

john **[HEAD COACH]** bluem

>> 12TH SEASON, HARTWICK



>> The list is impressive: three Big Ten titles, 10 Major League Soccer draft picks and five appearances in the NCAA tournament, including the 2007 College Cup.

It is no coincidence that all of those highlights have come with John Bluem at the helm of the Ohio State men's soccer program. Going into his 12th season with the Buckeyes in 2008, Bluem has led Ohio State to the most successful era in program history. The 2007 Big Ten championship and trip to the national championship game are proof of that.

A 2002 entrant into the Hartwick College Hall of Fame, Bluem is Ohio State's all-time wins leader with a 118-81-28 (.583) record in Columbus. His career record, which includes six seasons at Fresno State, stands at 204-108-39 for a .638 winning percentage.

In 17 seasons as a collegiate head coach, Bluem's teams have won at least 10 games 15 times and he has taken his teams to the NCAA tournament nine times. In addition to his 2007 College Cup squad, his 1996 Fresno State team advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals and his 2004 OSU squad went to the 'Sweet 16.'

Under Bluem, Ohio State won outright Big Ten championships in 2000 and 2007 and won a share of the league regular-season title in 2004. The last three years, the Buckeyes have finished second in the league's regular-season race in a conference that is annually in the Top 3 of the RPI conference index.

Twice Bluem has been named Big Ten Coach of the Year (1999, 2004), which brings his career total coach of the year honors to five. Since his arrival in Columbus in 1997, Bluem has led the Buckeyes to at least 10 wins in nine of his 11 seasons and to the NCAA tournament in 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2007.

Last season, Ohio State went 17-4-5 overall, shut out Indiana twice, won its second Big Ten championship and won three NCAA tournament games at home to advance to the College Cup, where a 1-0 win over Massachusetts extended the Buckeyes' unbeaten streak to 15 games. A 2-1 loss to No. 1 Wake Forest in the national title game ended the string, but Bluem had taken Ohio State to the national stage like never before.

Last January, junior Roger Espinoza signed with Generation adidas and was selected in the first round and senior Eric Brunner went in the second round. Senior Xavier Balc was the second player chosen in the supplemental draft.

In the 2007 supplemental draft, OSU defender Dustin Kirby was a fourth-round pick of Real Salt Lake, where former OSU assistant coach Brian Johnson, who played for Bluem at Fresno State, now coaches.

Bluem's 2006 Ohio State squad finished with a final RPI of No. 28 and advanced to the Big Ten championship game, but the Buckeyes were surprisingly not selected for the NCAA tournament. As usual, Bluem had Ohio State playing its best soccer at the end of the season, as the Buckeyes went 8-2-1 in their last 11 games on their way to the league title game at home in Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

In 2005, the Buckeyes were 11-8-2 overall and finished second in the Big Ten regular-season standings, ahead of two-time defending national champion Indiana. Ohio State was sent to No. 18 Santa Clara for the first round of the NCAA tournament, where the Buckeyes' season ended with a hard-fought 1-0 loss. During the season, OSU was ranked as high as No. 11 in the nation and No. 3 in the region.

The 2004 season was one of Ohio State's best in the 56 years of the program. The Buckeyes won a share of the Big Ten regular-season title with a 5-1-0 record and went three rounds deep in the NCAA tournament, hosting and beating No. 11 Memphis in the first round and winning at No. 9 Notre Dame in the second round. In the MLS supplemental draft, Big Ten Player of the Year Justin Cook was selected by Chicago and teammate Sammy Tamporello was picked by Dallas.

In 2003 the Buckeyes ranked third in the Big Ten with 1.16 goals-allowed average. Though Ohio State posted a 4-12-4 record that season, the Buckeyes' strength of schedule was ranked as the eighth-toughest in the nation at the end of the season.

In 2002, Bluem's Buckeyes narrowly missed what would have been their third-consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament. Ohio State went 11-7-1 overall and 3-3 in the Big Ten. The season was highlighted by a six-game winning streak, while six of OSU's seven losses were decided by just one goal.

In addition, seniors Jake Traeger and Andy Rosenband were selected in the 2003 MLS Draft. Rosenband was chosen as the 52nd overall pick in the sixth round



bluem quick facts

- **Full Name:** John Russell Bluem
- **Born:** April 17, 1953, in Wheeling, W.Va.
- **Hometown:** Syracuse, N.Y.
- **High School:** Cicero
- **Alma Mater:** Hartwick '75 (B.A. history), Ohio State '80 (B.S. secondary education), Akron '84 (M.A. physical education)
- **Playing Career:** Fullback at Hartwick for three seasons. The Warriors made an NCAA tourney appearance all three years and reached the final four in 1974. Inducted into Hartwick Hall of Fame in 2002. Tampa Bay Rowdies (NASL) in 1975 and '76. Won the Soccer Bowl in '75.
- **Coaching Career:** Head coach, St. Charles High School (Columbus, Ohio, 1979-1982); graduate assistant, Akron (1983); assistant, Fresno State (1984-1990) head coach, FSU (1991-1996; head coach, Ohio State (1997-present)
- **Assisted Under:** Steve Parker (Akron), Jose Elgorriaga (Fresno State)
- **Highlights:** Ohio High School Coach of the Year (1981), Big West co-COY (1991), MPSF-Mountain COY (1994), Big Ten COY (1999, 2004), Ohio COY and Great Lakes Region COY (2000)
- **The Student-Athletes:** Three Academic All-Americans, 51 Academic All-Big Ten and 77 OSU Scholar Athletes at Ohio State
- **Away from Soccer:** Enjoys vacationing with his family, golfing, watching college basketball and supporting the Columbus Crew
- **Family:** Wife Bethany, son, William (19); daughter, Amy (16)



by Dallas. Traeger also was selected in the sixth round by the Columbus Crew at No. 58. They were the first-ever Buckeyes selected in the MLS Draft.

