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The 2005 Ohio Men's Basketball Media Guide is a publication of the Ohio University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

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Tribune Quality Printing
 Nelsonville, Ohio
 740-753-1577

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Quick Facts

OHIO UNIVERSITY

Location Athens, Ohio
 Founded 1804
 Enrollment 28,804
 Nickname Bobcats
 Colors Hunter Green and White
 Conference Mid-American (East Division)
 Home Court Convocation Center (13,080)
 President Dr. Roderick J. McDavis (Ohio '70)
 Director of Athletics . . . Kirby Hocutt (Kansas State '95)
 Senior Woman Administrator . . Amy Dean (Miami '85)
 Athletics Department Phone (740) 593-1300
 Athletics Web site ohiobobcats.com

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Tim O'Shea (Boston College '84)
 Record at Ohio: 62-58 (fifth year)
 Career Record: same
 Associate Head Coach: John Rhodes (Ohio '88)
 Assistant Coach: Kevin Kuwik (Notre Dame '96)
 Assistant Coach: Brian Townsend (Michigan '91)
 Assistant Coach: Adam DeMong (Boston College '03)
 Graduate Assistant: Adam Griggs (Ohio '05)
 Basketball Secretary: Brenda White
 Basketball Office Phone: (740) 593-1956

TEAM INFORMATION

2004-05 Overall Record: 21-11
 2004-05 MAC Record (Finish): 11-7 (3rd-East)
 2004-05 Home/Road/Neutral 13-1/4-9/4-1
 Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 6/3
 Newcomers: 4

PROGRAM INFORMATION

First Year: 1907-08 (99th season)
 All-Time Record: 1,259-971
 First Year in MAC: 1946-47 (60th season)
 All-Time MAC Record: 465-361
 MAC Championships (Last): 10 (2005)
 NCAA Tournament Appearances (Last): 11 (2005)
 Postseason NIT Appearances (Last): 3 (1995)
 School Record for Wins (Year): 25 (1994)

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2005-06 Schedule

NOVEMBER

Day	Opponent	Site	Time
12	Mercyhurst (exh.)	Athens, Ohio	4 p.m.
26	St. Francis (Pa.)	Athens, Ohio	3 p.m.

DECEMBER

3	American	Athens, Ohio	4 p.m.
6	at Marist	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	7:30 p.m.
10	at Rhode Island	Kingston, R.I.	7 p.m.
14	at Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	8 p.m.
17	Shippensburg	Athens, Ohio	3 p.m.
22	Detroit	Athens, Ohio	7 p.m.
30	vs. Kentucky^	Cincinnati, Ohio	8 p.m.

JANUARY

4	Western Michigan*	Athens, Ohio	7 p.m.
8	Ball State*	Athens, Ohio	4 p.m.
11	at Eastern Michigan*	Ypsilanti, Mich.	7 p.m.
14	Central Michigan*	Athens, Ohio	2 p.m.
17	at Northern Illinois*	DeKalb, Ill.	7 p.m.
21	at Toledo*	Toledo, Ohio	4:30 p.m.
24	Akron*	Athens, Ohio	7 p.m.
26	at Buffalo*	Buffalo, N.Y.	8 p.m.
29	Miami*	Athens, Ohio	12 p.m.

FEBRUARY

1	Kent State*	Athens, Ohio	7 p.m.
4	at Bowling Green*	Bowling Green, Ohio	2 p.m.
9	Northern Illinois*	Athens, Ohio	7 p.m.
12	at Western Michigan*	Kalamazoo, Mich.	2 p.m.
15	at Miami*	Oxford, Ohio	7 p.m.
18	ESPN Bracket Buster	Athens, Ohio	TBA
22	Buffalo*	Athens, Ohio	7 p.m.
25	at Akron*	Akron, Ohio	4 p.m.

