

Earle Bruce, who succeeded his coach and mentor, Woody Hayes, as head coach of the Ohio State Buckeyes in 1979 and led the team to four Big Ten Conference championships and to an 81-26-1 record, passed away early Friday morning, April 20, at home, in Powell, Ohio. He turned 87 on March 8, and he watched his last Ohio State practice on that day as well.

Bruce made an immediate mark on Ohio State football, leading the Buckeyes to the Big Ten championship and earning the 1979 Big Ten Coach of the Year award after guiding the Buckeyes to an 11-0 regular season mark and a berth in the 1980 Rose Bowl. He was the national coach of the year as chosen by his peers at the American Football Coaches Association.

Bruce led Ohio State to eight bowl games in his nine seasons as coach from 1979 to 1987, including two Rose Bowls (1980 and 1985), and he had a 5-3 bowl game record with the Buckeyes. He was 7-5 all-time in bowl games and led all four Division I programs he coached – Tampa, Iowa State, Ohio State and Colorado State – to a bowl.

Bruce had a 154-90-2 record as a collegiate head coach. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003, the Ohio State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Iowa State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

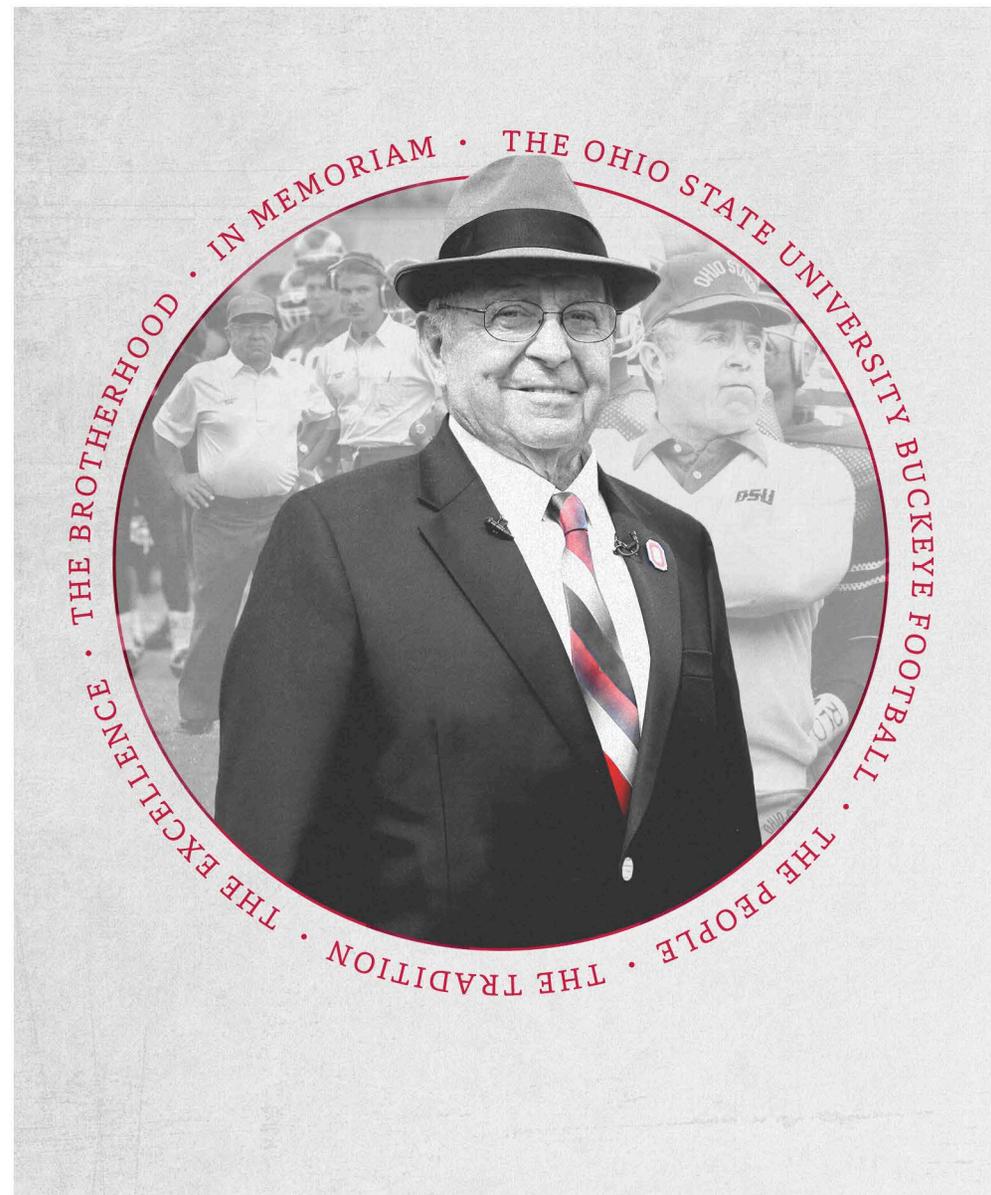
Bruce had a welcomed and much-in-demand presence around the Ohio State campus, the football program and the Columbus community upon his retirement from coaching in 1995, after a Hall of Fame career that included 21 years as a collegiate head coach and 45 years in the coaching profession.



