

INTERVIEW OF WILLIAM MYLES, JR.

AUGUST 6, 2004

Q. This is Rodney Harrison. I'm interviewing William Myles, Jr., Associate Athletic Director, at the Ohio State University. This is a project for the Oral History of the University, and I'm here representing the Ohio State University Retirees Association. Bill, you first arrived at Ohio State as an Assistant Coach under Woody Hayes in 1977. What was it in your background and experience that prepared you for this selection, because at that time Ohio State was probably one of the premier football programs in the country, and Hayes was certainly one of the premier coaches.

A. This is true. Woody was one of the great coaches and still recognized as one of the greatest that ever coached in college. While I was at [University of] Nebraska, he came after me three times. And one time it was about, Nebraska sent me out here to scout Woody's goal-line offense. And I looked at a lot of Woody's goal-line offense. And while I was here, he asked me about how we ran the counter sweep at Nebraska. And I explained to him that the back side guard is looking at the numbers of the front side guard. And if he can see him he turns to the inside. If he can't he goes around the lead guard. And Woody stood there and he said, "Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh. You know, you've just told us almost everything that we spent three paragraphs telling the guy to do." So that was one impression of Woody Hayes.

Q. What were you coaching at Nebraska?

A. I was coaching the offensive line at that particular time. Another time he realized that I was taking athletes away from the state, because Nebraska assigned me the State of Ohio to recruit. And I was taking quite a few of the guys. And everywhere he went, Nebraska would be one of his competitors, as the kid was named one of the schools that he was interested in. And so I called Ohio State and talked with some of the assistant coaches trying to get another coach a job here, because there was an opening here. And there was a coolness on the phone between this coach and I. And I said, "We've known each other. I feel that there is a coldness here." And he said, "Well, we're not going to hire that guy, but Woody's interested in you." And I said, "Well, I'm not interested in Ohio State right now," and so forth. And the next time Woody just called the University of Nebraska and asked to speak to me. And we talked and he told me he wanted to offer me a job at Ohio State. And I asked him if he had talked to [University of Nebraska Football Coach] Tom Osborne and he said he didn't know the number.

Q. He didn't know your number.

A. Yes. He called the Nebraska Football Office, but he didn't know Tom Osborne's number. Well, we talked and we talked, and I told him I was going to Kansas City for the weekend, my home town. And some of the other coaches at Ohio State called me back and said, "If you're really interested in coming here you better get here now, because Woody isn't going to wait." And I said, "Well, I can't get out there this weekend. I promised my family I'm taking them to Kansas City." So Woody called me back and we talked, and I gave him my mother-in-law's phone number in Kansas City. I called my wife because I was

late leaving because of this. I went and told Tom Osborne, the Nebraska coach, what was happening. And he said, "Well, how come he hasn't called me and asked permission to speak?" And I told him that I had told Woody that. I went to Kansas City, and Woody called us in Kansas City and he had a lot of things lined up, because I told him I could not, my wife was an educated lady and I couldn't ask her to leave a job without having something here. So he lined up three job interviews for her when we got here, with the State Education Board, with the City of Columbus, and one with Ohio State University. So, when I got back, he still had not talked to Tom Osborne over the weekend, but he called while we were in a meeting on Monday and told Tom that he was very interested. He wanted permission. And I came out and I talked to Woody. And came back and thought about it for three days and told him that I was coming to Ohio State. That's the way I got to Ohio State.

Q. That's great. What prepared you for Nebraska?

A. Well, what prepared me for Nebraska was going around to coaches' clinics. I was reading a lot of books about Woody Hayes, about Nebraska, about [Football Coach] Bud Wilkerson at [University of] Oklahoma. I was one of the few blacks. I'd go to clinics and there would be 800 people in Arkansas, and there would only be three or four blacks. And I got to know [University of Arkansas Football Coach] Frank Broyles very well. And I got to know the coaches at Oklahoma and the coaches at Iowa State, and the coaches at Iowa.