MARCH

1	at Kent State*	Kent, Ohio	8 p.m.
4	Bowling Green*	Athens, Ohio	2 p.m.
6	MAC Tourn. First Round	Campus Sites	TBA
9-11	MAC Tournament Finals+	Cleveland, Ohio	TBA

All home games played in the Convocation Center

^ US Bank Arena

* Mid-American Conference game

+ Quicken Loans Arena



Season Preview



This journey began at the exact moment that another journey was ending.

As the final buzzer sounded, members of the 2004-05 Ohio basketball squad untucked their shirts, took a final glance at the scoreboard hanging from the rafters and walked off the floor of Nashville's Gaylord Entertainment Center on the losing end of a 67-62 battle in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Bobcats were lauded for their resilience and praised for their heart. With a Mid-American Conference Tournament championship on the shelf and an impressive showing on a national stage in the NCAA Tournament, Ohio was celebrated for one of the most memorable seasons in program history.

The memory of that season hasn't faded for the Bobcats—especially the memory of walking off that floor in Nashville.

Tim O'Shea's Ohio basketball team got a taste of what it's like to play in the Big Dance and it was on that Friday afternoon that a new journey would begin.

Personal accolades have come in bunches, expectations have sky rocketed and the target has been placed firmly on their backs. But this journey has no place for those details. This journey is about a group that has been there before and will do whatever it takes to get there again.

"We're going to be really challenged this year with a young group going into the season with a target on our back. It'll be interesting to see how we respond to that," O'Shea said. "If we're going to be where we want to be at the end of the season, it's not going to be because of five, it's going to be because of how we come together as 13."

And playing as a cohesive unit has become one of O'Shea's most important messages to his Bobcats as they make the initial strides in this journey.

"Everything that you would want to be in place for you going into the season, seems to be in place for us now. Our chemistry seems good and guys enjoy playing with each other," he said. "I see no rivalries or anything that could stand in the way of this team coming together to maximize its potential. The key to the season is how well our chemistry evolves."

The team's returners were afforded the chance to blend together even more in the offseason when Ohio took a trip to Europe and faced professional teams from The Netherlands and Belgium.

"One of the most beneficial things we've been able to do to avoid any complacency was the fact that we took a trip to The Netherlands and Belgium this summer and played true professional teams; teams that only the best players in this conference would have a chance to play for," O'Shea said. "A couple of these teams, had they been in the NCAA, would've had a chance to compete for the national championship."

The Bobcats went 1-5 on the trip, but O'Shea couldn't be more pleased with the benefits of an international playing experience.

"I think this was a team that needed an experience like that to shake off any complacency that may have set in after winning the MAC and playing fairly well in the NCAA Tournament."

While serving as a forum for a team to unite, the trip overseas also prepared Ohio for its demanding schedule. Aside from the usual rigors of the MAC slate, the Bobcats will play one of the league's toughest non-conference schedules in the 2005-06 season, with dates against Kentucky, Cincinnati, Detroit and Rhode Island looming.

"The challenge I see ahead for us is the schedule we play this season is much tougher than last year's, and it should be tougher," O'Shea said.

Still, as the defending MAC Tournament champion, there will be no sneaking up on anybody, regardless of the opponent.

"Everybody's got us marked as a big game," O'Shea said. "We're not going to show up anywhere where people will say 'Oh, that's Ohio. That's an easy W.'"

Backcourt

Ohio's backcourt was crammed with question marks a year ago. Could a true freshman take the reins and lead the ball club from the point guard position? Could a junior college star make the transition to the Division I game?

A year later, the backcourt is all answers. It's yes and yes.

Now in his sophomore season, **Jeremy Fears** returns as one of the league's most exciting ball handlers and a player that has used the offseason to mature into the point guard O'Shea wants running his team.

"You go back 12 months to now and look at how far he's come, he's made remarkable progress," O'Shea said. "He is so much more mature about everything, schoolwork, basketball, leadership. He's really grown up and that's nice to see. Every experience he's had here has really helped him mature."

