



## ATHLETICS

Fawcett Center | 2400 Olentangy River Rd. | Columbus, OH 43210

TO: Ryan Day, Head Football Coach

FROM: Gene Smith, Senior Vice President & Wolfe Foundation Endowed Athletic Director

RE: 2019-2020 Annual Performance Review

As part of your performance management review for the academic year ending June 30, 2020, outlined below is a recap of our meeting held on June 17, 2020.

Your first year leading our football student athletes exceeded my expectations. The academic and athletic success we recognized in the 2019-2020 academic year was extraordinary.

Academically, our football student-athletes recorded a 3.274 GPA. The success you lead this team to on the field as a first year head coach was very impressive. A 13-0 record in the conference, a Big Ten championship, and positioned to play for a National Title. While the outcome of our semifinal was a heartbreaking loss for our young men and Buckeye Nation, I couldn't be more proud of the performance of our team and staff for the successful year they had.

Preparing our student athletes for life after Ohio State is one of the most important responsibilities we have. This academic year we had 25 football student athletes earn their degrees. The Buckeyes had a very successful NFL Draft, with 10 of our players realizing their dreams of playing professionally.

The class you recruited this year will bring tremendous talent as we move into the future. The number 1 recruiting class in the Big Ten, and the nation's number 5 class overall is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of you and your talented group of coaches and staff.

Above all, your program is about your culture. You have instilled a culture of integrity, family, and hard work that guides our student athletes to be successful both on and off the field. As we head into these times of uncertainty due to the pandemic, and calls for social justice reform, it is that strong culture that allows us to support these young men and help them manage the adversity they are going through. This will not be an easy road moving forward, but with your leadership guiding our team, I couldn't be more optimistic about what our future brings.

It will be more important than ever this upcoming year to focus on the mental health of our student-athletes. These are unprecedented times they are going through and there is no playbook for how to help them navigate it. We need to ensure they are connected to the resources we provide, and also staying connected to each other. Team and family are important now more than ever.



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As you continue to lead our football program with integrity and transparency please know that I am always here to support you. Let me know how I can help you. Thank you for your tremendous work this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eugene D. Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Eugene' and last name 'Smith' clearly legible.

Eugene D. Smith

Senior Vice President & Wolfe Foundation Endowed Athletic Director