

## Van Wert's Buckeye Bash a success

Dan Stemen - 11.15.2006 – Van Wert Voice

VAN WERT - The Ohio State University Alumni Association of Van Wert and Paulding Counties held their annual Michigan Week "Buckeye Bash" tailgate party, which featured former Buckeyes Defensive Back/Linebacker Ryan Miller as guest speaker.

Also speaking briefly was Melinda Courson of the Ohio State University Alumni Association, and Steve Davis, who is collecting information for a book he plans to call "Stories of the Shoe" ([www.storiesoftheshoe.com](http://www.storiesoftheshoe.com)).

Besides the speakers, fans at this year's "Buckeye Bash" also enjoyed games of Buckeye Bingo, along with silent and live auctions of OSU collectibles that raised approximately \$6,500 for the association's scholarship fund.

The auction included two tickets to Saturday's OSU vs. Michigan Game. JEHMMS Banquet Center hosted the tailgaters.

Miller is a former Defensive Back/Outside Linebacker for the great OSU Teams of the 90's. Miller talked about his playing days while at OSU (1993-1996).

Miller, who became a radio and television sportscaster after graduation and now has his own marketing firm, was teammates with former Buckeye greats: Luke Fickel, Shawn Springs, Bobby Hoying and 1995 Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George.

Fickel is now an OSU Assistant Coach, while Springs, Hoying, and George all played in the NFL.

## Buckeye Bash 2006

### OSU fans prepare for game of the year



Ryan Miller  
Former OSU linebacker

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Jill DeWert/Times Bulletin

Former Ohio State linebacker Ryan Miller (1993-1996) signs a football for Ohio State Buckeyes fan Madison Zuber, 12. Buckeye fans turned out in force for last night's Buckeye Bash, held at JEHMM'S Banquet Center.

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VAN WERT —Local football “nuts” gathered on Tuesday evening at JEHMM’s Banquet Center for the Van Wert/Paulding County OSU Alumni Club annual Buckeye Bash. The Buckeye Bash is held every year during the week before the Ohio State/Michigan game. Alumni and fans get together to rally before the big game.

Food, door prizes, bingo, raffle drawings, a speaker, and both silent auctions and live auctions are all part of the party. All proceeds from the event go towards scholarships given to Van Wert and Paulding county students who attend Ohio State University.

Speaker for this year’s event was Ryan Miller, linebacker for the Ohio State University football team from 1993 to 1996, who actually grew up in Michigan. Miller was recruited by several colleges and had a decision to make. “My dad and I made the trip to visit Ohio State. As we were coming into town, I saw ‘The Horseshoe,’” said Miller. “I said to my dad, ‘If I can call that home for four years, where do I sign?’ ”Miller has one set of gold pants from beating Michigan in 1994 and knows firsthand the level of rivalry between Ohio State and Michigan. “This time of year I get restless and wish I was playing. I know the heartbreak from losing to Michigan,” said Miller. “You keep it with you the rest of your life. People still ask me my record against Michigan. One and three.”

Fan members also questioned Miller how the game stays so clean with such an intense rivalry. “I think it is like looking in a mirror. They have a lot of pride and passion in what they do. Who does that sound like?” questioned Miller. “Ohio State. But who was I talking about, Ohio State or Michigan?”

But which team does Miller predict to win the big match up on Saturday? “I think Ohio State will win by a touchdown or more. I think the crowd is going to be good for a score,” predicted Miller. “These [Michigan] kids are going to be nervous. They’re not going to be covering these kicks like they would be if they were playing Northwestern at home.”

Miller had two charges for the OSU team and fans to complete during the game in order for his prediction to ring true. “Stop the run and affect [Michigan quarterback Chad] Henne. When you are at the game, you have to go bonkers,” said Miller. “When he sees a bunch of scarlet and gray fans in the stands, that’s going to affect him no matter what he says.”