New coach, same goal:
National title

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COLUMBUS – A national championship, three Big Ten titles, a 7-0 record against Michigan and 86 wins in 95 games make Urban Meyer a tough act to follow for Ryan Day.

So does the look.

Meyer has always had a look about him that says he is intense, passionate and definitely in charge. But rather than being off-putting, it is also a look that draws people to him.

Dennis Wendel, who was on Meyer’s first Bowling Green team, described it this way not long after Meyer was hired at Ohio State in 2012:

“The first thing I remember about him is his walk when he walked into the room (at Bowling Green). As soon as he walked into the room, he definitely had a presence about him. He commanded the room immediately,” he said.

Meyer arrived at Ohio State with a presence as a known quantity and with two national championships, including a 41-14 thumping of OSU in the 2006 title game, in his pocket.

Ohio State fans had a lot evidence he had the “it” factor as a coach.

Much less is known about Day, who came to Ohio State in 2017 as co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, was promoted to offensive coordinator in 2018 and was the acting head coach for three games last season when Meyer was suspended.

Probably the biggest thing most people know about him is that he is a creative offensive play designer and play-caller who is a protege of Chip Kelly.

But he has never been a head coach at any level before now.

So, there are many questions as people try to predict if he will continue the incredible success Meyer had at Ohio State.

One of the recurring questions is will he be as tough as Meyer? Can he make the hard call? Does he have the look, which is another way of saying will he command the same respect as Meyer?

The question of if he will be tough enough was put to Day at the Big Ten football media days in July when he was asked if he could be “the bad guy.”

Day said, “That is just part of coaching. I think there are a lot of coaches over the years, that I grew up with, that was kind of the way they were every day. I don’t think that is the way you are on a day-to-day basis.

“When it comes time you have to pull that club out of the bag, you are going to need it. If you have been told to do something and you just don’t do it, then we have a problem. But I want these guys to play free without anything in the back of their mind.”

Wide receiver K.J. Hill said, “I think Coach Meyer is more of an old-school, demanding coach. Coach Day is going to ask for the same thing, but it’s more in a laid-back way. Instead of yelling and screaming at you for something, he’s just going to demand it in an asking way.”

Safety Jordan Fuller says Day’s nice-guy image is genuine but that he also can be tough.

“No coach got to this level if they were just nice all the time. Obviously he has that streak, and he can motivate somebody to get the job done. I don’t know exactly how he’ll do it, but I know if he’s talking to me I’m going to listen,” he said.

Wide receiver Austin Mack says Day has already shown he is tough enough when players were late for a meeting or workouts or didn’t pay attention to their weight.

“We’ve had issues this summer, and he has handled them really well. He comes on as a nice guy because
he wants to show it is tough love. He expects a certain standard, and if you don’t reach that standard he’s going to make sure you know about it,” Mack said.

One person who has no doubts Day is ready for the challenge of following Meyer is Kelly, his offensive coordinator in college who later hired him as an assistant coach for the Philadelphia Eagles and San Francisco 49ers.

When Day took over as interim coach last season, Kelly texted him “You were built for this.”

Day, who turned 40 years old earlier this year, grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, where he was the quarterback of a state champion football team at Central High School.

He went on to start at quarterback at the University of New Hampshire for three years. He is fourth in career passing yards at New Hampshire and still holds the record for passes attempted in a game (65).

He started his coaching career as tight ends coach at New Hampshire in 2002. He was a graduate assistant at Boston College for two years before Meyer hired him as a graduate assistant at Florida in 2005.

Since then, he has worked at Temple twice, Boston College twice for the Philadelphia Eagles and the San Francisco 49ers before becoming Ohio State’s co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach in 2017. OSU is only the second job where Day has stayed more than two years.

Day left no doubt he knows what is expected of him on the day he was introduced as Meyer’s successor.

“It didn’t take long for me to figure out what the expectations were in Ohio State football. No. 1, win the rivalry game. And No. 2, win every game after that,” he said.

Ironically, considering all the concern that Day won’t be like Meyer, on that same day, Meyer’s advice to OSU’s new coach was that he should be himself.

