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OSU Marching Band heads to New Orleans for the BCS National Championship Game

COLUMBUS, 12/19/07 – For the second year in a row, the 225-member Ohio State University Marching Band will be joining the Buckeyes for a trip to the BCS title game. This year's Allstate BCS National Championship versus Louisiana State University is on January 7, 2008 in the Louisiana Superdome.

Before leaving Columbus, the largest all-brass and percussion band in the world will spend three evenings in rehearsal at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. These rehearsals are closed to the public.

The band plans to perform a special "Heroes and Legends" show during the pregame portion of the championship game. The show celebrates some of our legendary champions of the silver screen then salutes the real-life heroes who protect us as members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

At halftime, the band will perform its well-known gridiron signature, a "double" Script Ohio to both sides of the field. Dotting the twin "I's" are **Mike Nary** of North Royalton, Ohio and **Sean Maloney** of Dublin, Ohio, both Seniors in Music Education.

In New Orleans, media are encouraged to cover the band's final public rehearsal before the BCS Championship, at Bishop Rummel High School, 1091 Severn Ave., in Metairie (see directions below), on Sunday, January 7 beginning at 10 a.m. Former band members are welcome to bring instruments and play along at the end of the session. Previous rehearsals at bowl games have drawn crowds of well over 1,000 alumni and fans as well as local music students.

Here is a complete list of Ohio State University Marching Band appearances at the championship: Performance times are ***approximate and subject to change.***

Wednesday, January 2, 2008

7-10 p.m. EST

Music & Marching Rehearsal - Woody Hayes Athletic Center

*The band plays through the pre-game and halftime shows. **MEDIA ONLY.***

Thursday, January 3, 2008

7-10 p.m. EST

Music & Marching Rehearsal - Woody Hayes Athletic Center

*The band plays through the pre-game and halftime shows. **MEDIA ONLY.***

Friday, January 4, 2008

7-9 p.m. EST

Music & Marching Rehearsal - Woody Hayes Athletic Center

*The band plays through the pre-game and halftime shows. **MEDIA ONLY.***

Sunday, January 6, 2008

10 a.m. - noon CST

Public Rehearsal

Bishop Rummel High School, 1091 Severn Ave., Metairie, LA

From Downtown: North on I-10 to I-10 West, exit south on North Causeway Blvd, then west on West Napoleon about one block to turn south on Severn

The band welcomes the public and OSU Alumni to its final rehearsal before the game. Former band members are welcome to bring instruments and play along at the end of the session.

3:00 p.m. (performance at approximately 4 p.m.) CST

Buckeye Bash Pep Rally

Ernest M. Morial Convention Center. 900 Convention Center Blvd. New Orleans

Annual bowl gathering of Buckeye faithful with university officials, cheerleaders and the band.

Monday, January 7, 2008

10 a.m. CST

Gameday Rehearsal – MEDIA ONLY

Louisiana Superdome

4:30 p.m. CST

Performances at Pre-game Party and Corporate Events

Louisiana Superdome

6:35 p.m. CST

Pre-game Performance - Allstate BCS National Championship

Halftime Performance with the LSU Band

Contacts (media only please):

The Band will be staying at the New Orleans Hilton, 2 Poydras Street, New Orleans (504) 561-0500.

Reach the band at the Steinbrenner Band Center in Columbus at (614) 292-2598.

In New Orleans, reach Dr. Woods at the Hilton at (504) 561-0500 or Media Contact, David Carwile, by cell (614) 323-4046.

A rights-free, high resolution image of the band's famous "Script Ohio" formation is available for media use at www.osuband.org.



A Tradition of Excellence

**"Ladies and Gentlemen...
The Pride of the Buckeyes...
The Ohio State University Marching Band."**

The 225-member Ohio State University Marching Band is one of the few all-brass and percussion bands in the country and is known as the largest of its kind in the world. Saluted by USA Today and first honored with the Suddler Trophy in 1988 as the outstanding college band in the country, it is without question one of the finest performing groups of its kind in America and a trendsetter in the modern band arena.