The 2002 season also was highlighted by a prestigious personal achievement for Bluem, who was inducted into the Hartwick College Hall of Fame. A starting stopper for Hartwick from 1972-74, Bluem helped the Hawks compile a 30-9-7 overall record and make three trips to the NCAA tournament, including a third-place finish in 1974.

In 2001, the Buckeyes earned their second-consecutive bid to the NCAA tournament with their first-ever at-large berth as OSU finished with a 10-7-2 overall record. That season Bluem also led his team to its then-highest ranking in program history, a No. 10 ranking in the NSCAA poll.

The 2000 campaign was one of many firsts for OSU soccer—its first Top 25 national ranking, first Big Ten championship and first trip to the NCAA tournament. Ohio State was ranked as high as No. 12 in the NSCAA Top 25 poll and No. 1 in the NSCAA Great Lakes region poll, landing a spot among the Top 25 for an impressive seven consecutive weeks and finished the year at No. 18. The Buckeyes finished 12-5-4 overall and earned Ohio Team of the Year accolades.

Ohio State captured its first Big Ten championship Nov. 11, 2000, in front of the home crowd at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, defeating Penn State, 3-2, in overtime. In the Big Ten semifinal round, the squad defeated two-time defending national champion and ninth-ranked Indiana, 1-0, for the first time in 45 years. The Buckeyes earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament for their first NCAA appearance and Bluem's fifth. Ohio State fell to Creighton, 1-0, in the first-round match, also held at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.

In 1999, Bluem guided the Buckeyes to an 11-8-0 record and a second-place regular season tie with Penn State in the Big Ten at 3-2. The winning ways of 1999 erased an 8-9-3 finish in 1998, when Ohio State finished third in the regular-season standings. Senior goalkeeper Jon Lowery, who had been the Buckeyes' first first-team All-Big Ten selection, repeated the honor along with three of his teammates.

In 1997, Bluem became the ninth head soccer coach at Ohio State and wasted no time in recharging the Scarlet and Gray program. He guided one of the youngest teams in school history to an 11-7-2 (3-1-1 in Big Ten) record and the Buckeyes made it to the championship game of the Big Ten tournament for the first time, coming away with a runner-up finish.

At Fresno State, Bluem averaged 14 wins per season and qualified for NCAA postseason play in four of his six years as mentor. His 1996 squad posted a 17-5-1 record, won the first Western Athletic Conference title and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament, ending the season with a No. 7 national ranking.

After his collegiate career as a fullback at traditional soccer power Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., Bluem was drafted by Tampa Bay Rowdies of the North American Soccer League, a team that went 16-6 and won the Soccer Bowl his first year. He played for two seasons with Tampa Bay.

Bluem earned his master of arts in physical education from the University of Akron in 1984. He received his bachelor of science in secondary education from Ohio State in 1980 after completing a bachelor of arts degree in history from Hartwick College in 1975.

The 55-year-old Syracuse, N.Y. native lives in Columbus with his wife, Bethany, son, William, 19, and daughter, Amy, 16.



[BLUEM'S CAREER RECORD]

School	Year	W	L	T	Pct.	Conf. Record	Conf. Finish	Conf. Tourn.	NCAA
Fresno State*	1991	14	4	4	.727	8-1-1/Big West	1st	1st	2nd round
Fresno State	1992	12	5	1	.694	4-3-0/MPSF	4th	-	-
Fresno State	1993	12	5	3	.675	3-1-3/MPSF	T 2nd	1st	1st round
Fresno State*	1994	17	2	2	.857	5-1-1/MPSF	1st	1st	1st round
Fresno State	1995	14	6	1	.690	6-0-1/MPSF	1st	2nd	-
Fresno State*	1996	17	5	1	.761	7-1-0/WAC	1st	1st	Quarterfinals
Ohio State	1997	11	7	2	.600	3-1-1/Big Ten	2nd	2nd	-
Ohio State	1998	8	9	3	.475	3-2-0/Big Ten	3rd	3rd	-
Ohio State*	1999	11	8	0	.579	3-2-0/Big Ten	2nd	4th	-
Ohio State	2000	12	5	4	.667	2-2-2/Big Ten	5th	1st	1st round
Ohio State	2001	10	7	2	.579	1-4-1/Big Ten	6th	6th	1st round
Ohio State	2002	11	7	1	.605	3-3/Big Ten	T 2nd	5th	-
Ohio State	2003	4	12	4	.300	2-3-1/Big Ten	4th	5th	-
Ohio State*	2004	12	7	2	.619	5-1-0/Big Ten	T 1st	5th	3rd round
Ohio State	2005	11	8	2	.571	3-2-1/Big Ten	2nd	3rd	1st round
Ohio State	2006	11	7	3	.595	3-2-1/Big Ten	2nd	2nd	-
Ohio State	2007	17	4	5	.750	5-1-1/Big Ten	2nd	1st	Runner-Up
Totals	17 yrs	204	108	40	.636	66-30-14			

Big Ten Record: 35-25-3 (.579), **Big Ten Tournament Record:** 10-9-1 (.525), **Ohio State Record:** 118-81-28 (.582)
 *Conference Coach of the Year (co- in 1991 and 1999) MPSF – Mountain Pacific Sports Federation