

ohio state quarterbacks history

ohio state quarterbacks history traces a rich lineage of talented players who have shaped one of college football's most storied programs. From early pioneers who set foundational records, to Heisman Trophy winners and NFL stars, Ohio State quarterbacks have consistently demonstrated leadership, skill, and resilience. This article explores the evolution of Ohio State quarterbacks through different eras, highlighting key figures, remarkable achievements, and the impact these athletes have made both on and off the field. The legacy of these quarterbacks reflects the program's commitment to excellence and innovation in offensive strategy. Understanding this history provides insight into how Ohio State remains a powerhouse in college football. Below is a detailed overview organized into major sections for clarity and depth.

- Early Years and Foundational Quarterbacks
- Golden Era Quarterbacks
- Modern Era Standouts
- Ohio State Quarterbacks in the NFL
- Legacy and Impact on College Football

Early Years and Foundational Quarterbacks

The history of Ohio State quarterbacks dates back to the early 20th century when the program was establishing itself within college football. These early quarterbacks laid the groundwork for the team's identity and offensive philosophy. Though records from this era are less comprehensive, these players contributed significantly to Ohio State's initial successes and the development of the quarterback position within the Buckeyes' system.

Notable Early Quarterbacks

During the 1920s and 1930s, several quarterbacks helped solidify Ohio State's competitive status. Among them were players who exhibited leadership and versatility, often playing multiple positions due to the era's style of play. Their efforts helped Ohio State secure important conference titles and set the stage for future stars.

Offensive Strategies and Evolution

Early Ohio State quarterbacks operated in a run-heavy offense but gradually incorporated more passing, reflecting broader changes in college football. Coaches experimented with formations and play-calling that emphasized quarterback decision-making, setting the precedent for the dynamic passing attacks seen in later decades.

Golden Era Quarterbacks

The mid-20th century marked a golden era for Ohio State quarterbacks as the program gained national prominence. This period featured standout athletes who earned conference honors and national recognition, contributing to multiple Big Ten championships and national titles.

Legends of the 1950s to 1970s

Quarterbacks such as Rex Kern and Cornelius Greene became household names during this era. Kern, noted for his leadership and dual-threat ability, led Ohio State to a national championship in 1968. Greene continued this legacy with strong performances that showcased the increasing athleticism required of quarterbacks.

Coaching Influence on Quarterbacks

Coaches like Woody Hayes emphasized a disciplined, run-first offense, which influenced the role of the quarterback during this period. Despite a focus on ground attacks, quarterbacks were integral in managing the game and executing critical passing plays, adapting to the demands of Hayes' strategic approach.

Modern Era Standouts

In recent decades, Ohio State quarterbacks history has been defined by prolific passers and dynamic playmakers who have transformed the position. The modern era has seen an emphasis on versatile quarterbacks capable of executing complex offenses and contributing to one of college football's most potent attacks.

Heisman Winners and Award Finalists

Notable modern quarterbacks include Troy Smith, who won the Heisman Trophy in 2006, and Justin Fields, a Heisman finalist known for his electrifying dual-threat capabilities. These players elevated Ohio State's national profile and demonstrated elite skill sets that translated into professional opportunities.

Statistical Milestones and Records

Ohio State quarterbacks in the modern era have shattered numerous school and conference records in passing yards, touchdowns, and efficiency. Their achievements reflect both the evolution of offensive schemes and the increasing talent level recruited by the program.

Ohio State Quarterbacks in the NFL

The legacy of Ohio State quarterbacks extends beyond college, with many achieving success at the professional level. The program has produced

numerous NFL starters, Pro Bowlers, and even Super Bowl champions, underscoring the quality of quarterback development at Ohio State.

Notable NFL Careers

Players like Art Schlichter, Bobby Hoying, and more recently, Cardale Jones and Dwayne Haskins, have made their mark in the NFL. While careers have varied in length and success, the transition from Ohio State quarterback to professional athlete remains a significant aspect of the program's reputation.

Development and NFL Preparedness

Ohio State's coaching staff places strong emphasis on preparing quarterbacks for the professional game through rigorous training, film study, and exposure to pro-style offenses. This preparation has contributed to the sustained pipeline of NFL-ready quarterbacks emerging from the program.

Legacy and Impact on College Football

The history of Ohio State quarterbacks is not only a tale of individual accomplishment but also a reflection of the program's broader influence on college football. Ohio State quarterbacks have pioneered innovations in quarterback play and contributed to the evolution of offensive strategies nationwide.

Influence on Quarterback Play and Coaching

Ohio State quarterbacks have often been at the forefront of integrating dual-threat capabilities and advanced passing techniques. This adaptability has influenced coaching philosophies both within the Big Ten and across the country, promoting a more dynamic and versatile quarterback archetype.

Recognition and Awards

Throughout its history, Ohio State quarterbacks have garnered numerous accolades, including Heisman trophies, All-American selections, and conference honors. These recognitions highlight the consistent excellence and high expectations placed on the position within the Buckeyes' football tradition.

