

Ohio Collegiate Men's Soccer Historical Timeline of 1949-80

by Fred Jermyn

Spring 2018

Updated 6/26/22

The earliest record of Men's Intercollegiate Soccer in Ohio occurred on Saturday December 6, 1913 with Ohio Wesleyan University playing at home against Ohio State and winning, 1-0. The following Saturday December 13, 1913, the two teams met again at Ohio State who prevailed, 2-1.

Oberlin College fielded a team in 1916 to become another opponent for Ohio Wesleyan in that season. With the onset of World War I, men were enlisting in the armed forces. Programs at Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State and Oberlin were then disbanded at the close of the 1916 season.

Oberlin re-launched their Men's Soccer program in 1929. Doc Nichols re-introduced the game at that school as an Intramural sport and quickly elevated it to Varsity status in 1930.

Beginning in 1949, the Ohio College Soccer League formed for those schools who fielded teams.

Oberlin had a 42-game consecutive unbeaten streak from the 1950-54 seasons.

In the NCAA Soccer Guide of 1952 which recounts the 1951 season, Kent State is mentioned in an article referencing "Ohio stalwarts" of Kent State, Oberlin, Western Reserve, Case and Kenyon. Ironically, Kent did not play in 1951 after its first two years of 1949-50.

The earliest All-Ohio selections as confirmed began with the 1953 post-season.

In 1954, there were only six colleges in Ohio that had soccer teams with Varsity status.

In 1956, the league reorganized to become the Ohio Collegiate Soccer Association which was then comprised of 12 schools: Akron, Case Tech, Dayton, Denison, Fenn, Kent State, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio State, Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan and Western Reserve.

That 1956 year was the origin of the OCSA Newsletter by Walt Ersing, the Head Coach at Ohio State, and the first post-season OCSA All-Ohio teams as voted by Coaches and Officials. These teams were selected from among post-season submissions of player nominations sent into the OCSA by the Coaches of each school plus Officials. The awarding of Team Champions as the earliest documentation of the honor may have commenced with the 1958 season from a vote of OCSA members. The OCSA Newsletters continued to publish until approximately 1982.

In 1964, there were 24 colleges in Ohio with soccer teams. That year, the NCAA game rules were adjusted to align with some of the international game rules.

OCSA Ohio Senior North-South All-Star Games originated in 1967 as organized by the Cleveland Stokers professional team of the United Soccer League. Rosters were named for the game to be held on Saturday 12/9/67. The game was cancelled by the Stokers due to the lack of a playable field.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association issued a ruling in 1968 that any Freshman was eligible to play on Varsity teams in the "University" Division of all sports with the exceptions of Football and Basketball (which were later permitted for the 1972-73 academic year).

The Cleveland Stokers of the professional United Soccer League again planned for an Ohio Collegiate Senior All-Star game for the collegiate post-season of 1968 but the pro team ceased operations.

With the start of the 1969 season as the 100th year of intercollegiate soccer in the U.S., there were over 350 colleges and universities with soccer teams. In Ohio, the number of schools fielding soccer teams had grown to 40.

That same year, the Intercollegiate Soccer Football Association of America created a National Ratings system utilizing input from Patrick Damore, the Athletic Director at Fredonia State in New York.

The Ohio Collegiate Senior All-Star game as a North versus South competition was organized by the OCSA with Coaches selecting nominated Players. The game was held at Start High School in Toledo, OH on 11/23/69 and was played in poor weather conditions.

From Thursday 8/20/70 through Saturday 8/22/70, the OCSA and U.S. Soccer Football Association sponsored clinics and lectures held in the Cleveland area conducted by Dettmar Cramer of Germany. This event was the first time Ohio Collegiate soccer coaches were exposed to high-level soccer education for improving the technical abilities of players. Cramer had been Assistant Head Coach of the Germany National Team for the 1954, 1958, 1962 and 1966 Federation International Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competitions plus he was a Chief Coach of FIFA for its World All-Star Team in 1968.

The OCSA again conducted an Ohio Senior North-South All-Star Game which occurred at Ohio Wesleyan University on Sunday 12/6/70.

By 1971, there were 200 schools across the Midwest with soccer teams to become the biggest region in the U.S.