Fears came off the bench to begin last season, but soon found himself as a staple in the starting lineup. He ranked sixth in the league in steals (58) and eighth in assists (3.7 apg) last season. Fears showed he could score, too, when needed last season, putting up 33 points in a key East Division match-up against Buffalo.

He was named to the MAC's All-Freshman Team and All-Tournament Team.

"He's consistently been challenged to up his game," O'Shea said. "He's gotten stronger, he's improved his outside game. He still has a long way to go, but he's on the right path and that's something I'm really pleased with."

Co-captain **Mychal Green** also returns to the backcourt, but this time he'll no longer be sneaking up on people. Green came to Athens after two seasons in the junior college ranks and quickly became one of the league's best scorers and most clutch players.

"We would not have had the season we had a year ago if it were not for the way Mychal Green came in and impacted this team," O'Shea said. "They always say junior college players need a year to adjust to the college game. That wasn't the case with Mychal. From day one he was one of the best players at his position in the MAC and as the season progressed he came up with more and more clutch shots for us."





Green hit for 15 points per game last season and was a MAC honorable mention selection.

"Consistently he's proved himself as a guy that plays well under pressure. He's a guy you can count on," O'Shea said. "I believe Mychal is going to play beyond Ohio. I really believe he's going to have a professional career."

A pair of juniors will look to bring consistency to a young Ohio backcourt.

Stephen King was named Minnesota Mr. Basketball at the Academy of Holy Angels in 2002 and has seen time in 32 games in his first two seasons in Athens.

"Stephen King has really improved," O'Shea said. "He got some experience in Europe and it was very impressive that he stepped in and made shots right away."

Fellow junior **Whitney Davis** emerged last season as a key component to O'Shea's bench. He scored 15 points in a pair of big road games last season at Detroit and at Northern Illinois.

"Whitney Davis is a guy that really made the most of his minutes last year," O'Shea said. "He definitely has a chance to take a big step forward from where he was a year ago."

Sophomore **Antonio Chatman** enters the mix this season after spending a year at Monroe Community College in New York. Chatman was one of the best prep players in the Boston area, leading his squad to a pair of city championships and a No. 15 ranking in the USA Today poll. He was named to the Boston Herald Dream Team and the Boston Globe Super Team following his junior and senior seasons.

"Antonio Chatman really provides great experience at the point guard position," O'Shea said. "He went 79-1 during his high school career so he really knows how to win. He's a true point guard, a terrific leader."

Frontcourt

Ohio's frontcourt has the ingredients to be one of the most effective in the conference this season, assuming those elements can come together as smoothly as they did a year ago. A powerful force in the middle and one of the league's most versatile small forwards highlight a talented batch of big men.

Leon Williams burst onto the scene as a true freshman last season and word quickly spread around the conference about the MAC's newest dominant presence in the post.

"As good as Leon was last year, I think he's better this year," O'Shea said. "I think he's gotten stronger, he's become a better finisher and he's become more explosive. It's scary to think he's only a sophomore. It certainly makes me feel great that he's playing for Ohio."

Williams was named MAC Tournament MVP and the MAC Freshman of the Year last season. He averaged 11.9 points and 8.6 rebounds, including a career-high 29 points and 15 rebounds in MAC Tournament championship game against Buffalo on March 12. His nine double-doubles on the year tied him for second in the nation among freshmen and his 8.6 rebounds per game were third in the league.

"I don't think anyone would disagree that he was the dominant big man in the league last year, and I think he's going to start off where

he left off," O'Shea said. "By the end of this season, I would not be at all surprised if people were talking about Leon as being one of the best players in the country at his position."

O'Shea demands excellence from his players both on the floor and off, and Williams fits the mold on both ends.

"As a coach, you couldn't ask for a better person, player, leader or talent."

While Williams makes his home in the paint, the man O'Shea calls "the glue" is known as much for his outside game as his ability to drive to the basket. Point-forward **Sonny Troutman** is back for his junior season and while he has shown no problem putting the ball in the goal, he just may make his biggest impact on the defensive end.