“First, he’s got to be himself. That was great advice to me as a young coach from Lou Holtz and Earle Bruce. You can’t try to be someone else,” Meyer said.
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COLUMBUS – As Justin Fields goes, so goes Ohio State this season.

If you want to predict how many games the Buckeyes will win this fall, there is no information more valuable than knowing how the highly rated and much-hyped quarterback will perform after transferring from Georgia and being granted immediate eligibility.

Dwayne Haskins left a huge hole to fill when he declared for the NFL draft after setting Ohio State records for passing yards (4,831) and touchdown passes (50) last season. He was drafted No. 15 in the 2019 NFL draft by Washington.

Fields is a former five-star recruit who was ranked the No. 1 quarterback recruit nationally in the 2018 recruiting class by some analysts and No. 2 behind Clemson’s Trevor Lawrence by others.

He enrolled at Georgia in January 2018 and played in the Bulldogs’ spring game, but after one year as Jake Fromm’s backup, he began to explore the possibility of transferring.

On Jan. 4, he transferred to Ohio State, and on Feb. 8 the NCAA waived the requirement that transfers sit out a season for him.

Fields’ arrival led to the departure of Tate Martell, last year’s No. 2 quarterback at Ohio State, who transferred to Miami, and its No. 3 quarterback, Matthew Baldwin, who left for TCU.

That means OSU’s top three quarterbacks are Fields, Gunnar Hoak and Chris Chugunov. Hoak was expected to spend a second year as Kentucky’s No. 2 quarterback this season before transferring to Ohio State. And Chugunov, who came to Ohio State last year, had two career starts at West Virginia, both in 2017 when the starter was injured.

Fields completed 27 of 39 passes and threw for four touchdowns without an interception last season at Georgia.

He also rushed for 266 yards and four touchdowns.

He is expected to be more of a dual threat than Haskins, though probably not the exceptional passer his predecessor was. At least not right away.

In high school, Fields passed for 4,187 yards and rushed for 2,096 yards in two years as a starter at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, Georgia.

The only chance to see Fields for any extended period of time since he arrived in Columbus was OSU’s spring game, where he was 4 of 13 passing and rushed for 38 yards under conditions that were quite a bit different from actual game conditions.

It is difficult to see Ohio State doing anything other than giving the overwhelming percentage of the snaps at quarterback this season to Fields.

That’s not really a question. But there are questions that remain about him.

Will he produce the kind of season that is expected? Will he be more like Haskins or more of a J.T. Barrett-type quarterback? Or will he be something in between?

Will he make plays with his feet as well as his arm, or will Ohio State be reluctant to have him run the ball because losing him to an injury might drastically change the direction the season takes?

And maybe the biggest question of all is just what does Ohio State have in Fields. His experience in college football is very limited. Between Georgia and Ohio State, he has thrown more passes in spring games than he has in real games.
Ohio State defense seeks redemption

By Jim Naveau
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COLUMBUS – They played hard but often not very well. They took some big hits, some of them on the field and some of them off the field from their critics.

Ohio State’s defense was the weak link on a football team that finished 13-1 last season and was ranked No. 3 in the country but still heard that it was a disappointment.

Now, with nine returning starters, four new defensive coaches and a new scheme, OSU’s defensive players say things will be different this year.

“Last year wasn’t fun, and it wasn’t the year we wanted at all. So this year is for redemption and to prove everybody wrong,” safety Jordan Fuller said.

“It was really frustrating. We heard that we’re better than this, and we have to tighten everything up. But things kept happening. It was bad vibes all around. It wasn’t fun. You wanted to play well. Every week you prepared, but it wasn’t panning out for whatever reason. It was a whole bunch of reasons,” he said.

Ohio State ranked No. 51 nationally in scoring defense, No. 72 in total yards allowed, No. 86 in passing yards allowed and was the most penalized FBS team in the country.

Probably the most glaring deficiency was the regularity with which the Buckeyes’ defenders gave up big plays.

It started in the season opener, when Oregon State’s Artavis Pierce had touchdown runs of 80 yards and 78 yards, and it never got fixed.

To list just a few of the other big plays, TCU’s Darius Anderson had a 93-yard run, Penn State’s Trace McSorley threw a 93-yard touchdown pass, Maryland’s Anthony McFarland had runs of 81 yards, 75 yards and 52 yards, and Northwestern’s John Moten had a 77-yard run in the Big Ten championship game.

