Do you really want to talk about Ohio State's latest loss, a 20-14 setback to the criminal entity from State College?

Yeah, neither do I. So let's not. Let's, instead, talk about the apparent new man who will lead Ohio State football starting in 2012. It isn't official yet but it seems cast in stone that by next week Urban Meyer will be the next head coach of the Buckeyes. In terms of prestige and prior accomplishment it's the biggest head-coaching hire in the history of the program. Paul Brown was a top-flight high-school coach, Woody Hayes was a winner at the O.G. Miami and Jim Tressel racked up four Division I-AA National Championships at Youngstown State. But Urban Meyer has enjoyed ultimate success at the highest level of the sport.

Can he get Ohio State to that level? It isn't a cut-and-dried "yes." Meyer burned out at Florida within a few years and the state of the Gators today offers a vivid illustration of what happens to a program when its leader no longer has his heart in the work. That is my main worry more than anything else; more so than Meyer's habit of job-jumping (Where else is he going to go?) or his spread offenses (which would have worked fine for Rich Rodriguez had the ex-Michigan and new Arizona coach bothered to put a defense on the field in Ann Arbor.)

In a sense it's a high-risk, high-reward hire. The risk is that Urban will stay a couple of years, quit for the same reasons he quit Florida and hang the program out to dry. The reward is, well… we all know what the reward is. Even with the downside it's a no-brainer hire for this program at

this time, just as Jim Tressel was a no-brainer hire in 2001. With a long frustrating season drawing to a close, it's just the tonic Buckeye fans needed.

Just the thought of what Urban Meyer can do with Braxton Miller should be enough to make partisans of the Scarlet & Gray salivate- not to mention what this offense might look like with someone other than Jim Bollman calling the plays. Rollouts, screens, short, quick patterns to tight ends and fullbacks, an actual tempo… ah, the mind wanders.

(I think Luke Fickell has been in about as difficult a situation as a first-year head coach can be. He has made mistakes, which is to be expected. He has handled the situation with composure and manly forbearance. He has done his best in a tough spot. The team isn't that good, but I'm not sure how good they'd have been without Terrelle Pryor regardless of who was coaching. Pryor's departure was the biggest blow; bigger than that of Tressel. Even with the Vest this would have smelt of a Gator Bowl participant.)

It should be fun. With the talent coming back- although they need better linebackers and rush ends on a defense that has looked soft and slow at times despite decent overall numbers- Ohio State should win a lot of football games next year (provided Meyer, you know, actually accepts the job.) There's no rebuild going on in Columbus. It's strictly a reload with a much more accurate shooter at the business end. But as good as Ohio State has been, they don't just grow National Championships on trees down there.

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