The band grew from humble beginnings: the first instrumental musical organization on campus was a 12-piece fife and drum corps organized in 1878. In 1896, Gustav Bruder, a professional musician with military band experience was hired to lead the fledgling organization. Under Bruder, the band grew and began performing for all military and athletic events. Back in 1920, a 100-piece band, huge for its day, marched behind Edward "Tubby" Essington, the country's first strutting Drum Major. The band's basic military-style uniform itself has changed little since that time.

The modern history of the band began with Professor Eugene J. Weigel who virtually created the college marching band as we know it today. Weigel changed the group to its all-brass and percussion instrumentation in 1934, based on the traditions of the British brass band. Manley Whitcomb followed Weigel in 1939, with William McBride taking over during the war years. Whitcomb returned in 1946, with Jack O. Evans (1952), Charles L. Spohn (1964) and Paul Droste (1970) holding the post in later years. The group reached its current size of 225 musicians under Droste in the mid-1970's and female students were admitted to the band for the first time in 1973. **Dr. Jon R. Woods** was named director in 1984, bringing an innovative field style to the already rich traditions. 192 members march in a regular field performance, with 224 performing double Script Ohio's. Led Drum Major **Stewart Kitchen**, the band has no auxiliary groups.

Considered by many as the most memorable tradition in college band history, **SCRIPT OHIO** was first performed October 10, 1936 (Ohio State vs. Pittsburgh). The first "i" dotter was John Brungart, a trumpet player who retired as a pharmacist in Coshocton, Ohio. Sousaphone players assumed the honor of dotting the "I" beginning the next year.

A "double" Script Ohio will be performed during the pregame of the *2008 Allstate BCS National Championship Game*. The school fight songs - "Buckeye Battle Cry" (1919) and "Across the Field" (1915) were introduced early in the past century, while a more modern tradition is "Hang on Sloopy," (1965) which has been designated as Ohio's official rock song.

Many marching band innovations were first tried and developed at Ohio State. Among them are: floating and animated formations, measured step marching, script writing and the fast cadence with a high knee lift. Brass instruments especially designed for marching bands were first used at Ohio State. The traditions within the organization have generated a fierce sense of loyalty among its more than 4,500 former members over the past century. Each fall, more than 600 alumni return to march a quad SCRIPT OHIO with the undergraduate band at the first home game.

The Ohio State University Marching Band has gained and continues to enjoy national and international acclaim. Brilliant performances have received standing ovations at National Championship Fiesta and Rose Bowl games, as well as at the Orange, Sugar, Cotton, Citrus, Holiday, Liberty and Outback/Hall of Fame Bowls. In addition, the band has marched in five Presidential Inaugural Parades. Throughout the country, The Ohio State University Marching Band is known as a trendsetter, with an unsurpassed reputation and tradition of excellence.

-edit or adapt at will.- rev 12/07



The “Incomparable Script Ohio”

Signature of
The Ohio State University Marching Band

The year was 1936. America was struggling through the Depression, FDR was on the campaign trail for a second term, and the Statue of Liberty was celebrating its first half-century. In Berlin, Jesse Owens of The Ohio State University was writing his name in the history books at Hitler's Olympics. In Columbus, Ohio, a signature of another kind marked the beginning of one of the best-known traditions in college football.

By the mid-1930s, the 120-member Ohio State University Marching Band was already setting the standards for modern college bands with its all-brass instrumentation, floating formations and driving style. But Director Eugene J. Weigel was not one to rest on his laurels. Inspired by a state fair skywriter and perhaps the marquee at the nearby Ohio Theatre, he decided to try a different type of formation at the Pittsburgh game in Ohio Stadium on **October 10, 1936**. It did not go unnoticed. The next day, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported that "The smartly drilled Ohio State Band trooped out something new between the halves when Professor Weigel's lads spelled out "Ohio" imitating script letters in the process." Seventy years later in 2006, ESPN (among others) named it the top college football tradition.

SCRIPT OHIO has remained relatively unchanged over the decades, and is performed a number of times each season at both home and away games. Unwinding out of a massive block "O" as if written by a giant pen, it is recognized across the country as one of the great symbols of college sport, whether in the Rose Bowl or on a dusty high-school field. Each autumn, when some 600 former band members return to Ohio Stadium for their annual reunion, they join the now-225 undergraduate musicians in a quadruple SCRIPT OHIO. A crowd of more than 90,000 fans celebrates the tradition to the melody of Planquett's *Le Regiment de Sambre et Meuse*, the French march that Weigel selected back in 1936.