Add it all up, and Ohio State allowed 38 plays of 30 yards or more last season.

The problems started with Nick Bosa’s season-ending groin injury the third week of the season. Several of the other defensive linemen, such as Chase Young and Robert Landers, played hurt for much of the season.

That put more pressure on the linebackers and defensive backs. And whether it was poor coaching, lack of talent or bad on-field decisions, they struggled and struggled and struggled.

While they are driven to do better, OSU’s defensive players say they learned something last year but won’t dwell on what went wrong.

“Last season was last season, and as much as we would like to change things and make things look a little better, it happened,” defensive end Jonathan Cooper said. “The best thing we can do is just learn from those mistakes, not really pay attention to the numbers, per se, or say, ‘Oh, we gave up this. Oh, we gave up that.’ Just learn from our mistakes and how we can prevent them from happening again this season.

“We don’t look back and say, ‘Oh, you messed up here. You messed up there.’ We just say that wasn’t the standard of the Ohio State defense. We have to do better. We know that. That’s why we have this chip on our shoulder. I’m positive you will see a different defense than you saw last year,” he said.

Cornerback Jeffrey Okudah said OSU’s defensive backs have “an attitude of redemption.”

Damon Arnette, the other starting cornerback, said, “I feel this year is like the reset button for real, especially for me since it’s my last year. It’s all or nothing for real. The question is are we going to play to the talent level and not let distractions come between what we know we can do on the field.”

If the Buckeyes don’t deliver that improvement, they’ll hear more things like the message Arnette got from a fan last season.

“I got a Twitter message one time that said I need to go back to high
Defense

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school and pick a different sport. I was like, 'Damn,' Arnette said.

But another time Arnette had to admit at least one of OSU's problems on defense was so obvious that a fan could identify it.

"They were saying, 'Why aren't the corners looking back for the ball?' In my head I'm thinking, 'Why the hell aren't we looking back for the ball?" he said.

What OSU coach Ryan Day is looking for is improvement from the defense but says it doesn't have to be perfect.

"Is it going to be perfect? No, it isn't going to be perfect," he said. "We're going to solve the problems as they come. How quickly we can solve those problems will indicate what kind of defense we'll be."

Day did not hesitate to make changes on the defensive coaching staff when he took over for Urban Meyer. Legendary line coach Larry Johnson is the only one of last year's defensive coaches who is back this year.

Longtime Michigan assistant Greg Mattison and San Francisco 49ers defensive backs coach Jeff Hafley will be OSU's defensive co-directors, and Hafley will also coach the defensive backs. They replaced Greg Schiano and Alex Grinch.

Al Washington, another former Michigan assistant, will be the linebackers coach, replacing Bill Davis, and Matt Barnes will be the assistant defensive backs coach, replacing Taver Johnson, whose title last year was cornerbacks coach.

Those new coaches have brought a different approach to Ohio State's defense and the players have embraced it.

"It's just a whole new scheme of how our defense is. I like it because it is simpler. It's just having us play hard and play fast. See ball, get ball," Cooper said.

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**2018 OHIO STATE STATISTICS**

**PASSING YARDS**
- Dwayne Haskins`4,831
- Tate Martell`269

**RUSHING YARDS**
- J.K. Dobbins`1,053
- Mike Weber`954
- Tate Martell`128
- Dwayne Haskins`108
- Master Teague`106

**RECEIVING YARDS**
- Parris Campbell`1,063
- K.J. Hill`885
- Terry McLaurin`701
- Johnnie Dixon`669
- Binjimen Victor`354
- Austin Mack`331

**PASS RECEPTIONS**
- Parris Campbell`90
- K.J. Hill`70
- Johnnie Dixon`42
- Terry McLaurin`35
- Austin Mack`26
- Binjimen Victor`21

**TACKLES**
- Jordan Fuller`81
- Malik Harrison`81
- Tuf Borland`67
- Pete Werner`58
- Brendon White`46
- Dre'Mont Jones`43
- Damon Arnette`40