Q. Were you coaching at that time?

A. I was coaching high school.

- Q. At high school, all right.
- A. And we started winning, winning, winning. And Tom Osborne came in to see me one time and he said he wanted to visit with me. And he was an Assistant Coach then. And I said, "Let me get a roster." And we started talking, and he said he wanted to offer me a job at the University of Nebraska. Again, my wife and I went up and they got a job for her. And we went to Nebraska.
- Q. And what did you coach at Nebraska?
- A. For the first three years at Nebraska I coached the offensive line. And the last two years I coached the linebackers. I asked to go to the defense, so I could learn both sides of the ball, so I could eventually become a head coach.
- Q. Very good. So you coached under Woody then for two years, right?
- A. Right.
- Q. What were some of your favorite experiences with Woody?
- A. Some of my favorites were how he was organized, and how he ran meetings, watching him recruit, watching how he was such a people person, how he was so thorough. But some of my favorite things about Woody was how, we would get in the car to go to Toledo, which would be my area to recruit, northwest Ohio. And he might go to sleep just as soon as we passed 270. When we got ready to cross the Maumee River, he would wake up and say, "All right, whose the important person? Is it his mother? Is it the coach? Is it his girlfriend, father, the principal? Who is going to make the decision? What does the father do? What does the mother do?" And so forth and so on. And just watching him go into a room, knowing who was the important person. Sometimes, I've seen him go

down in the basement with a kid and come back upstairs and say, “Coach, Joe wants to tell you something.” And Joe would say, “I’m a Buckeye.” Or sometimes he would just ignore everybody but the mother or the father. And sometimes he didn’t bother them; he just talked with the boy. He was tremendous as a recruiter. Some of the things I remember about him, as kids would get on campus, coach was always fighting. He had sugar diabetes. When they would pass around the desert tray, he would say he didn’t want a desert. But he would pick out deserts for everyone at the table. He would say, “The key lime pie is very good. Their raisin pie is very good. This kind of cake is very good.” And he would get all these people to get all these different things. And then he would take a bite off of them. And then he would tell us the next day, when you would try to refuse it, he had discipline about himself. He didn’t take a desert. But he ordered everybody’s so he could get a piece.

Q. One of the things I’ve always heard and I’d be interested to know if it’s true. He would deny himself raises and would use that money to help Assistant Coaches and Associate Coaches. Is that correct?

A. This is correct, until it got to the point where there wasn’t a big enough gap between the Head Coach and the assistants, that he was forced to take a raise. There are stories, and they are true, about him picking up a guy, up in Cleveland, and driving him all the way to Columbus, and then having another assistant coach take the guy on to Dayton which was his home town, and the guy from Dayton would get in the car and say, “That fellow is a nice guy. He’s an older guy and he did this and this and this. And he just talked about my family. He found out

about my family this and that. And how he's having you take me there. He's a really great guy." And the guy [then] said, "Well, what is his name?" And the [assistant coach] told him, "That's Coach Woody Hayes." He was good. Very good at that and going to the hospitals. He had a need to go around and help people, to help the underdog. And not to be known for it.

Q. That must have made the assistant coaches very loyal to him.

A. You had to be loyal to Woody because he was loyal to you. If you were one of his boys, a player for him, he would always come to your defense. He was that way.

Q. That's great, that's great. Well, one of the saddest chapters in the University of course, is the experience at the Clemson [University] game. Could you recall that for us from your point of view?

A. Coach was a little, during the week, he was all right. And the last day or so he was a little edgy. I didn't pay it any attention because it was game time. But his sugar was beginning to act up on him. And he did not want to run this play that we ran that caused this outburst. But he got advice from other coaches that we should run this play. And we ran the play, and it was intercepted. And an interception just set coach off no matter where. And he just went off. And I'm standing there and looking at him and I said, "No, he didn't do this. This didn't happen. This isn't real." And then I hunched my shoulders and said, "We're through." He had punched a few guys in practice, but I mean, this is on national TV. The situation went on a little further until that evening, it was a night game, later that time the Athletic Director, who was Hugh Hindman, told me he had

fired Coach. So the next morning I go up to his room because I was [in charge of] the buses and travel and so forth, I go up to his room with another assistant coach, and I tell him, "Coach, they're waiting on you in the lobby in the downstairs. The newspapers, the television people are all downstairs." First of all, when I go in the room and knock on the door he says, "What do you want?" And I was a little teed the way he talked to me. So I said, _____. Then he said, "Well, come on in." We talked and I told him about the newspaper people, the press. And I said, "Coach, I've got it lined up for you. There is a freight elevator on this floor down the back and I've got it so you can use it and you can go down and there's a police car waiting for you. You just give me five minutes from the time that I leave this room to go down and I will go down and get on the bus and the buses will go. And then there's a police car and they will take you to the airport. I've worked it out where they'll let you in on the side of the field and you can drive right up to the back of the airplane." But give us five minutes, so that way we can be loaded and everything and get on." And Coach had a hard time saying thanks, but he just put his head on my shoulder and just kind of punched me a little bit. But he was saying thanks.

