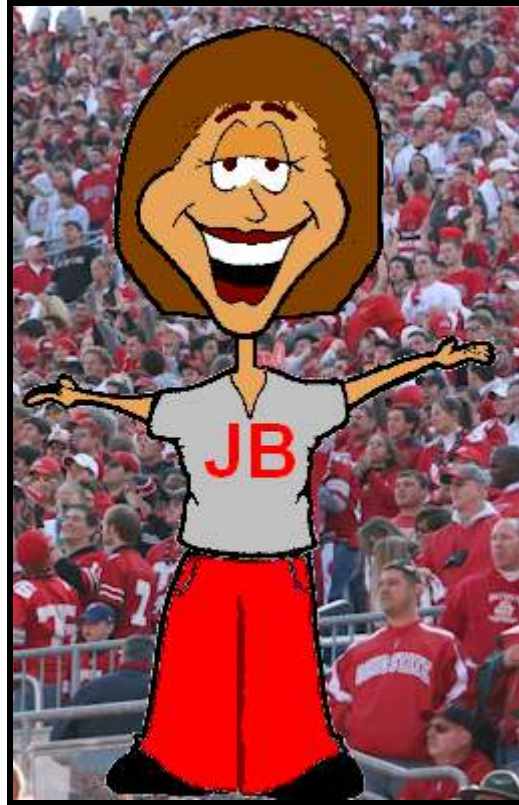


JENNY BUCKS

08/13/07



Greetings from C-bus:

Well, I'm back. It's been a busy spring and summer in the JennyBucks household but as the Buckeyes got into pads for the first time this weekend, I got a chance to catch-up and get a few thoughts down as we move into two-a-days tomorrow.

First, this is going to be a season where much is expected of the defense and expectations of the offense will be dampened by a horse-race at the QB position. The defense brings back a number of leaders and guys who might call it a career after their junior season: James Laurinaitis and Malcolm Jenkins stand out to me. Laurinaitis has already garnered some of the post-season hardware after just his sophomore season and, as Chris Spielman said the other day on his noon-day show, he's got great talent.

All he needs to do is to play with that intensity for every play. Much is expected of Malcolm Jenkins - he's got speed, size and has proven his ability to play the big-time receivers - Limas Sweed comes to mind as a perfect example. Both are leaders on the defense this

year. An incoming freshman turning heads at corner is Eugene Clifford. Look for him to see the field this season.

A question mark is the D-line where the 3 P's - Penton, Pitcock and Patterson are gone. Incoming D-linemen include Todd Denlinger, RS Soph who saw time during Patterson's injury last season and RS Freshman Dexter Larrimore and Doug Worthington both on the inside. Worthington moved from the D End position to play inside this season. RS Freshman Robert Rose will be used like Darion Scott and Kenny Peterson was - both inside and outside. He's got great speed, as do many of the Glenville connection.

What you will notice is that they are smaller than their departed 3 P's, all at under 300 lbs. The outside D-ends are solidly set with Vernon Gholston and Lawrence Wilson with Rose and Alex Barrow in the mix. The D-ends are a bit larger at near 300 lbs. Also in the mix is Nader Abdallah. Much was expected of Abdallah but with a 330 playing weight last season, he was just flat-out fat. He's down to 295 coming into this season, following a sensible menu, cutting out fats and super-sized meals.

As a senior, Abdallah's desire to see more of the field prompted the change and Coach Heacock sees vast improvement.

Also in the mix on offense will be Anderson Russell at one of the safety spots. If you will recall, Russell went down with a season-ending knee injury at Iowa last season but he didn't lose his starting position. He was held out of spring drills but has come back strong. Vying for the other S position will be Jamario O'Neal, Kurt Coleman, and Nick Patterson.

Much has been said by the players of Coleman this fall, making me think that he's making plays and standing out amongst the three.

On offense, it's all about the QB race. I would think it's Boeckman's to lose, however it has been said that Todd is not taking advantage of the opportunity to put space between him and the young comers. It sounds a bit like young Rob Schoenhof (wearing 11 this season) is pushing Todd hard as is the 23-year old Baserman and don't count out the young Troy Smith-like Antonio Henton. My guess is that Henton as the true youngster might be a year away. And certainly the receiver corps was decimated by the NFL draft however, never fear. Brian Robiske is now the young leader (junior) amongst a group of very talented young men. Robo got schooled for 2 years by Gonzo and I'd expect Robo to step up and lead the young corps. There appears to be quite a competition for the flanker position between Ray Small, Brian Hartline, Albert Dukes and true freshman Taurian Washington. Small went off with a bum ankle after Saturday's scrimmage though it is thought to be minor at this point. Don't forget

about Devon Lyons who saw some of the field last season at one of the wides.

The Bucks are said to favor a 2-back set for this season with a probable Wells-Wells backfield (Beanie and Mo) and some use of the fullbacks in the set including Pepper's son, Dionte Johnson as the upperclassman in the mix. Beanie left the Saturday scrimmage with a shoulder stinger. Just goes to show how much the guys were looking forward to putting the pads on in my mind. Also look for the coaches to find a spot for true freshman burner Brandon Saine in the RB mix or maybe as a returner. The O-line will be anchored by Rehring, Boone and Barton - all returning starters (or part time starters).

Besides the QB race, the other item turning heads in C-bus is the new Big Ten Network. None of the C-bus cable stations have stepped up to the steep rate the Big Ten wants making it unlikely (at this point) that the September 1 YSU game will be on local TVs (you can get Big Ten Network on the Dish). That being said, Commissioner Delaney et. al. have been in C-bus now several times trying to reach a deal. The issue is the \$1.10 per subscriber rate that gives you 12-months of access to the network whereas the interest in the network will likely wane in the spring after basketball season ends. Not a lot of desire to watch the always successful Buckeye baseball or other spring sports frankly. The network is also supposed to supplement programming with classroom lectures even! Ugh.

I'm back! Can't wait for the season to get underway....

GO BUCKS from JennyBucks!