**TACKLES FOR LOSS**
- Chase Young`15.5
- Dre'Mont Jones`13
- Tuf Borland`9
- Malik Harrison`8.5
- Pete Werner`7.5

**SACKS**
- Chase Young`10.5
- Dre'Mont Jones`8.5
- Nick Bosa`4
- Tuf Borland`3
- Pete Werner`3
- Malik Harrison`2.5
- Jonathan Cooper`2.5

**INTERCEPTIONS**
- Shaun Wade`3
- Kendall Sheffield`2

**FIELD GOALS**
- Blake Haubeil`10/13
- Sean Nuernberger`3/5

**PUNTS**
- Drue Chrisman`43.2

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**Ohio State defensive lineman Chase Young (2) prepares to wrap up Indiana running back Stevie Scott during the Buckeyes’ game against the Hoosiers at Ohio Stadium last season.**

**Ohio State safety Jordan Fuller (4) prepares to stop Washington running back Myles Gaskin in the first quarter of the Rose Bowl game.**

**Ohio State defensive lineman Robert Landers sacks Michigan quarterback Shea Patterson during a 62-39 win over the Wolverines at Ohio Stadium last season.**

**Ohio State safety Brendon White rushes Purdue punter Joe Schopper during the Buckeyes’ loss to the Boilermakers last season.**

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Dobbins wants to have huge season

By Jim Naveau
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COLUMBUS – After a brilliant freshman season in 2017, some people thought J.K. Dobbins might make records fall last season.

Instead, his production fell. But the Ohio State running back says he intends to make up for it this season and is driven by the disappointment he felt in his performance last season.

“To me, it was a failure,” Dobbins said about his 2018 season on the day Ohio State opened preseason practice.

To most people, rushing for more than 1,000 yards for a second straight season would not be a failure.

Dobbins was the Buckeyes’ leading rusher with 1,053 yards, but he pushes back against any suggestion last season was a good one for him.

His opinion is all about expectations. As a freshman Dobbins rushed for 1,403 yards, had six games of 100 yards or more and averaged 7.2 yards a carry.

Last season his rushing total dipped by nearly 400 yards, his 100-yard games were cut in half and he averaged only 4.6 yards a carry.

After his big freshman season, betting site Bovada listed him as one of the top two contenders for the Heisman Trophy in January 2018 and another site followed suit in April.

But when everything was sorted out, he was only second-team All-Big Ten, as selected by the coaches, and honorable mention All-Big Ten, as selected by the media.

“I rushed for a thousand yards, but I feel like I can rush for way more yards this year. Last year was a failure to me. You’ll see more pop, more explosion, more everything this year,” Dobbins said.

“I feel like everything is coming together at the right time. I feel like I’m the best running back in the nation, and I want to prove that.”

Dobbins should get more chances to back up that claim than he had last season, when he and Mike Weber shared the running back position and quarterback Dwayne Haskins, now with the Washington Redskins, threw for 4,831 yards and 50 touchdowns.

Dobbins got the chance to be the No. 1 running back as a freshman when Weber suffered a preseason hamstring injury, which limited him to seven carries in OSU’s first three games.

Dobbins rushed for 181 yards in the 2017 opener against Indiana and remained the first option in the ground game most of the season.

But last year Weber was healthy again and rushed for 954 yards before passing up his final year of eligibility this season to go to the NFL.

“J.K. can’t handle all that by himself, he’s going to need help,” Day said.

“We have a lot of guys battling for it but we do not have a legitimate back-up running back as one of the goals in preseason practice.”

“J.K. can’t handle all that by himself, he’s going to need help,” Day said.

“First off, they’ve got to take care of the ball. That’s No. 1. Ball security is critical for us. We have to secure the ball. We have to block. They have to do good job in protection, picking up blitzes,” he said.

During spring practice he had a slightly different view of sharing carries. He said it didn’t bother him, but added, “You approach the game differently. It changed our games.”

Running backs coach Tony Alford said from his vantage point he saw Dobbins trying too hard to make big plays last season.

“He was always trying to make this huge play because we were rotating backs. His thing was, ‘If I’m only going to get so many reps (repetitions), every chance I get I’m going to try to blow the doors wide open.’

“That’s not how the game works. You’ve got to stay with the design of the play. So there was some frustration in there. There are a bunch of things that play into that, the mental aspect of it, and I could have done a better job of helping him navigate those waters,” Alford said.