Q. That's got to be awfully tough. You think that was the right decision?

A. For him to ...

Q. Be let go?

A. I think that it was building, and we hadn't had a great year. If we had won a championship, I doubt it. But I think it was building. The other schools were beginning to gain on Ohio State. [OSU] President [Edward] Jennings had been

out at Iowa and they had hired Hayden Fry, and Iowa was beginning to come on, and some of the other schools were beginning to come on. [Hayes was fired during Enarson's, not Jennings' tenure.] So it wasn't just Ohio State and Michigan. Coach was getting up there in age. So I think that they were waiting on him. They couldn't fire him when he was a champion. And if we had beaten Michigan that year I think he'd still be here.

Q. Oh gosh. Well then you're here two years. The coach who hired you, Woody, leaves and suddenly what do you think about your future here?

A. I kind of look at it as, if it's right, it will happen. I have a thing about place that's in my religion and I believe in place. The place you are seeking is seeking you and if it's right it will happen. So I didn't get too shook up about it. There was a lady that was visiting my wife that was from Nebraska and they were talking about it back in Nebraska, because I had left them and they weren't happy when I left. It was all in the Nebraska papers that I was let go. We recruited that weekend real hard, all of the assistant coaches, and they were going into Coach [Earle] Bruce's office, the Head Coach's office, and he was talking to them. I was watching these guys come back and start unpacking their desks and so forth. And then my time came and I went to see Coach Bruce and he says, "Maybe we can meet tomorrow for lunch. I think I'm going to keep you." And I ask him, "What time do you want to meet for lunch?" And he said, "Around quarter till twelve. Pick you up at the football office at St. John's." So I said, "I'll be down." And I kind of chickened out. I didn't go back to the office 'cause it was hard watching your people pack their things that you had worked with for 18 to 20

hours a day, twelve months a year. So the next day I came down and picked him up and we went to the Blackhorse Restaurant and drew a few plays. 'Cause I knew Coach Bruce when I was coaching at Nebraska. He was the Head Coach at Iowa State. And we beat them and beat them and then he beat us the last year that I was at Nebraska. And I used to tell him, "That's why I left." And so therefore we shook hands and [I] stayed at Ohio State.

Q. That's great. How many coaches did he retain from Woody's crew?

A. Two.

Q. Just two. You and?

A. Glen Mason.

Q. Glen Mason.

A. He was going to keep George Chaump, but George Chaump decided to go with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. 'Cause George tried to get the job as the Head Coach here and was unable to get it.

Q. That's a great accomplishment and recommendation for you. What were your responsibilities under Bruce then? Were they different than Woody?

A. No, I still had the offensive line.

Q. Offensive line and recruiting.

A. I still had northwest Ohio. I had the same area, northwest Ohio and Michigan. And anyplace else that there was an outstanding lineman he would send me.

Q. Looking back over the linemen that you've coached here at Ohio State, who are some of your favorites?

- A. Well, I'd have to say when I first got here, Coach Hayes showed me Chris Ward and he showed me Joe Robinson. We didn't have anybody like that at Nebraska. I mean, I thought, "Boy, they've really got the athletes here." And those were two of the first. Jimmy Moore he showed me. I had Garth Cox, and then later on, had Greg Storer, Bill Jaco, Ernie Andria. Then we get Bill Roberts and Jim Lachey. So we began to get a lot of them. Carol Whitts, Jim Carson. And most of them were Ohio guys. And they turned out to be real good football players for us. I really enjoyed my time as coach here.
- Q. That's marvelous. Now after your coaching experience you were selected as Associate Athletic Director, right?
- A. The Associate Athletic Directorship: Rick Bay had become the Athletic Director at that time, although Ed Weaver was the Athletic Director when I was hired. But Rick Bay, and then Hugh Hindman was Athletic Director that hired Woody. And Rick Bay was in and Dick Delaney was our Associate AD. He died after our bowl game, Rose Bowl game. Rick Bay asked me if I would be the Associate AD. And I was a little disappointed at the time because I had tried to get several Division IA jobs as a head football coach, and Woody had recommended me very highly. And I was unable to get them. And so I told Bay I didn't want to be over the cheerleaders and things like that, like Dick was. And he said, "No, you would have all the men's sports, including football and basketball. Those people would report to you," which now switched me to be Earl's boss, so to speak. So I said, "Give me 48 hours to think about it." I went home and we talked it over, me and my wife and so forth. I was 48 at the time and wasn't beginning to get any head

