



ARCHIE GRIFFIN

**College football's only
2-time Heisman Trophy winner...
and the current President & CEO
of the Ohio State Alumni Association**

11/17/09

The Ohio State Alumni Club of Van Wert/Paulding Counties held its annual Buckeye Bash on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at JEHMMS Banquet Facility in Van Wert.

Two-time Heisman Trophy winner, Archie Griffin was the guest speaker of the event. Archie is now the President and CEO of the Ohio State Alumni Association. He is the only person to speak 4 different times at the Buckeye Bash. The bash was packed with 280 people attending and ready to root for the Buckeyes against the Wolverines in the greatest rivalry in college football.

During his remarks, Archie said that he is most proud of the fact that he never lost a football game to the University of Michigan. His football record against Michigan is 3 wins and 1 tie. He stated that the most valuable lesson that he learned from his football coach, the legendary Woody Hayes, was to always "pay it forward" ...meaning that you can never pay back what has been given to you, however, you can help as many people as possible in your lifetime.

As an example, Archie recalled going to visit the Children's Hospital every Thursday night with his team. Coach Hayes purposely had the team go through a back door in order to keep the visits out of the press because he wanted the trips to be about the kids and not PR for the team.

At the conclusion of his talk, Archie was presented with a basketful of gifts from Van Wert and Paulding counties.

Other events during the bash included a silent auction, regular auction, Buckeye Bingo, door prize drawing, 50/50 drawing, announcement of the club's popcorn fundraiser, and music by the Van Wert High School Pep Band under the direction of Robert Sloan.

Last year the Alumni Club of Van Wert/Paulding Counties gave over \$9,000 in scholarships and grants to local students enrolled at the Ohio State University and its branches.

Several large boxes of food items were collected for distribution to Van Wert and Paulding food pantries.

Steve Hall speaks to local Buckeye faithful – 11/13/2008

Dave Mosier/*Van Wert independent*

Although the loss to Illinois has seriously dampened Ohio State fans' hopes for a second national title in six years, you couldn't tell from the nearly 200 Buckeye faithful who turned out dressed in their finest scarlet and gray gear for the OSU Alumni Club of Paulding and Van Wert Counties' annual fall Buckeye Bash.

With the Buckeyes' annual clash with "That School Up North" this Saturday, OSU fans didn't need talk of a national title to get fired up. Buckeye alums also didn't need an excuse to have some fun and, in the process, raise scholarship money for local students. Those who attended the "Bash" played Buckeye Bingo, held a 50/50 drawing and auctioned off lots of Buckeye memorabilia and OSU-themed items to raise scholarship money for area students wanting to attend Ohio State.

They also had a chance to hear from former Wayne Trace – and Ohio State – basketball standout Steve Hall. Hall, a native of Payne, thanked his parents – who also attended the Bash – for their support over the years, while also providing stories from his days as a member of the Buckeyes' men's basketball team from 1990-1993, as well as his assessment of current basketball coach Thad Matta.

Hall, who graduated from OSU with a degree in mechanical engineering, followed that career for four years before deciding he'd rather teach. He's now a teacher of advanced math at Grandview Heights High School in and also lives in that Columbus suburb with his wife, Kellie, and two children, Eli, 8, and Emma, 5. Hall spoke mostly about his career as a Buckeye under Gary Williams and later Randy Ayers. Hall called Williams "one of the most intense people I've ever known," and joked that the first time he went into Coach Williams' office, the coach's neck veins were bulging. "And he was just sitting there," Hall said. The former two-time All-Ohio basketball player said he preferred playing under Ayers, who he called "a players' coach," although he noted that was also led to Ayers' problems at Ohio State. Hall mostly talked about how special it was for a young athlete from a small country school to play for Ohio State, with its athletic tradition. "I have been very lucky," Hall told those who attended Tuesday's Buckeye Bash, noting he had eaten dinner at the California home of former Buckeye quarterback Rex Kern, as well as the Florida residence of the Golden Bear himself, golfing legend Jack Nicklaus. It's that sense of community among Ohio State athletes, grads and fans that Hall said was so special.

He also had high marks for current Buckeye men's basketball coach Matta, who, like football coach Jim Tressel, has instituted a family culture among his players. For Hall, who said he has so much to be thankful for, possibly the only real disappointment was his team's defeat by the Wolverines that kept OSU out of the NCAA tournament's Final Four. Hall's Buckeye teams played in three NCAA tournaments and one NIT tourney during his playing years. Hall got a major laugh when he pulled out his old Buckeye uniform trunks – which are much shorter and narrower than today's long, baggy uniforms.