“Our whole thing this offseason and really toward the end of last season was get back to what you were. We need to get back to this, and we’re going to get back to this.”

Dobbins said, “It looked way better freshman year, and it felt better. Last year did not feel as good, and I think I can do much better. I didn’t make defenses fear me as I should. I want to have that responsibility of the team leaning on me in a time of need.”

Ohio State is expected to need Dobbins in a way it didn’t last season. At quarterback, former five-star recruit Justin Fields, a transfer from Georgia who is expected to start, will be in his first season in the Buckeyes program.

And, like Fields, none of the expected backup quarterbacks have played in a game at OSU.

Also, the backup running backs are short on experience. Coach Ryan Day listed finding a back-up running back as one of the goals in preseason practice.

“First off, they’ve got to take care of the ball. That’s No. 1. Ball security is critical for us. We have to secure the ball. We have to block. They have to do good job in protection, picking up blitzes,” he said.

Ohio State running back J.K. Dobbins (2) finds some running room against Michigan State last season behind the blocks of Isaiah Prince (59) and Demetrius Knox (78).
Indiana
Last year: 5-7, 2-7 Big Ten, sixth in the East
Returning starters: 17 (7 offense, 8 defense, punter, kicker)
Players to watch: QB Peyton Ramsey, RB Stevie Scott, WR Nick Westbrook, WR Donavan Hale, OT Coy Cronk, LB Reakwon Jones
The big questions: Can Indiana make its first bowl trip since 2016? If it does, can it win a bowl game for the first time since 1991? Will quarterback Peyton Ramsey, who threw 19 touchdown passes and 13 interceptions last season, keep the starting job? How much of an effect will new offensive and defensive coordinators have on the Hoosiers, who ranked 10th in the Big Ten in points scored and points allowed in 2018?
Coach’s quote: “We don’t plan to run a two-quarterback system. Obviously it’s happened in the past and it’s been successful other places, but the plan is to pick one and let him be the man.” — Tom Allen

Maryland
Last year: 5-7, 3-6 Big Ten, fifth in the east
Returning starters: 8 (3 offense, 4 defense, kicker)
Players to watch: QB Josh Jackson, RB Anthony McFarland, DB Antoine Brooks Jr., LB Keandre Jones
The big questions: Will Josh Jackson, a Virginia Tech transfer who threw for 2,991 yards and 20 touchdowns in 2017, bring some balance to Maryland’s offense, which ranked No. 20 nationally in rushing and No. 121 in passing last season? Can the ‘Terrapins’ defense, which gave up 33 or more points in six games last season, get better? Will linebacker Keandre Jones, who transferred from Ohio State, become an impact player?
Coach’s quote: “As they like to say, the third time’s a charm. I’m hoping that’s the case here for me at Maryland.” — Mike Locksley, who was a Maryland assistant twice earlier in his career

Michigan
Last year: 10-3, 8-1 Big Ten, tie for first in the East
Returning starters: 15 (8 offense, 5 defense, kicker, punter)
Players to watch: QB Shea Patterson, WR Donovan Peoples-Jones; WR Nico Collins, OL Jon Runyan Jr., CB Lavert Hill
The big questions: Jim Harbaugh was hired amid much fanfare in 2015 to make Michigan football elite again, so is this the year it wins a championship and beats Ohio State for the first time in the Harbaugh era? Will the hiring of former Alabama co-offensive coordinator Josh Gattis unleash quarterback Shea Patterson and a good group of receivers in a no-huddle spread offense? Can someone emerge as a No. 1 running back?
Coach’s quote: “I think that is where I would pick us.” — Jim Harbaugh about predictions Michigan will win the Big Ten championship.

Michigan State
Last year: 7-6, 5-4 Big Ten, fourth in the east
Returning starters: 20 (10 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter)
Players to watch: QB Brian Lewerke, WR Darrell Stewart, WR Cody White, RB Connor Heyward, DL Raequan Williams, DL Kenny Willekes, LB Joe Bachie, CB Josiah Scott

Indiana quarterback Peyton Ramsey (12) tries to escape from the grasp of Michigan defensive lineman Kwity Paye, bottom, in a game last season.