jobs that I had interviewed for. I'd be in the final three but I would never get it.

And I thought, "Boy, I better take this." 'Cause people are not going to be hiring too many 50-year-old coaches.

Q. What were some of your duties then, in addition to all the men's coaching responsibilities, over the coaches, etc?

A. I began to take on the Varsity O. You had to do a lot of things. Just go out in the community and speak and do things of that type.

Q. During that period of time Title IX was enacted and I assume that had a tremendous change for the Department of Athletics trying to keep the number of, at least the support equal to men and women. How did the Department respond to Title IX, and what was your responsibility in that regard?

A. My responsibility was to talk to coaches and get them to understand. The people that were over at first, the main offices, didn't understand that there is a difference between softball and baseball. Baseball had to have a lot more players than softball. But we had to reduce the wrestling squad. We had to reduce the baseball squad to so many because we had so many people in baseball. For the longest [time] we tried to get football out of the equation. If you could get football out of the equation, you would eliminate a lot of numbers. But after three or four years, it was hopeless, so we've got to work with this, with football being in the equation. And we started adding women's sports. And the sport now that we have under Andy [Geiger] that kind of equals football in numbers is crew. But football has so many, 80, 90, 100 guys. Our crew, we have over 80 people. So it kind of balances it that way.

Q. That's interesting. What period of time was the school and the other schools given to really respond to Title IX and submit your programs to the federal government?

A. You have to submit your programs but you also, it's based on enrollment in the college, too. If you have way more men than you do women, you get a few more in your total student body. And for a while at the beginning of this, there were more men at Ohio State than there were women. And this number drew closer and closer. So there began to be more women coming to the University. It got down to where we had to really scuffle to get some things done.

Q. What was Phyllis Bailey's role in this?

A. Phyllis Bailey's role was to, well what we did was to make women equal, we said we need to give women a revenue sport. So then we began to split the sports. And she had all of the basketballs, so that she had a revenue sport. 'Cause in our system only football and men's basketball made money. So this was a big step. And I took some of the women's sports, and she took some of the men's sports. And Phyllis did a tremendous job. She would be right up there with [all-time] greats as far as Associate ADs go. I would put her up there, in her position I would put her up there with [former Athletic Director Lynn] St. John. She was one of the leaders in the Big Ten. She coached. She knew how to be aggressive but she knew how to lay back, and she got a lot of things done that some people that are more aggressive didn't get done. 'Cause they say, "Here comes this lady crying beating on us." She knew how to pick her spots and she did a tremendous job.

Q. That's great. We've heard a lot about her, and that certainly empathizes with what we've heard. During the course of time and all of that, there was a problem with Bruce and football. He was fired, right? Is that while you were an Associate?

A. Yes.

Q. How did that come about?

A. Well, the thing with Earle was that, I think it had to do with some things outside of football, like he took his television show away from the station that does our football games. He did some other things that were there. And he got pretty demanding about some things. And for a while he could do that because he was winning. They called him, "Old Man and Three Earles," and then that last year he didn't do it. We were trying to get to a bowl game. I can remember them talking in the press box. I was in the press box. People asking if we could go to a bowl game, if we were going to a bowl game. And guys would come down and ask the President, and finally the President says, "Yeah, if we win this game we can go." And we were playing Iowa and Iowa won in the last few seconds. And that about sealed his fate. I didn't go to his press conferences generally each week down at the Buckeye Café. It wasn't the Buckeye Café at that particular time. But I would go down and I went down this time. He asked me. Earle asked me to go. He was pleading and talking about how he wanted this job. It was Monday before the Michigan game. And I told Rick Bay that I was going because Rick Bay had told me before during the season not to go to some of these. Not because Earle was going to get fired but just didn't need to be around all the time. So I told him