Starting with the 1971 season, OCSA voting for All-Ohio selections was coordinated with NSCAA voting as occurring after each game as opposed to the prior method of OCSA voting occurring at the end of seasons. This change eliminated the discrepancies in selections between the NSCAA All-Midwest and OCSA All-Ohio honorees.

The OCSA featured another Ohio Senior North-South All-Star Game held at Baldwin-Wallace in Berea, OH on Sunday 11/21/71.

In arrangement with the Indiana Collegiate Soccer Association, a second post-season event was held on Saturday 12/4/71 for the first Ohio Senior All-Stars versus the Indiana Senior All-Stars. This game was played at Wright State in Dayton, OH.

Beginning with the 1972 season, the NCAA revised Men's Soccer from playing four 22-minute quarters to conform to the international game as two 45-minute halves. In addition, two post-season National Championships were structured as a "University" bracket and a "College" bracket to recognize schools of various sizes.

The post-season 1972 featured another Ohio Senior North-South All-Star Game held at Baldwin-Wallace on Sunday 11/19/72 and a second and final Ohio Senior All-Stars vs. Indiana Senior All-Stars Game which occurred again at Wright State in Dayton, OH on Sunday 11/26/72.

In the Spring of 1973, the Cincinnati Comets of the American Soccer League (pro) and the Cincinnati Recreation Dept. approached Bill Killen as Head Coach of Akron Univ. to coordinate an Ohio Collegiate All-Stars vs. Cincinnati Comets game. NCAA approval was obtained and the expenses of the college players were paid.

By Summer of 1973, the game was held in Cincinnati, OH as the Ohio Collegiate All-Stars vs. Cincinnati Comets of the American Soccer League. The final score was Cincinnati 5, Ohio College All-Stars 0. The game attendance was 8,000.

In August 1973, the NCAA created the identities of Division I, II and III for recognizing different levels of competition with the first Division III bracket for Men's Soccer then occurring in 1974.

OCSA Ohio Senior North-South All-Star Game competitions concluded with a 1973 post-season game that actually occurred in Spring 1974. This change of dates was to accommodate players from teams who may have had their school participating in playoff games during the Fall of 1973. The game was held at the University of Cincinnati in Nippert Stadium on Saturday 5/4/74. Organizing the game with the OCSA included the cooperation from the SAY Program, the Cincinnati Recreation Dept. and the Univ. of Cincinnati. The OCSA also received sanctioning for the game from the NCAA and the NAIA.

In the Spring of 1974, Klaas de Boer, Head Coach at Cleveland State University, organized two Ohio Collegiate All-Star Games. Again, sanctioning from the NCAA and the NAIA was received.

The first game involved the Cincinnati Comets of the American Soccer League (pro) held in Cincinnati, OH on Saturday 3/16/74 in the evening. The result is unknown. Attendance was 7,000 as part of an Annual Benefit for Youth Soccer. The Cincinnati Recreation Dept. covered the expenses of the college players.

The second game involved the Cleveland Stars of the American Soccer League (pro) played in Cleveland, OH on Saturday 6/15/74 in the evening. The result and attendance is unknown.

The OCSA attempted to gain support for another Ohio Senior North-South All-Star Game to occur in the post-season of 1974. Both the Cleveland Stars and the Cincinnati Comets of the American Soccer League were approached for support. When the professional teams did not become involved, the OCSA Board of Directors voted on Monday 9/22/74 to discontinue the Ohio Senior Soccer Bowl.

For the 1975 season, a new NCAA rule for games increased Overtimes to become two 10-minute sudden-victory periods.

On Wednesday 6/14/78, the OCSA Northeast Ohio All-Stars played the U.S. Olympic Team in the Rubber Bowl in Akron, OH. This game was arranged with Ohio Collegiate current and former players predominantly from Akron and Cleveland State to compete against the U.S. Olympic team which featured mostly Collegiate players including John Tyma from Cleveland State. The result was the U.S. Olympic Team 4, Northeast Ohio All-Stars 0. Attendance was 2,300.

Copyright 2024. Fred Jermyn. All rights reserved.

Ohio Collegiate Men's Soccer Historical Timeline of 1949-80 © 2024 by Fred Jermyn is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>