Michigan quarterback Shea Patterson (2) throws a pass against Indiana during a game last season in Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, Mich.
Big Ten West Division preview

Illinois
Last year: 4-8, 2-7 Big Ten, seventh in the West
Returning starters: 17 (6 offense, 10 defense, punter)
Players to watch: QB Brandon Peters, QB Isaiah Williams, RB Reggie Corbin, WR Ricky Smalling, DE Bobby Roundtree, CB Nate Hobbs
The big questions: Will former Michigan quarterback Brandon Peters live up to his Top 100 recruiting ranking coming out of high school for the Illini after transferring? Will he have targets to throw to in an offense where the top receiver Ricky Smalling caught only 33 passes in 2018? How many wins will it take for Lovie Smith to keep his job?
Coach's quote: “We were one of the worst defenses in college football. Right after the season, we went to work to correct that.” — Lovie Smith

Iowa
Last year: 9-4, 5-4 Big Ten, tied for second in the West
Returning starters: 10 (5 offense, 4 defense, punter)
Players to watch: QB Nate Stanley, RB Mekhi Sargent, WR Brandon Smith, DE A.J. Epenesa, LB Dijimon Colbert, CB Michael Ojemudia
The big questions: Who will replace the catches of wide receiver Nate Easley and tight ends T.J. Hockenson and Noah Fant, who combined to catch 140 passes, 18 of them for touchdowns, last season? Can three-year starting quarterback Nate Stanley break Chuck Long's Iowa career

East

The big questions: Can Michigan State's defense get enough help from the offense to be a Big Ten contender? The 2018 Spartans ranked tenth nationally in total defense but their 18.7 points a game on offense was No. 125. Can quarterback Brian Lewerke bounce back from a shoulder injury that made him ineffective last season? Do the Spartans have the toughest road schedule in the Big Ten with games at Ohio State, Michigan, Wisconsin and Northwestern?
Coach's quote: “I expect great things from him and I expect him to return to his sophomore status and am very excited to watch him play.” – Mark Dantonio on quarterback Brian Lewerke

Ohio State
Last year: 13-1, 8-1 Big Ten champion
Returning starters: 14 (4 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter)
Players to watch: QB Justin Fields, RB J.K. Dobbins, WR K.J. Hill, WR Chris Olave, DE Chase Young, DE Jonathan Cooper, DB Jordan Fuller
The big questions: Will first-year coach Ryan Day continue the incredible success Urban Meyer had in seven seasons at Ohio State? Will Georgia transfer Justin Fields fill the hole left when Dwayne Haskins (4,831 yards passing and 50 touchdowns) went to the NFL? Will the much-criticized linebackers and defensive backs improve?
Coach's quote: “The thing up front is going to be interesting.”— Ryan Day on the competition for playing time on the offensive line where there will be four new starters.

Penn State
Last year: 9-4, 6-3 Big Ten, third in the East
Returning starters: 13 (5 offense, 6 defense, kicker, punter)
Players to watch: QB Sean Clifford, RB Reggie Corbin, TE Pat Freiermuth, DE Yetur Gross-Matos, DB Garrett Taylor
The big questions: Is Cincinnati St. Xavier graduate Sean Clifford, known more for his big arm than for his mobility, a good fit in James Franklin's offense in which all but one of his starting QBs has run at least 75 times in a season? Can Penn State compete for a Big Ten championship with as many as eight first-year starters on offense?
Coach's quote: “We probably have more question marks this year than we've had over the last couple years. We are young, we are talented.” — James Franklin

Rutgers
Last year: 1-11, 1-9 Big Ten, seventh in the East
Returning starters: 13 (6 offense, 5 defense, kicker, punter)
Players to watch: QB Artur Sitkowski, RB Raheem Blackshear, RB Isaiah Pacheco, WR Brandon Mileton, CB Damon Hayes
The big questions: How many wins does coach Chris Ash need to keep his job after going 7-29 in his first three seasons? Can quarterback Artur Sitkowski, who was rushed into action as a true freshman last season, regain some confidence after throwing four touchdown passes and 18 interceptions in 2018? Where will the Scarlet Knights find playmakers in an offense that scored only 19 touchdowns all season last year?
Coach's quote: “It all starts with the offensive line and the quarterback. Everything that we are going to do is driven by those two positions.” – Chris Ash
**West**

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record for touchdown passes? Can Iowa improve its running game, which was not up to the Hawkeyes’ usual standards last season?