I was going. Earle had asked me to go and I was going and he said, "Okay." And when I came back from that luncheon, in the circle drive, Rick was coming out and I told Rick what had happened down there, how Earle had really fought and pleaded for his job, and did a good job. And then it was on the radio right then. And I said, "Hey, Rick, here it is." And Rick stuck his head in and listened, and then he backed up out of my window and says, "Well, I'm on my way over to the President's office." And he went over to the President's office. When he came back, the secretaries told us that there was a meeting of all the associates. When we got down there, and I guess the rest of them didn't know what it was about and they were laughing and joking. And people said to me, "You're not laughing and joking." I said, "Well, I hadn't been to very many called meetings like this. And when they're called like this, something bad is going to happen." Then the secretary at that time while we were sitting there, came down, Jim Jones said that the President wanted to see Jim Jones. And so Jim went over to see the President. And Rick came in and said that he was firing Earle and that he was resigning. I asked him could I go over and see Earle and keep the press out? And I left St. John [Arena] and came over to the Woody Hayes [field house] to do that. And I sat and talked with Earle, and that was one of the toughest things I've ever had to do, because here was a man who I had worked with for eight years, six years on his staff coaching. We talked about the good times and then we'd get to the bad, and to see him escalate like that, to hit these high points and come down and so forth and so on, was just tough. He muscled up and got himself straight, went out to practice, had a good practice, came back in and all the newspaper people were

there. He sat in the locker room in his office over there a long time. He and I think the equipment guy, one of his assistants, and talked. He would go up and he would go down. It was harder on me, watching him go through all these emotions. And then the band was out there hollering for him and things. I called the police to get him out of the place and the police took him home, and when he got home the band was up at his place. So it was a very tough situation. One of the reasons it made it so tough is that Earle had asked me when we were coming back from the Cotton Bowl where he wore his fedora for the first time, if I would let him interview for the Arizona job, for permission to interview for the Arizona job. And I said, "Sure, I'll go tell Rick that you're going to do it." Rick said sure and said, "We'll try to keep him." So Rick tried to get him some more money and we battled the whole time we were at a convention, with Rick talking to him and me talking to him, and the coaches, his assistants talking to him. Finally, he said he was going to stay. And then the next year this happens. All of that bothered Rick Bay, I'm sure, and it bothered me. Here was a guy who had a chance to go somewhere where they really wanted him and we talked him into staying.

Q. That would have been part of the reason why Rick really stood up to the President and said, "If you force me to do that I'm going too," do you feel?

A. I feel that. Rick was close, Rick was a fighter, Rick was a competitor. You're talking about a guy who is very, very competitive, very bright. Here's a guy that I think he said Shakespeare had 34 plays and he had seen 32 of them. Here was a guy who was a wrestler at the University of Michigan and never lost a match in the Big Ten for three years as a wrestler. Here was a guy who ran the marathon in

Boston, that ran it in less than three hours. Here was a guy who had tried to play quarterback for the University of Michigan. He was a competitive guy. As I said, a very bright guy. And it hurt him when he felt responsible for keeping Earle here.

Q. That's really fascinating. Then after Rick left, Jim Jones came on board, right?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. And you were retained by Jim?

A. Right.

Q. Same job, different job?

A. Same job. I became Jim's unofficial right hand guy, 'cause Jim was really the right-hand guy for Rick Bay. He did a lot of things for Rick, because Rick was not a guy who was really ... like when we went on trips and things, he was the guy in the hospitality room cause Rick wasn't the guy that came there. But Jim ran things and Jim was very good with budgets and things of that type. And he knew our history because he had been around. He had been around with Woody. He had worked for Woody as the academic counselor. So he had been here. He had a background in athletics 'cause he had coached in basketball in high school.

