

# A father's diary: Vaughters takes in Ohio State, Notre Dame

By Jonathan Vaughters

"Just wanted to provide a quick update on our son, James, since you all have requested to be kept in the loop. We had an opportunity to visit Ohio State and Notre Dame on Monday and Tuesday, while visiting Ohio on vacation. Both James' mother and father are originally from Ohio, and they still have relatives there. Both schools were very well-represented, both academically and athletically.



"James [left] visited Ohio State on an unofficial visit and had an opportunity to tour the campus, visit with the Student Academic Support Services Organization, and the Fisher School of Business. He had an opportunity to meet with head coach Jim Tressel for an hour.

"James said, 'Coach Tressel believes strongly in structure, getting to know his players and positive reinforcement and encouragement.' "

"James went on to say, 'I was really impressed with how Coach Tressel gets so involved with the lives of every one of his players.' It was also very impressive how Coach Tressel gets his players very involved, through community service, in the lives of the Columbus, Ohio, community.

"James had an opportunity to spend time with one of his cousins, Andre Amos, who is a starting cornerback for the 2009 Buckeyes. James also spent some time with Luke Fickell, the Buckeyes' linebacker coach, who has developed a great track record recently for getting Ohio State linebackers to the next level, including A.J. Hawk, Bobby Carpenter, James Laurinaitis and Marcus Freeman. James also met and spoke briefly with Keith Wells, a sophomore out of Gainesville, Ga., who is in competition to get time at defensive end this season.

"James also had an opportunity to attend a one-day 'elite' camp at Notre Dame, where he got a chance to 'brush up' on his linebacker skills. James met Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis and had a chance to spend time with former Georgia Tech coach Jon Tenuta, both on the field as well as off the field.

"James said, 'I like the history and tradition at Notre Dame. It's a big-time football program, but I really like the size and intimacy of the campus.'

"James went on to say, 'I liked the practice facility, the Notre Dame stadium and how the students on campus are so involved with the football program. The campus looks classic, as it mixes the look of new buildings with the old, legacy architecture.'

"James also had a chance to see and talk with his former teammate at Tucker, Jamoris Slaughter, a redshirt freshman, who is battling to get playing time this year as a defensive back with Notre Dame.

"In both cases, James was really impressed with the long, storied traditions and history of the two football programs, including the numerous national championships and Heisman Trophy winners.

"As the summer winds down before preseason football cranks up, James will visit [Southern Cal] and UCLA, UGA's Dawg Night, as well as Friday Night Lights at the U of Florida.

"As always, thanks so much for your continued interest in James and your encouragement."