 games in 2010, including the Sugar Bowl; with winning a sixth consecutive Big Ten championship; or with winning for the seventh consecutive season over rival Michigan.

2012

Coach Urban Meyer and the 2012 Ohio State Buckeyes were not eligible to compete in the post-season, but that didn't stop the program from doing everything else it possibly could. The Buckeyes posted a 12-0 record for just the sixth undefeated/untied season in school history and won the Big Ten Conference Leaders Division title. The Buckeyes went 8-0 in the Big Ten with wins over three Top 20 teams – at Michigan State, Nebraska and Michigan.



2013

The 2013 Buckeyes extended the 12-game winning streak from 2012 to a school-record 24 consecutive games before a defeat in the Big Ten Conference championship game. School and Big Ten Conference records were set by the Buckeyes for rushing yards (4,321) and total offensive yards (7,167).



2014
NATIONAL CHAMPION
BIG TEN CHAMPION

Urban Meyer's 2014 Ohio State Buckeyes captured the eighth national championship in school history to cap its 125th season of football. Led by eight senior starters, the Buckeyes won their final 13 games to win the first College Football Playoff national championship while tying the NCAA record for wins in a season with 14. The Buckeyes stayed perfect in Big Ten play under Meyer by winning all eight games to extend their conference record-winning streak to 24 games. Then with Cardale Jones replacing the injured J.T. Barrett at quarterback, the Buckeyes beat Wisconsin, 59-0, to win the school's 35th Big Ten Conference championship; a win so convincing the team earned one of four positions in the first College Football Playoff. In the CFP semifinals at the Allstate Sugar Bowl, Ohio State came back from a 21-6 deficit behind outstanding defense and 230 rushing yards from Ezekiel Elliott to defeat No. 1 Alabama, 42-35, and claim national championship game berth vs. No. 2 Oregon. And 11 days later in the CFP National Championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, the Ohio State defense was again dominant and Elliott led an offensive charge with 246 rushing yards and four touchdowns in the 42-20 victory.

2015

Ohio State defeats Michigan a fourth consecutive time, 42-13 in Ann Arbor, and then powers to a 44-28 win over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl to cap a 12-1 campaign. Ohio State's seniors tie an NCAA FBS-record with 50 victories and finish their careers with a 50-4 overall record. The seniors are also part of a school-record 24-game win streak, a second win streak of 20 games, an FBS-record 30 consecutive conference game winning streak and a four-year, undefeated record in road games (18-0).

2016

Ohio State defeats Michigan for a fifth consecutive time, 30-27, in double overtime before an Ohio Stadium record crowd of 110,082 fans. The Buckeyes are selected for the College Football Playoff for the second time in the three-year existance of the championship structure.

2017

Ohio State won its 36th Big Ten championship, and second under coach Urban Meyer, by defeating No. 4 Wisconsin in the Big Ten title game in Indianapolis. The Buckeyes then went on to smother No. 8 USC, 24-7, to win the Goodyear Cotton Bowl and cap a 12-2 season that included wins over No. 2 Penn State, No. 12 Michigan State and a sixth consecutive win over Michigan.

2018

Led by Heisman Throphy finalist QB Dwayne Haskins, Ohio State repeated as Big Ten Champions and went on to win the program's eighth Rose Bowl, defeating Washington 28-23. The Buckeyes won their seventh consecutive game over Michigan, topping the fourth-ranked Wolverines 62-39 and then defeating Northwestern 45-24 in Indianapolis at the Big Ten Championship Game.