Q. What was the outreach program and how did you get involved with that? Is that the right name for it?

A. Right. When Andy Geiger was appointed the Athletic Director, he called me in. I think they wanted to get rid of me too, but there must have been over hundred or so guys that wrote letters to President Gee. So Andy, when I met Andy, I had seen him before at Athletic Director conventions. I was at the Penn relays when

they announced that he was going to be the Athletic Director, and they called me at the Penn relays and asked me to get back. And I met him on the field in the spring game or something. He said we had to talk. And then he told me about this new idea that he had, which was very new. Nobody else in the country was doing it. But he wanted me to start what he called an outreach program. And as a football coach I was a little different than the other guys in that I watched the other people participate, when most football coaches, they stand above the rest of the coaches. But I would watch. So I knew a lot of the athletes. So I wrote about 108 letters to guys and gals that I knew who had not finished school, to start the outreach program. We brought them back and paid for their tuition, and they graduated, with the stipulation that you had to have a 2.0 [grade point average] to start off with, at least a two point. If you did not have a two point, you could go and if you brought your overall up to two, I would refund you that money and pay for you. Then, the NCAA said that this wasn't fair or right and that we paid for these guys to go to school and so we had to get them a job. And so we got them jobs in the equipment room and in the stadium and other places on campus. I had about 30 to 32 people finish. And then Andy, the _____, worked with our academics, from the athletic department, they wanted this. And I fought to keep it and I did for about two years, and then they took it. And then Andy gave me some other jobs after that.

Q. The program had to be unique in the country. No other schools have anything like this?

A. Right.

- Q. Did we get much credit for this? Was it publicized well?
- A. Yes, it was publicized. USA Today ran stories on it. They came and they talked to me. They had some of our bigger name guys on the front page of the Sports page. I got into a little battle with one of our people, that they didn't want me to pay for Clark Kellogg to go to school. They said he was a maniac. And I said, "Sure, that's true, but every time Clark played here at Ohio State he filled that arena." At one time we had split tickets because the crowds were so big. And so Clark graduated and he worked down there in the equipment room folding towels and things. He has since spoken at commencement a couple of times. So I don't take any heat for Clark.
- Q. He's a great ambassador for the University. Absolutely.
- A. Right. But he was one that came back. We had a guy who had been out for over 20 some years that came back. I've had some others that were even on the National Championship team of '68 that were here before me, they were embarrassed. They looked into it but they didn't do it. The guys and gals that were here when I started in '77, a lot of them came back. Like I said, 30 or 31, 32 graduated from the program and they still have them graduating from the program.
- Q. So the program is still underway?
- A. The program is still going. It's just run from our academic counselors, athletic academic counselors.
- Q. Okay. What's your feeling about our graduation rate for athletes? In the normal process, not through the special program, are we making headway in that?

A. I think we're making headway. I think what people notice more than anything is football, basketball and baseball. A lot of those young men come to school, come to school with the idea as in football, I'm going to play on Sunday, and then basketball I'm going to the league. And in baseball they want to go. And I have a philosophy about it. When Clark Kellogg came to me, Coach [Eldon] Miller asked me to talk to him, 'cause I was coaching football at the time. And I said, "Clark, can I see you a minute?" And he came down to my office and he said, "What are you going to do, try to talk me into staying?" And I said, "No, I just want to ask you several questions." And I said, "Has anybody told you that they're going to draft you?" And he named several teams that told him they were going to draft him. I said, "Has anybody told you what round it will be in?" And he said, "This team, this team, this team, told me it will be first round." And I reached across the desk and said, "Congratulations." And he said, "Why are you doing that?" And I said, "Who am I to tell you not to become a millionaire?" And it worked out well for him. But guys that are not going to be drafted in the first round I talk them into staying. But if you're going to be drafted in the first round you're going to be a millionaire. And Clark, after he had played for two or three years, he injured his knee. Suppose that would have happened here. He wouldn't have become a millionaire.

Q. That's a tough call these days, isn't it? How to advise students who are eligible or are interested in going on in the pros?

A. Well, what bothers you more than anything is, when you have guys that are not even going to be drafted, and they want to go. But Clark Kellogg is a good story.

Robert Smith is a good story. Those guys are good stories. But there are so many that don't even play here, that think they're going to play pro ball.

