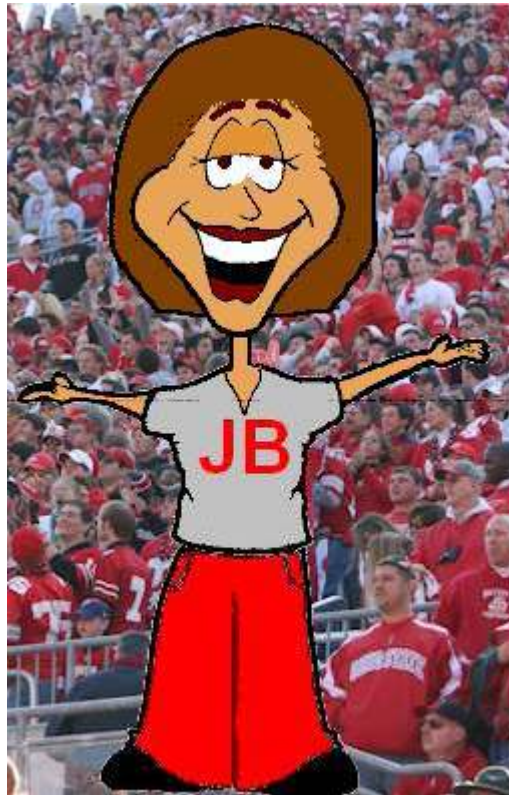


JENNY BUCKS

01/08/08



Greetings from C-Bus:

I have been searching to find the right words for Buckeye Sports 2007 and I've settled on "second best". Second place seems to be the place that the Bucks have taken in many venues, in many of their 36 sports this past year. And "second best" is not to be confused with second rate.

How many of the 119 Div. I football teams have played for the national championship 3 times in the past 5 seasons? None. And yet all day today we are going to hear about how we have now lost two times in our past 2 attempts to win the BCS. We are not going to hear that Ohio State has been in this game two years in a row. And no, I do not want to engage in a commentary about how teams are selected for the BCS or how flawed the system is. I will tell you that the unfortunate outcome will make it that much harder for any Big Ten team with one loss to get back to the BCS game. The question for another day is whether the Big Ten is just inadequate to prepare any Big Ten Champion to play for a title against an

opponent outside the conference. My hope is the addition of Rich Rodriguez and the re-emergence of Illinois will make the conference that much more competitive.

But let's talk about how the Bucks have been "second best" in many sports this past season ... basketball. The men finished second best in March Madness losing to those dreaded Gators in the national championship game. But how many teams did they beat in the regular season and in the tournament and for those purists who love the tournament type of national championship selection process, you cannot argue that the Buckeyes were certainly "second best" at the end of the season. And did you know that the men are now halfway to another 20-win season under Thad Matta. I'd venture to say no one would call Thad Matta and the boys "second rate".

The women's basketball team's Jessica Davenport was "second best" in the WNBA draft, i.e., the second overall pick. The women unfortunately went out in the first round of the NCAA for the second year in a row. But they continue to get into the tournament and are consistently ranked in the top-25 of the nation. Coach Foster continues to put together a roster that competes game in, game out. Look for the women to make another run this season.

In men's soccer this season, the Buckeye men finished "second best" in the equivalent of soccer's March Madness losing in the national championship game to Wake Forest University. This was the men's second consecutive trip to the tournament and their highest finish ever.

And now, football and being "second best" for the second consecutive year leaves you with that feeling of malaise. My husband says he feels achy all over with that taste in your mouth, that feeling on your tongue that meant you went on a bender in your younger days. Yup. That's the feeling.

But there is so much to be proud of as a Buckeye. And let's focus on those things for the balance of the year.

GO BUCKS from JennyBucks!

Jenny Morrison