He also got chuckles when he asked for suggestions from the audience on what to do about his "out of control" son, Eli. Hall smiled as he related how he has taken the 8-year-old boy to a number of Buckeye games over the years, but noted the last time out his son cheered for Michigan. Hall earned some laughs, when he theorized that the reason was because the boy's favorite color is blue. After his talk, Hall also answered questions from the audience and helped out with the fundraising auction held later.

Photo captions: 1) These ladies seem impressed with the workmanship of an Ohio State University-themed quilt made by local resident Roy Souders' brother, Richard. 2) Former Wayne Trace and OSU basketball player Steve Hall gets a laugh as he holds up his old uniform trunks from his days as a Buckeye in the early 1990s.



Van Wert's Buckeye Bash a success – 11/15/06

Dan Stemen - 11.15.2006 – Van Wert Voice

VAN WERT - The Ohio State University Alumni Association of Van Wert and Paulding Counties held their annual Michigan Week "Buckeye Bash" tailgate party, which featured former Buckeyes Defensive Back/Linebacker Ryan Miller as guest speaker.

Also speaking briefly was Melinda Courson of the Ohio State University Alumni Association, and Steve Davis, who is collecting information for a book he plans to call "Stories of the Shoe" (www.storiesoftheshoe.com).

Besides the speakers, fans at this year's "Buckeye Bash" also enjoyed games of Buckeye Bingo, along with silent and live auctions of OSU collectibles that raised approximately \$6,500 for the association's scholarship fund.

The auction included two tickets to Saturday's OSU vs. Michigan Game. JEHMMS Banquet Center hosted the tailgaters.

Miller is a former Defensive Back/Outside Linebacker for the great OSU Teams of the 90's. Miller talked about his playing days while at OSU (1993-1996).

Miller, who became a radio and television sportscaster after graduation and now has his own marketing firm, was teammates with former Buckeye greats: Luke Fickel, Shawn Springs, Bobby Hoying and 1995 Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George.

Fickel is now an OSU Assistant Coach, while Springs, Hoying, and George all played in the NFL.

Buckeye Bash 2006

11/15/06

OSU fans prepare for game of the year



Ryan Miller
Former OSU linebacker

“I think the crowd is going to be good for a score. These Michigan kids are going to be nervous.”

BY JILL DEWERT -- Times Bulletin

VAN WERT —Local football “nuts” gathered on Tuesday evening at JEHMM’s Banquet Center for the Van Wert/Paulding County OSU Alumni Club annual Buckeye Bash. The Buckeye Bash is held every year during the week before the Ohio State/Michigan game. Alumni and fans get together to rally before the big game.

Food, door prizes, bingo, raffle drawings, a speaker, and both silent auctions and live auctions are all part of the party. All proceeds from the event go towards scholarships given to Van Wert and Paulding county students who attend Ohio State University.

Speaker for this year’s event was Ryan Miller, linebacker for the Ohio State University football team from 1993 to 1996, who actually grew up in Michigan. Miller was recruited by several colleges and had a decision to make. “My dad and I made the trip to visit Ohio State. As we were coming into town, I saw ‘The Horseshoe,’” said Miller. “I said to my dad, ‘If I can call that home for four years, where do I sign?’” Miller has one set of gold pants from beating Michigan in 1994 and knows firsthand the level of rivalry between Ohio State and Michigan. “This time of year I get restless and wish I was playing. I know the heartbreak from losing to Michigan,” said Miller. “You keep it with you the rest of your life. People still ask me my record against Michigan. One and three.”

Fan members also questioned Miller how the game stays so clean with such an intense rivalry. “I think it is like looking in a mirror. They have a lot of pride and passion in what they do. Who does that sound like?” questioned Miller. “Ohio State. But who was I talking about, Ohio State or Michigan?”

But which team does Miller predict to win the big match up on Saturday? “I think Ohio State will win by a touchdown or more. I think the crowd is going to be good for a score,” predicted Miller. “These [Michigan] kids are going to be nervous. They’re not going to be covering these kicks like they would be if they were playing Northwestern at home.”

Miller had two charges for the OSU team and fans to complete during the game in order for his prediction to ring true. “Stop the run and affect [Michigan quarterback Chad] Henne. When you are at the game, you have to go bonkers,” said Miller. “When he sees a bunch of scarlet and gray fans in the stands, that’s going to affect him no matter what he says.”



Jill DeWert/Times Bulletin

Former Ohio State linebacker Ryan Miller (1993-1996) signs a football for Ohio State Buckeyes fan Madison Zuber, 12. Buckeye fans turned out in force for last night’s Buckeye Bash, held at JEHMM’S Banquet Center.