Q. That's a great, great story. What have been some of your most memorable experiences here at the University?

A. Naturally coming down the tunnel up at Michigan, when you're playing them, coming down the tunnel with Woody, coming down the tunnel with Earle. With Woody, they're booing us. I'm on his left-hand side and the other guy is on his right, and he says, "That's respect boys, that's respect. They don't do that for Illinois. They don't do that for Northwestern. That's respect. Now let's go out there and make them sit on their hands." That was a great experience. Another experience, going down the tunnel up there with Earle and Earle's eyes were all big and everything all shook up. I nudged him and said, "Earle, this can't be that big of a deal. There have to be over 200 million Chinese that don't even know this thing is going to happen." He said, "That's right, that's right. But there's 12 million in Ohio that know, and those are the only ones that count." Seeing other experiences. Talking to Jim Lachey. He was a little miffed that he didn't play as much as he should have his first three years. He played and made All-American his senior year and came back and I told him, "Try to do something for the University." And this is where we got the endowment program started. And I thought Jim was going to give \$15-20,000. Give you a tax break. And so he came in and wrote a check for \$50,000, and about three weeks later he came in and wrote another check for \$50,000. And this started our endowment program.

Q. And this is in your name?

A. This is in his name. The Jim Lachey Scholarship. Now Joe Lukens came along and played for me. He played in '79. He played for Earle, on that first team of Earle's. He played for me and he told me he was going to give a scholarship in my name. And I said, "Joe, don't do that. Put it in your name. I'm honored but it in your name." And he said, "I'm going to put it in your name." I said, "Joe, please put it in your name. I'm honored that you think that of me." He said, "Well, I'm not going to do it." And the next thing I know, there's a Bill Myles Scholarship. Lukens went ahead and did it.

Q. That is wonderful. What for?

A. The person that plays right tackle gets that scholarship for four years. And with it being \$100,000, the interest on it keeps going. And when that kid graduates they give it to another kid and he's got it for four years. And then so forth. And the thing about this, that got it started, Lachey was the first one to do it. Lukens is in it. [Joe] Galloway is in it. [Mike] Tomczak. There's a lot of guys that have done it. [Jim] Jackson has done it for basketball. We've got a lot of guys that have endowed scholarships.

Q. Now most are endowed in their names, right?

A. Right.

Q. That's a real feather in your cap, to have one in your name. I think that's got to be the ultimate tribute.

A. It makes me feel very good. I wish he would have put it in his name. So I'm going to always tell people that Joe did it. I tease other people who tease me about being cheap and saying I gave \$100,000 to the scholarship. It's Joe that did it.

- Q. I think we'll stop at this point. (end of side A). What I would love to hear about is, what do you think about the future of athletics at the University? What are your hopes and aspirations for athletics, as well as, what do you think about the University in general? Where are we headed and where should we like to go as far as you are concerned?
- A. I think the University is headed in the right direction. We lost a great guy in losing Archie Griffin, but he might be serving the University in a greater capacity. But here is, when Woody died, this guy became Mr. Ohio State. And we couldn't have a better ambassador than him. He's the most humble guy that I've ever been around. He does more things for the University than anybody. In athletics, the University used him so that so wasn't able to talk with a lot of his coaches. He'd have appointments and they wouldn't want him to come over. He's the one that really got the money for the Schottenstein started. He was in our fund-raising department. He did a great job there and then he wanted to be an Athletic Director. So he asked to get into athletics and he came in and Andy gave him a position. Archie really does something for the University. I went up to Woody to see about getting Archie squared away in the Athletic Department when he got hurt in pro football. And at first Woody wasn't too much for it because he thought they might give him the shaft. But we talked about it. Ann came out and we decided that Archie would do a great job.
- Q. So Woody was actually here?
- A. He was here when ... Archie started over under Madison Scott in his department.
- Q. Oh, okay.

A. I went up to see Woody 'cause he always wants to do something for people and I said, "Coach, what do you think about us trying to get Archie back?" 'cause he had hurt his leg and was back on campus. And he said, "Oh I don't know." Then Ann came out and we started talking and I was telling him about it. Of course, I think Ann might have been a little teed at me because maybe she thought Archie should have been where I was. But before I left, they were both talking, "Yeah, let's get Archie and bring him back."

Q. I think it's a real ____ for the [Alumni] Association to select him. Talk about ambassador for the University: You're right. There couldn't be a better person. How about athletics? You hear so many concerns now about students being taken by the pros younger and younger, right out of high school, for a number of sports. How should the University respond to that?

