



Ohio State Football

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

The Ohio State University football team was first organized in 1890 when George Cole, an undergraduate student, convinced Alexander Lilley to be the team's coach. Their first game was played on May 3, 1890 against Ohio Wesleyan University where the Buckeyes came out victorious, 20-14. In 1902, the Buckeyes joined the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) and won two conference championships in 1906 and 1912. Ohio State would stay a member of the OAC until 1912, opting to join The Big Ten Conference (formerly the Western Conference) in 1913. As a member of the Big Ten, the Ohio State University has won the Conference Championship 34 times, the National Championship 7 times, and gone undefeated 9 times. The Buckeyes have also had 7 players win the Heisman Trophy, making it tied for the most of any team and the only team with a two-time winner. Ohio State is considered to be one of the most successful football programs in college football history.

Important Dates

- May 3, 1890: Ohio State plays its first football game.
- October 28, 1901: Center John Sigrist dies as a result of a crushed spinal cord suffered two days prior against Western Reserve, putting the future of the football team in doubt.
- 1913: Ohio State joins the Big Ten Conference.
- 1916: Led by star player Chic Harley, Ohio State wins its first Big Ten Conference title.
- October 21, 1922: Ohio State formally dedicates their new stadium, Ohio Stadium, but loses to their rivals, the Michigan Wolverines, 19-0.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Ohio State, Buckeye, football, Big Ten, Chic Harley, game, conference, championship, title, stadium, Western Conference.
- Use specific date ranges when looking for articles to narrow your results.
- Try searching for the names of specific players or opponents of Ohio State.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Another Football Victim](#)" *Kinsley Graphic* (Kinsley, KS), November 1, 1901, Image 6, col. 2.
- "[Ohio State Wins 'Big Nine' Title](#)" *Tulsa Daily World* (Tulsa, OK), November 26, 1916, Image 14, col. 6.
- "[Ohio Triumphs Over Michigan Men, 13-3](#)" *Sun* (New York, NY), October 26, 1919, Image 27, col. 5.
- "[New Style Football Tactics](#)" *Watchman and Southron* (Sumter, SC), January 1, 1921, Image 4, col. 4.
- "[California Defeats Ohio by 28-0 Score; Buckeyes Easily Outpointed by Coast Players](#)" *Bisbee Daily Review* (Bisbee, AZ), January 2, 1921, Image 5, col. 1-2.
- "[Record Breaking Crowd Expected at New Ohio Stadium](#)" *Evening Herald* (Klamath Falls, OR), October 5, 1922, Image 4, col. 3.