

Indianapolis Buckeyes

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You may know Indiana as a basketball state, but lately it has been producing some great Ohio State football players. More specifically, the city of Indianapolis has been especially productive. For example, current Buckeyes like Dawand Jones (Ben Davis High School), Caden Curry (Center Grove High School) and Josh Fryar (Beech Grove High School) followed the path of former players such as Pete Werner and Terry McLaurin (both from Cathedral High School). I recently interviewed Jones and Curry to find out what brought them to Columbus.

"Seeing Terry McLaurin in the Big Ten Championship when I was getting recruited," put Ohio State on the radar for Jones. "Playing their high school teams and then seeing where they are and what they did definitely influenced me to make my decision to go to OSU," said Curry.

Speaking of Indiana being a basketball state, Dawand Jones was a hoop star at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis. Despite his enormous size (6'8" 359 lbs.), he was a menace in the paint and routinely dunked on opponents. His basketball talent helped him receive several D1 offers from schools such as Ball State, Kent State, Bowling Green and Cleveland State. However, if it was not for Dawand's football coaches, he would have never been a D1 football player at Ohio State. Following the guidance of his coaches he focused on football and eventually received the offer to come to Columbus. As a fourth year senior and second year starter, Jones has been a key anchor on the offensive line.

Though Caden Curry has a passion for football, he also played a second sport in high school. He was a standout on the baseball field. Curry said, "if I could do anything it would be to go back to high school and play my senior season of baseball." Playing for a dominant program in the summer, the Indiana Bulls, he had to make a hard decision between football and baseball. After arriving on campus, Curry has already made an impact as a true freshman at Ohio State. In addition to being a defensive end, he has also contributed on special teams.

Playing at Lucas Oil stadium at the end of a season is always a goal for Indianapolis football players. The stadium is the home of the Indianapolis Colts, the high school football state championships and also home to the Big Ten Football Championship Game. Both Curry and Jones have already won high school state championships in the building. Now they could be the inspiration for the next generation of Indianapolis Buckeyes.

Writer's Note:

As a 6th Grader from Clay Middle School, I would like to thank Jerry Emig, Associate AD of Football Communications at Ohio State, for making this once in a lifetime opportunity possible. I was really thankful to interview Dawand Jones and Caden Curry on Facetime, realizing they are very busy during the season. I would also like to thank Sam Reel, from Indiana Sports Corp, for putting this amazing program together.