Troutman broke the school record for steals in a season with 72 last year.

"I think he's going to continue to break his record each year and will probably leave here as the all-time steals leader," O'Shea said. "He's a vastly underrated player in this conference. In every facet of the game he gives you something."

Troutman started all 32 games last season and averaged 12.6 points per game.

"He's got tremendous instincts," O'Shea said. "He's one of those guys that at the end of the game, you're very comfortable if he's got the ball in his hands."

Newcomer **Johnnie Jackson** should figure prominently into the forward rotation as well, after sitting out last season under NCAA transfer guidelines. Jackson saw time in 19 games in two seasons at Boston College, backing up a pair of All-American players.

"Johnnie's a terrific athlete that has to shake off the rust of not playing for two years," O'Shea said. "I think Europe was big for him because it gave him a chance to play six games against high-end competition. I think he's going to continue to get better."

One of the team's most experienced players, co-captain **Jeff Halbert**, will fill a role as sixth man that O'Shea sees as a must for a championship-caliber team. Halbert has played in all 90 games during his three-year stint in Athens, averaging 6.7 points and 3.1 rebounds as a junior last season.

"Jeff Halbert played big for us last year," O'Shea said. "I've always believed that you need to have a guy coming off your bench that could just as easily start for you, and Jeff has always been that guy for us."

Like Halbert, senior **Cliff McGowen** and junior **Matt Annen** provide depth and experience to O'Shea's bench.

"Cliff McGowen really gives us another guy with some solid size down low," O'Shea said. "Matt Annen has consistently shown that he has terrific fundamentals. He knows how to play and he makes people better on the floor."

Junior college transfer **Ken Ottrix** is listed at 6-foot-10-inches, but his reach is five inches greater. Ottrix averaged eight points in each of the last two seasons and could be a factor in the paint for Ohio.

"It's hard to find a big man with fundamentals, skills and athleticism and in Ken Ottrix, we have that," O'Shea said. "Ken allows us to put a guy on the floor that, though he's only 6'9" when you measure him, has a reach of 7'3". I think that Ken really will provide valuable minutes for us off the bench."

The squad's lone freshman, 6-foot-6-inch **Jerome Tillman** averaged a double-double for Beaver Creek High School in his senior season.

"Jerome Tillman is a future star in the MAC, there's no question about it. He has the talent, the athletic ability and the credentials."



2005-06 Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT/WT	CL/EXP	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL/LAST
00	Mychal Green	G	6-4/198	SR/1L	Columbus/Northland HS/Ohlone
1	Sonny Troutman	G	6-6/220	JR/2L	Indianapolis, Ind./Brebeuf Jesuit HS
2	Johnnie Jackson	F	6-7/210	JR/TR	Memphis, Tenn./Fairley HS/Boston College
3	Jeremy Fears	PG	6-4/195	SO/1L	Joliet, Ill./Joliet Township HS
5	Leon Williams	F/C	6-8/255	SO/1L	Baltimore, Md./Cardinal Gibbons HS
10	Whitney Davis	G	6-4/190	JR/2L	Ann Arbor, Mich./Pioneer HS
11	Antonio Chatman	G	6-1/176	SO/TR	Charleston, Mass./Charleston HS/Monroe CC
14	Stephen King	G	6-3/191	JR/2L	Richfield, Minn./Academy of Holy Angels
20	Ken Ottrix	F/C	6-9/215	JR/TR	Seattle, Wash./Davidson HS (Ohio)/Yavapai
21	Seth Bauman	F	6-4/195	SR/TR	Canal Winchester, Ohio/St. Charles Prep/OU-Lancaster
23	Jeff Halbert	G	6-5/210	SR/3L	White Bear Lake, Minn./White Bear Lake HS
32	Matt Annen	F	6-7/221	JR/2L	Elk River, Minn./Elk River HS
33	Jerome Tillman	F	6-6/237	FR/HS	Beavercreek/Beavercreek HS
44	Cliff McGowen	F	6-9/226	SR/1L	Westerville/North HS/Columbus State