Bruce spoke many times at the Ohio State tradition of senior tackle, held before the last regular season game of the season, vs. Michigan. He never failed to get a team fired up for the greatest rivalry in all of sports. Bruce's teams were 5-4 against Michigan, including a 23-20 victory in Ann Arbor on Nov. 21, 1987 in the last game he coached as a Buckeye.

Bruce, and his late wife of 56 years, Jean, worked diligently raising funds for Alzheimer's research. And their work has resulted in more than \$1 million being raised for The Earle and Jean Bruce Alzheimer's Research Fund in Neurology at Ohio State.

Outside of family, which included daughters Lynn Bruce, Michele (Pat) Cenci, Aimee Bell and Noel (Fred) Poulton, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren, Ohio State football is what Earle and Jean Bruce cared about most.



A Celebration of Life

Coach Earle Bruce

March 8, 1931 – April 20, 2018

Welcome

Dom Tiberi

Long-time WBNS 10-TV sports director and host of coaches' show

Invocation

William White

1987 Team Captain & All-Big Ten Conference cornerback for Coach Bruce

Words from the Football Family

Coach Jim Tressel

*Coach Bruce protégé; National champion coach
& College Football Hall of Fame coach*

Coach Tony Alford

Ohio State assistant coach; played for Coach Bruce at Colorado State

Matt McCoy

Longtime 610 WTVN sports anchor who worked 23 years alongside Coach Bruce

Coach Zach Smith

The oldest of Coach Bruce's 12 grandchildren; Ohio State assistant coach

The Fourth Quarter

"Hang on Slooply"

Coach Urban Meyer

*Coach Bruce protégé; Three-time national champion coach
with the best winning percentage in college football*

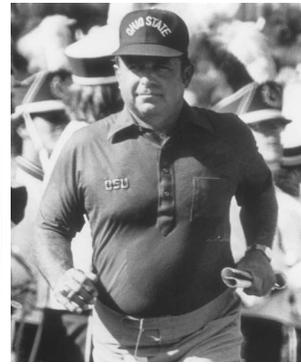
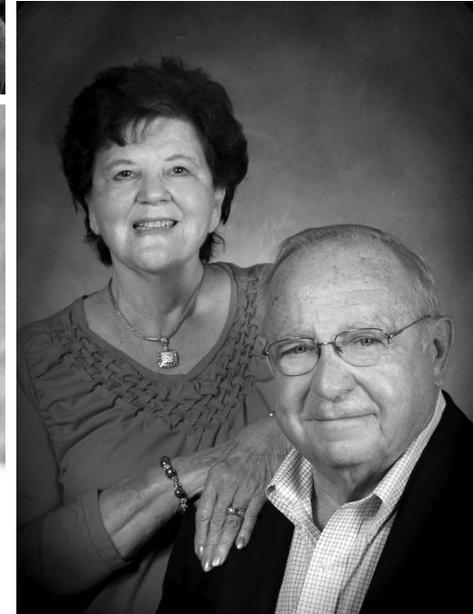
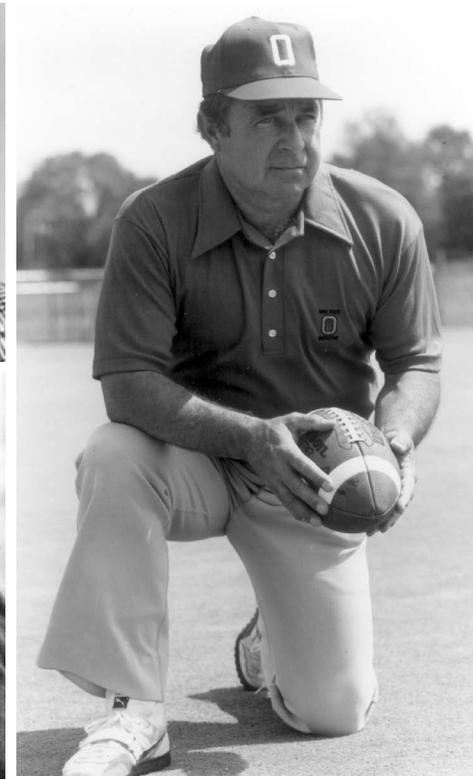
Concluding Remarks

Dom Tiberi

"Carmen Ohio"

Please stand, if able

Oh come, let's sing Ohio's praise,
And songs to Alma Mater raise,
While our hearts, rebounding thrill,
With joy which death alone can still.
Summer's heat or winter's cold,
The seasons pass the years will roll.
Time and change will surely show
How firm thy friendship ... O-HI-O!



Contributions may be made to the **Earle and Jean Bruce Alzheimer's Research Fund in Neurology**, Fund #312531, Care of The Ohio State University Foundation, Attn. Gift Processing, 1480 West Lane Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43221.