Coach’s quote: “We’ll find out.” – Kirk Ferentz, when asked if Iowa is a Big Ten championship level team.

**Minnesota**

Last year: 7-6, 3-6 Big Ten, tied for fifth in the West

Returning starters: 14 (8 offense, 5 defense, punter)


The big questions: Who will win the quarterback battle between Zack Annexstad and Tanner Morgan? Annexstad was Minnesota’s starter for the first seven games last season as a true freshman before a season-ending injury. Morgan started the last six games and the Gophers were 4-2 in those games. Could Minnesota be helped by a schedule that includes South Dakota State, Georgia Southern, Rutgers and Maryland and lets it avoid Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State?

Coach’s quote: “What we’re going to be able to do is focus on being better today than we were yesterday. It sounds like a broken record and it sounds boring, but sometimes boring is OK.” – P.J. Fleck

**Nebraska**

Last year: 4-8, 3-6 Big Ten, tied for fifth in the West

Returning starters: 14 (7 offense, 5 defense, kicker, punter)

Players to watch: QB Adrian Martinez, WR Isaiah Bowser, WR Bennett Skowronek, DE Joe Gaziano, LB Paddy Fisher

The big questions: Who will win the quarterback battle between Zack Annexstad and Tanner Morgan? Annexstad was Minnesota’s starter for the first seven games last season as a true freshman before a season-ending injury. Morgan started the last six games and the Gophers were 4-2 in those games. Could Minnesota be helped by a schedule that includes South Dakota State, Georgia Southern, Rutgers and Maryland and lets it avoid Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State?

Coach’s quote: “What we’re going to be able to do is focus on being better today than we were yesterday. It sounds like a broken record and it sounds boring, but sometimes boring is OK.” – P.J. Fleck

**Northwestern**

Last year: 9-5, 8-1 Big Ten, first in the West

Returning starters: 13 (5 offense, 7 defense)

Players to watch: QB Hunter Johnson, RB Isaiah Bowser, WR Bennett Skowronek, DE Joe Gaziano, LB Paddy Fisher

The big questions: Was Northwestern’s trip to the Big Ten championship game a signal the Wildcats are going to be contenders regularly, or was it a fluke? Are the expectations that Clemson transfer Hunter Johnson will be an immediate success at quarterback fair or unfair? Will Isaiah Bowser, who rushed for 866 yards in Northwestern’s last eight games in 2018, approach 1,500 yards this season?

Coach’s quote: “It’s one thing to be consistently a bowl team and consistently successful on the field. It’s another thing to consistently compete for championships. And we’re not there yet.” – Pat Fitzgerald

Purdue

Last year: 6-7, 5-4 Big Ten, tied for second in the West

Returning starters: 11 (4 offense, 6 defense, punter)


The big questions: Can Wisconsin bounce back from a disappointing 6-7 season, the first time since 2013 it didn’t win 10 or more games? Is Jack Coan, who started the last four games last season, the answer at quarterback? With a first-year quarterback will 2,000-yard rusher Jonathan Taylor have an even heavier workload after averaging 303 carries per season the last two years?

Coach’s quote: “He does not feel like he has arrived. He’s one of the best workers on this team.” — Paul Chryst on Jonathan Taylor, who rushed for 2,194 yards last year and 1,977 yards as a freshman
FALLS PREVENTION
Awareness Day 2019

Monday
September 23, 2019
10 AM– 12 PM

Area Agency on Aging 3
2423 Allentown Rd, Lima, OH

EVENT DETAILS

Join us to learn about fall risks and ways to prevent falls among older adults. Several community partners will be in attendance to educate, increase awareness, and help provide resources on falls and fall prevention for our older adults.

Exercise Class  ONU HealthWise  Fall Risk  Medical Equipment  Hearing  Medication
Demonstrations  Mobile Clinic  Assessments  Loan Program  Checks  Reviews

For more information please contact: Dre White, Health Education Coordinator,
at (567) 204-6900 or via email at dwhite@psa3.org.

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