A. I don't think you can tell a high school kid what to do. I don't think it's going to happen with football, because the body isn't mature enough to take it. A guy can play basketball at that league. The sad part about it, there aren't that many LeBron Jameses. Baseball, those buys are young that go into it. But football, I think football, football has to stay and I think the reason why they fought is to hard this year with the [Maurice] Clarrett things, was that we're the _____. Baseball has Class A, AA, AAA, ABCD leagues. Football doesn't have any leagues like that. College football is their scouting grounds, their minor leagues. So they need us. And I think that's why they fought so hard to keep Clarrett from going this year.

Q. Do you mind being their minor league? Or is it just a fact of life?

- A. It's a fact of life. I think we're bigger right now than pro football. In the college cities and towns we are. I don't mind being their minor league.
- Q. Of all the facilities that have been built for athletics, is there anything left to be built? What do we need to do in athletics in the department in the foreseeable future? What are the major goals that you have?
- A. Well, right now, Andy [Geiger] has done a tremendous job this way, in building facilities. We were behind in facilities at The Ohio State University when he came. And we were getting people because we had Woody Hayes, because we had a Fred Taylor, because we had these kinds of people. But with television, and people playing their freshmen year now, and tradition not meaning a lot to some people, we were hurting. And Andy, right now I've got meetings this next week about tennis courts. Meetings about building tennis courts and an indoor tennis facility. Ty Tucker, our [tennis] coach, we finished in the top eight this year for the first time in the history of the program. In order to get people you've got to have great facilities. I don't know that facilities matter after they get here, because in football you will show them a great locker room, you show them a great field, we show them the great Woody Hayes, we show them the great practice areas. But when you get out there on Saturday at 1:00 or 1:30, when the guy across the line hits you in the mouth with the big forearm, you don't think, "Hey, we've got a real sharp locker room and this and that." So I think the big thing is, getting the people here and continuing to win, because people want to go to where they win. That way they have a chance to go to the next level. And if

you play well here you've got a good chance of going to the next level. So facilities are going to keep going.

Q. Can we keep asking more money from the football crowd to support every other sport?

A. Andy and Ohio State before Andy, has always believed in a broad-based program. So we had all of these sports. But eventually, we're going to have to cut some sports. Not because Ohio State wants to cut them, but because we're not going to have anybody to play. I mean, the number of people that are cut in our league, Wisconsin has cut some sports. We've got some schools, we've got 36 sports. We've got some schools that only have 12 or 18 in our league.

Q. What are some of those in danger? Wrestling?

A. Wrestling is in danger. Men's gymnastics is in danger. Men's gymnastics probably doesn't have but about 24 or 25 schools doing it. UCLA, one of the all-time powers in it, they don't even have gymnastics anymore, men's gymnastics. And a lot of people cut them because of trying to get the men's numbers down for the women. Ice hockey is a very expensive sport. We have ice hockey. Ice hockey is probably our second most expensive sport.

Q. Is that right?

A. They go through a bunch of sticks. Their skates probably cost a couple of hundred dollars a pair.

Q. That's interesting. Any other last comments?

A. I think that our athletic program is going to be great for a long time, because The Ohio State University is a great university. And people identify with the athletic

program, even people who are not Ohio Staters identify with the program. People like to be with a winner. With the number of students, the number of people that we have go through the University, having the largest [number of] alumni in the country and so forth, we're going to be good in athletics. We're going to be good in academics. We are good in academics. You learn a lot about academics being in athletics. Like our veterinary school. We're good with large animals. Nobody is as good as Ohio State is with large animals. And our business school is tremendous. We do a lot of things. It's probably one of the few schools that you can go to and become a doctor or a veterinarian. There are twice as many places where you can go and be a doctor as you can go to be a veterinarian. And our burn center is one of the top in the country. And our cancer area is one of the top in the country. So we bring a lot to the table for people to pick and choose from. We're not only good in athletics. Athletics is trying to keep up with the rest of the University.

Q. That's a nice fight to have, trying to keep up with each other. Well, Bill, this has been a great pleasure for me. I can say I truly appreciate Woody bringing you to the University, 'cause he brought a great gentleman, and your name will live on forever because of the endowment for one of your players. So that's been great and it's been fun talking with you.

A. Thank you.