Head Coach: Tim O'Shea (Boston College '84, Fifth Season)

Associate Head Coach: John Rhodes (Ohio '88, Seventh Season)

Assistant Coach: Kevin Kuwik (Notre Dame '96, Third Season)

Assistant Coach: Brian Townsend (Michigan '91, Third Season)

Assistant/Graduate Assistant: Adam DeMong (Boston College '03, Second Season)

Graduate/Volunteer Assistant: Adam Griggs



Front (left to right): Sonny Troutman, Jeremy Fears, Cliff McGowen, Mychal Green, Head Coach Tim O'Shea, Jeff Halbert, Stephen King, Whitney Davis, Antonio Chatman. Back: Manager Doug Dewey, Graduate Assistant Adam Griggs, Brian Townsend, Johnnie Jackson, Matt Annen, Ken Ottrix, Leon Williams, Jerome Tillman, Associate Head Coach John Rhodes, Assistant Coach Adam DeMong, Manager Derek Detert.



Personnel Breakdown

Starters Returning

NO	NAME	POS	HT/WT	CL/EXP	2004-05 Stats
00	Mychal Green	G	6-4/198	SR/1L	15.0 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.6 spg
1	Sonny Troutman	G	6-6/220	JR/2L	12.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 2.3 spg
3	Jeremy Fears	PG	6-4/195	SO/1L	11.9 ppg, 3.7 apg, 1.2 spg
5	Leon Williams	F/C	6-8/255	SO/1L	11.9 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 64% FG

Others Returning

10	Whitney Davis	G	6-4/190	JR/2L	30 G, 2.3 ppg, 1.0 apg
14	Stephen King	G	6-3/191	JR/2L	5 G, 1.8 ppg
23	Jeff Halbert	G	6-5/210	SR/3L	32 G, 6.7 ppg, 3.1 rpg
32	Matt Annen	F	6-7/221	JR/2L	10 G, 0.3 ppg
44	Cliff McGowen	F	6-9/226	SR/1L	6 G, 1.5 ppg

Newcomers

2	Johnnie Jackson	F	6-7/210	JR/TR	7G, 2.0 ppg, 1.3 rpg (2003-04)
11	Antonio Chatman	G	6-1/176	SO/TR	15 ppg, 9.0 apg
20	Ken Ottrix	F/C	6-9/215	JR/TR	8.0 ppg, 5 rpg
21	Seth Bauman	F	6-4/195	SR/TR	
33	Jerome Tillman	F	6-6/237	FR/HS	27 ppg, 13 rpg, 2 spg

By Position

PG	Jeremy Fears, Antonio Chatman
G	Whitney Davis, Mychal Green, Jeff Halbert, Stephen King, Sonny Troutman
F	Matt Annen, Seth Bauman, Johnnie Jackson, Cliff McGowen, Jerome Tillman
F/C	Ken Ottrix, Leon Williams

By Eligibility

SR	Seth Bauman, Mychal Green, Jeff Halbert, Cliff McGowen
JR	Matt Annen, Whitney Davis, Johnnie Jackson, Stephen King, Ken Ottrix, Sonny Troutman
SO	Antonio Chatman, Jeremy Fears, Leon Williams
FR	Jerome Tillman

By State

IL	Jeremy Fears (Joliet)	OH	Seth Bauman (Canal Winchester)
IN	Sonny Troutman (Indianapolis)		Mychal Green (Columbus)
MD	Leon Williams (Baltimore)		Cliff McGowen (Westerville)
MA	Antonio Chatman (Charleston)		Jerome Tillman (Beavercreek)
MI	Whitney Davis (Ann Arbor)	TN	Johnnie Jackson (Memphis)
MN	Matt Annen (Elk River)	WA	Ken Ottrix (Seattle)
	Jeff Halbert (White Bear Lake)		
	Stephen King (Richfield)		