- Early foundational players established the quarterback role at Ohio State
- Golden era quarterbacks contributed to national championships and set leadership standards
- Modern quarterbacks have excelled in passing and rushing, breaking records and winning awards

- Many Ohio State quarterbacks have transitioned successfully to the NFL
- The program's quarterback history reflects broader trends and innovations in college football

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the first starting quarterback for Ohio State Buckeyes?

The first recognized starting quarterback for Ohio State was Chic Harley, who played in the 1910s and is considered one of the program's early stars.

Which Ohio State quarterback won the Heisman Trophy?

Troy Smith won the Heisman Trophy in 2006 while playing quarterback for Ohio State.

Who holds the Ohio State record for most passing yards in a single season?

Justin Fields holds the Ohio State record for most passing yards in a single season, achieving 3,273 yards in 2019.

How many Ohio State quarterbacks have been drafted in the first round of the NFL Draft?

Several Ohio State quarterbacks have been first-round NFL Draft picks, including Art Schlichter, Troy Smith, and Cardale Jones, among others.

Which Ohio State quarterback led the team to a National Championship?

Cardale Jones led Ohio State to a National Championship victory in the 2014 season after stepping in due to injuries to other quarterbacks.

Who was Ohio State's quarterback before Justin Fields?

Dwayne Haskins was the starting Ohio State quarterback before Justin Fields, playing during the 2018 season.

Which Ohio State quarterback set the school record for career touchdown passes?

J.T. Barrett set the Ohio State record for career touchdown passes during his tenure from 2014 to 2017.

Has any Ohio State quarterback won the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year award?

Yes, several Ohio State quarterbacks, including J.T. Barrett and Dwayne Haskins, have won the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year award.

Who was the Ohio State quarterback during the 2002 National Championship season?

Craig Krenzel was the starting quarterback for Ohio State during their 2002 National Championship-winning season.

Which Ohio State quarterback had the highest completion percentage in a single season?

Justin Fields posted one of the highest single-season completion percentages in Ohio State history, completing around 70.1% of his passes in 2019.

Additional Resources

1. Scarlet and Gray Legends: The Ohio State Quarterback Legacy

This book chronicles the storied history of Ohio State quarterbacks from the early days of the program to the present. It delves into the lives and careers of iconic players, highlighting their contributions both on and off the field. Rich with anecdotes, statistics, and interviews, it offers fans a comprehensive look at what makes Ohio State quarterbacks so legendary.

2. Under Center: The Rise of Ohio State Quarterbacks

Focusing on the evolution of the quarterback position at Ohio State, this book examines how offensive strategies and coaching philosophies shaped some of the greatest signal callers in college football. It captures the challenges and triumphs faced by players as they adapted to changing times and expectations. Readers gain insight into the mental and physical demands of leading one of college football's most prestigious teams.

3. Buckeye Passers: Ohio State Quarterbacks Who Changed the Game

Highlighting trailblazing quarterbacks who redefined the role at Ohio State, this book profiles athletes who set records and broke barriers. It explores their unique playing styles, leadership qualities, and the impact they had on the team's success. The narrative also touches on how these players influenced the broader landscape of college football.

4. From Columbus to the NFL: Ohio State Quarterbacks' Journey

This title traces the careers of Ohio State quarterbacks who made the leap from college stars to professional athletes. It provides an in-depth look at their development at Ohio State and how their skills translated to the NFL. The book includes interviews, draft stories, and highlights from their pro careers, offering a full circle perspective on their football journeys.

5. The Buckeye Signal Callers: A History of Leadership and Legacy

A detailed history of the leadership role played by Ohio State quarterbacks over the decades, this book focuses on how these players became the heartbeat of the team. It discusses their leadership styles, challenges faced in high-pressure situations, and how they inspired teammates and fans alike. The book also examines the cultural significance of Ohio State QBs within the

university and beyond.

6. *Gridiron Glory: Ohio State Quarterbacks Through the Ages*

This comprehensive volume covers the entire timeline of Ohio State quarterbacks, spotlighting standout seasons and memorable games. It includes rare photos, game analyses, and personal stories from players and coaches. The book is a tribute to the enduring excellence and competitive spirit of Ohio State's quarterback tradition.

7. *Quarterback Chronicles: The Ohio State Edition*

A collection of essays and profiles that dive deep into the careers of Ohio State quarterbacks, this book provides varied perspectives from sports journalists, former players, and coaches. It explores the pressures of playing at a top-tier program and the personal growth experienced by these athletes. The writing captures the essence of what it means to be an Ohio State quarterback.

8. *Field Generals of Ohio State: The Art of Quarterbacking*

Examining the technical and strategic aspects of quarterback play, this book focuses on how Ohio State signal callers mastered their craft. It breaks down play styles, decision-making processes, and training regimens that contributed to their success. The book is a must-read for football enthusiasts interested in the nuances of the quarterback position.

9. *Buckeye Quarterbacks: Stories of Grit, Glory, and Greatness*

This inspiring collection of personal stories highlights the perseverance and determination of Ohio State quarterbacks throughout history. It shares moments of adversity, comeback victories, and personal triumphs that defined these athletes. Readers are given an intimate look at the character and resilience behind the jersey numbers.

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