The highlight of any performance is always the "dotting of the i" in a giant Ohio. John W. Brungart, a retired pharmacist from Coshocton, was the first person to receive that honor back in 1936.

While Brungart was a trumpet player who just happened to be at the right place at the right time that first season, Professor Weigel enjoyed another flash of inspiration at the beginning of the following year. Yet another tradition was born when he switched sousaphone Glen Johnson for the trumpet player at the "dot" in 1937, with fourth and fifth-year tuba players claiming the spotlight ever since. The "i"-dot tradition will continue at the 2008 BCS Championship with a Double Script Ohio, featuring "i"-dotters **Mike Nary** of North Royalton, Ohio and **Sean Maloney** of Dublin, Ohio, both seniors in Music Education.

There have been a small number of notable exceptions to the sousaphone tradition. Golfer Jack Nicklaus was honored in 2006, Bob Hope sauntered out to the top of the "i" in 1979, and former Ohio State Coach W. W. Hayes drew an emotional ovation in 1983. "It was one of the greatest events of my life," Woody later recalled.

There are other special memories of SCRIPT OHIO. A performance at the 1976 World Series in Cincinnati drew the ire of then-commissioner Bowie Kuhn, who was upset to see a football gridiron etched in tape across his baseball outfield. Another of the more interesting renditions took place on the deck of an aircraft carrier in the San Diego harbor.

But while SCRIPT OHIO has become the goodwill symbol for the state and the University, the universal excitement it generates still makes it truly unique. ESPN commentator Beano Cook echoes the sentiments of many football fans in saying "If I could dot the "i" in a Michigan game and the good lord came to take me the next day... at least I could die happy." We can only add: "Go Bucks!"



Dotting the “I” in Script Ohio

The Ohio State University Marching Band

How an OSUMB Sousaphone Player becomes an "I'-dotter

“Dotting the I” in Script Ohio is an honor that cannot be bought or bargained. To be eligible to dot the “i”, you must at least be a fourth-year member of the OSUMB sousaphone section. Since more than one person usually meets this requirement, a complex seniority system sets the order of selection. (In practice, the sousaphone player who has marched the most pre-game stadium entrances is given the first choice.) The individual at the top of the seniority list picks from the scheduled performances of Script Ohio for the upcoming season. This process continues until all fourth-year members have chosen a dot.

Fifth-year members are also eligible to dot the “i”, but only after all fourth-year members have chosen. Fifth-year members choose their dots from the remaining script performances, following the same method of seniority used by fourth-year members. If a script is remaining after every eligible musician has chosen, all sousaphone players place their name in a hat and one is drawn. This is the person who will dot the remaining “i”.

At bowl game performances of Script Ohio (often double scripts to both sides of the field), fourth and fifth-year members compete for the open dots in what is called a “dot-off”, in which eligible members perform their “i”-dot routine for the entire sousaphone section. Members watch two rounds of competition and vote for the best two candidates. The top vote-getters become the dotters for that performance of Script Ohio.

For the Double Script at the 2008 Allstate BCS National Championship Game :

Pressbox (west) side: **Mike Nary**, a senior in Music Education from North Royalton, Ohio.

East side: **Sean Maloney**, a senior in Music Education from Dublin, Ohio.

(Single Script: 192 musicians form a large Ohio to the pressbox side of the stadium.)

(Double Script: 224 musicians split to form two smaller, 112-member Scripts to both sides of the field.)

Honorary "I'-dots

A very few prominent people have been honored by being allowed to dot the “I”. This is considered the greatest honor the band can give to any non-band member, and is an extremely special (and rare) event. Honorary “i”-dotters include Jack Nicklaus (2006), Bob Hope (1979) and Woody Hayes (1983). By university rules, the tradition is reserved for sousaphone players and on very special occasions, by invitation of the band and sousaphone section only, for persons near and dear to the university and the State of Ohio.