



JACK PARK OSU FOOTBALL HISTORIAN

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Tom Davis introduced our speaker today, **Jack Park**. Jack is a noted OSU football historian. Jack is also the author of four books. He is an Upper Arlington resident.

This year's game will be the first time the OSU/ Michigan game has been played in the month of December. On December 5, 1891 OSU played its only other regular season football game in the month of December.

We learned an array of facts from Jack's comments and his accompanying slide presentation.

Jack noted that the Spanish Flu epidemic in 1918 put OSU football in tatters. There was even more schedule disruption than there is in the current pandemic. That year, the Michigan game was played on November 30. That game began the current streak of playing an annual Michigan game. That same year (1918) Notre Dame played Case Tech in Cleveland coached by Knute Rockne – Rockne's first game as Notre Dame coach. George Gipp and Curly Lambeau were on that team. Lambeau, a Wisconsin native, went on to promote the establishment of a semi-professional football team in Green Bay, Wisconsin – now known as the Packers.

Moving to Ohio State/Michigan... The first game was in 1897. Michigan leads the all time series 58-52 with 6 ties. OSU won 1 of the first 16 games. Currently, Michigan has won only 1 of the last 16 games.

The Big Ten Conference was formed in 1896. It did not include Ohio State which was not considered strong enough. A conference expansion in 1902 still did not include Ohio State. OSU was finally admitted to the Big Ten in 1913. OSU and Michigan did not play from 1913-1917 because Michigan had dropped out of the Big Ten at that time and conference members like Ohio State were prohibited from playing them because of the bitterness of Michigan's

departure from the conference. The conference ruled that anyone who played the Wolverines had to leave the conference. Michigan wanted to play more games than the conference allowed and also chafed at some of the conference's rules and regulations. They were in the midst of a dominant run – including 5 years with only one loss under legendary coach Fielding Yost. Yost's all-time record was 195-35-12. He had six national championships at Michigan.

Jack looked at the years between OSU's disastrous start in the Michigan rivalry (1-15 record) and Michigan's current disastrous results (1-15). A lot has happened.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings



GREETERS

December 15
Matt Rule (VH)
Brian Bainbridge (VH)

December 22
N/A

December 29
N/A

REGISTRATION DESK

December 15
N/A

December 22
N/A

December 29
N/A

CALENDAR

December 15 - ZOOM Meeting
Joe Nardone, CEO & President
of Columbus Regional Airport
Authority
Host: Herb Gillen

December 22
No Rotary weekly meeting –
Merry Christmas!

December 29
No Rotary weekly meeting –
Happy New Year!

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OUR NEXT MEETING

DECEMBER 15TH
ZOOM MEETING

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



JACK PARK

OSU FOOTBALL HISTORIAN

When OSU entered the Big Ten in 1913 they hired John Wilce out of the University of Wisconsin. He's often referred to as Dr. Wilce because while he was coaching the team he was also going to medical school to become a doctor.

In 1918 Michigan returned to the Big Ten Conference. With that, Michigan returned to the Ohio State schedule and has been there ever since. It wasn't until 1919 behind the play of Chic Harley that Ohio State finally was able to beat Michigan. It was probably one of Harley's greatest games. He had four interceptions that game. That record is not officially recognized since record keeping was less than stellar during those years.

Since 1919 Ohio State leads the series 52-45-4.

Paul Brown came in as coach in 1941. He led Ohio State to the national championship in 1942. They beat Michigan 21-7 that season. In 1944 Brown enlisted in the Navy and never returned to Ohio State. He went on to take the founding position in the creation of the Cleveland Browns.

Moving ahead to 1954 we find a huge OSU win over Michigan with Woody Hayes in his fourth year as Ohio State coach. The score was 7-7 going into the fourth quarter. The final score was 21-7 OSU which was not indicative of how close the game actually was. The result was an undefeated season and a trip to the Rose Bowl as well as

Woody's first national title.

A huge OSU win in 1961 featured Bo Schembechler as one of Hayes' key assistants who helped run up 50 points on the Wolverines. In the game, Bob Ferguson scored four touchdowns. The following Tuesday the Ohio State Faculty Council voted against sending the team to the Rose Bowl. Players from that team are still bitter about what the university did to them.

Jack showed a picture of his 1963 OSU/Michigan game ticket with a face value of \$5.00. He never used the ticket because JFK was assassinated the day before the game. The game was eventually played the following Saturday but Jack couldn't attend.



[CLICK HERE](#) for information on football squares for the Ohio State - Michigan game

[CLICK HERE](#) for Rotary Roundtable from December 8, 2020

THE MEETING



President **Debbie Johnson** asked **Jack Cotter** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rich Simpson and **Jack Park** introduced their guests. There were no visiting Rotarians today.

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NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Chip Knoop reported the recent Community Service Committee meeting at which a \$2000.00 grant request was recommended for “Shop With Cops”. The Board approved the grant which will allow children from W. Broad Elementary to go Christmas shopping at the Meijer store on Sawmill with a Columbus police officer. Chip also reported that the upcoming Bed Brigade on Saturday 12/9 is fully staffed with Rotarians and Interact Club members.



Tom Davis reported on the Bell Ringer program which ended last weekend. \$1,673 was collected on our watch – an increase of \$400 over last year. He thanked members who helped out – particularly since they were outside this year due to virus-related restrictions.

The Red Cross Blood Drive is on December 19. There are five more spots open. It happens at the Municipal Service Center. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Dave Dewey reported on the Rotary Foundation drive. We are at \$14,000 toward our \$20,000 goal. He also reminded everyone to join the 125 Club this year. We are at the \$2,000 mark for the Polio Plus portion of this year’s drive.



Debbie called on **Ginny Barney** for harassment. Rather than harass people **Ginny** thought some fun would be in order given the current times. She took us on a round-the-world look at some strange traditions observed in other countries during the holiday season. Japan’s traditional Christmas dinner is KFC – having been convinced by a clever marketing campaign that such a meal is a tradition in the United States. In Venezuela, the tradition is to attend the Christmas service on roller skates. In the Czech Republic – single women stand with their backs to the door and throw a shoe over their shoulder. If the shoe lands pointing to the door they will be married within a year. In Spain on New Year’s Eve it is customary to wear new red underwear. And in one of the small towns Rotarians have taken the tradition one step further. There’s a New Year’s Eve run with the runners wearing just red underwear. In Catalonia, a region in Spain, pooping figurines in nativity scenes are part of a holiday tradition. There was a tradition in Greenland which was truly too awful to report. Something about decomposed bird flesh wrapped in sealskin being eaten. Never mind.



We heard a get-to-know-me session with **Ua Chamberlain**. At birth he was given the name Joshua. He goes, however, by Ua. He enjoys spending time outside with his family. Most people are surprised that he plays the banjo. He also likes to camp in the dead of winter. At one time he had nine cats. He chose his current profession after interacting with many people and following various experiences. He started out as an artist and evolved over time and experience into photography and ultimately into a production company. The most influential person in his life is his wife. Her love, guidance, encouragement and support made everything possible. One of his most memorable family experiences was persuading his wife to get involved in the camping experience. They recently went with their daughter to Red River Gorge for a family camping experience. His bucket list includes a half Iron-Man planned for 2022. His biggest bucket list item is hiking a good portion of the Appalachian Trail.

