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September 1, 2016 @ 4:57pm » Andrew Holleran

Robert Smith Claims He Was The First Ohio State NFL Player To Say "The"



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You've heard it a lot over the years.

A former Ohio State football player introduces himself during an NFL broadcast and concludes his introduction with an emphatic, "*The* Ohio State University."



Who started that tradition?

Apparently, it was former Buckeye running back Robert Smith.

"It is true," Smith said on the Big Ten Network earlier this week. "It was the official name of the university and they made a point in around 1994 to emphasize it."





Buckeye Videos+ @BuckeyeVi... · Aug 31, 2016 Do you know who started saying "THE Ohio State University" in the NFL game introductions? #GoBucks

34% Chris Carter

30% Eddie George

Coronavirus Outbreak



Rob Gronkowski Is Reportedly Nearing A Deal With WWE



What The 2020 ACC Tournament Bracket Looks Like After 1st Day

Smith played at Ohio State in the early 1990s before going on to star in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings. He played in the NFL from 1993-2000.

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So, when you hear that first "The Ohio State University" this fall, you'll know who started it.

Filed Under: College Football, Ohio State Buckeyes

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About Andrew Holleran

Andrew Holleran is the managing editor at The Spun.





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The Ohio State University NCAA Football Colleges and Universities

Is The Ohio State University called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context?

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14 Answers



Cydney Wilson, studied History at The Ohio State University

Answered Nov 10, 2017 · Author has **101** answers and **28.4k** answer views

Originally Answered: Is Ohio State called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context?

In 1986, a new University logo was introduced in the hopes of moving away from the "OSU" symbol, which had been used since 1977. The change from simply "OSU" was said to "reflect the national stature of the institution." University officials wanted the institution to be known as "The Ohio State University," again, since OSU could also mean Oregon State and Oklahoma State University.

However, the "The" was actually part of the state legislation when the university was renamed in 1878. The following excerpt is from the Board of Trustee minutes:

"...the educational institution heretofore known as the 'Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College,' shall be known and designated hereafter as 'The Ohio State University.'"

Those who wanted the name change thought the original name was too narrow in scope, and that it was inadequate for the institution that was the only beneficiary of the land grant act. President Edward Orton was insistent that a new name would separate the institution from other colleges in Ohio.

Legend also has it that "The" was used to show the other colleges which institution was supposed to be the leader in the state - both in size and in financial support from the legislature.

*This information came directly from The Ohio State University website. Copied and pasted!

7.8k views · View 4 Upvoters



Aaron Ellis, Former College Athlete

Answered Sep 14, 2014 \cdot Upvoted by Kay Clopton, Ph.D Comparative Studies, The Ohio State University (2018) \cdot Author has 1.3k answers and 17.3m answer views

Originally Answered: Is Ohio State called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context? Definitely. The word is even in the university seal.

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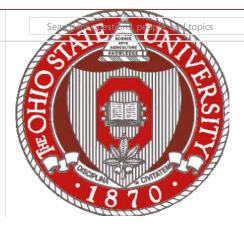
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The full explanation is here, taken from the Ohio State University Libraries website.

Why are we called "THE" Ohio State University"?

In 1986, a new University logo was introduced in the hopes of moving away from the "OSU" symbol, which had been used since 1977. The change from simply "OSU" was said to "reflect the national stature of the institution." University officials wanted the institution to be known as "The Ohio State University," again, since OSU could also mean Oregon State and Oklahoma State University.

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David J Gill, is a native of Medina, Ohio.

Updated Dec 23, 2017 · Upvoted by Dominik Mattioli, former Graduate Research Associate - Civil Engineering at The Ohio State University (2015-2017) and Matan Shelomi, Harvard Class of 2009 (BA), UC Davis Class of 2014 (PhD) · Author has **1.4k** answers and **1.4m** answer views

Originally Answered: Is Ohio State called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context?



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reasserted to help distinguish it from other uses of the acronym "OSU." **The Ohio State University** Library website provides the following explanation:

"Why are we called "THE" Ohio State University"?

In 1986, a new University logo was introduced in the hopes of moving away from the "OSU" symbol, which had been used since 1977. The change from simply "OSU" was said to "reflect the national stature of the institution." University officials wanted the institution to be known as "The Ohio State University," again, since OSU could also mean Oregon State and Oklahoma State University.

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Legend also has it that "The" was used to show the other colleges which institution was supposed to be the leader in the state - both in size and in financial support from the legislature."

10.2k views · View 11 Upvoters · View Sharers



Bill Thacker, M.S. Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, The Ohio State University

Answered Nov 10, 2014 · Upvoted by Matan Shelomi, Harvard Class of 2009 (BA), UC Davis Class of 2014 (PhD) and Aaron Ellis, Former College Athlete · Author has **239** answers and **912.3k** answer views

Originally Answered: Is Ohio State called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context?

Yes. The official name of the school is "The Ohio State University." It probably should be called that in all contexts. Students there were periodically reminded of that by the faculty and staff, and it became a running joke for us to emphasize "THE Ohio State University" when we spoke it.

But how often do most Americans hear anything about The Ohio State University outside an athletic context?

Apart from pedantry, this is probably important for trademark purposes. If you own a trademark and don't use it properly it can weaken your claim to ownership, so Ohio State probably takes special care with sports broadcasters to use its name correctly, because that's such a lucrative source of income.

11k views · View 15 Upvoters



lan Isanberg, studied at State University of New York at Plattsburgh Answered Feb 28, 2019 · Author has **2.8k** answers and **1.8m** answer views

Originally Answered: Why do players from Ohio State call their school "the Ohio state"?

The official name of the university is "The Ohio State University". Adding "the" when describing the school, especially within the context of college sports, is for marketing purposes. The University of Miami does a similar thing, with many referring to the school as "The U".

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Michael Conaway, studied at The Ohio State University Answered Feb 28, 2019

Yes. It was the administration of The Ohio State University that was responsible for adding the "The". The best way I can relay the intended effect is by examining the central Ohio medical community. I trained at a large hospital in the Ohio Health System, the chief competitor to The OSU Wexner Medical Center. OSU Doctors are thought of as intellectual elitists who are quite proud of themselves. By adding the "The", everyone associated with the University is attempting to convey that they are a step above...smarter, harder working, stronger, more resilient. They are the "true winners"! In sports, it taps into Ohioans' pride in the Buckeyes. In academics, it conveys we may be just a hair below Ivy League...but only a hair. It also makes it the desired school of kids with the highest GPA and credentials. In the competitive world of patient care, it tries to convey that they will take care of you better than anyone else (which in particular cases is true). It is a marketing ploy to generate pride, create interest and generate more revenue across the whole spectrum of what the University offers.

1.5k views



Amber Morgan, Masters of Education from The Ohio State University (2005) Answered Nov 30, 2018

Yes, it is THE Ohio State University in all contexts.

The "The" was actually part of the state legislation when the university was renamed in 1878. The following excerpt is from the Board of Trustee minutes: "...the educational institution heretofore known as the 'Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College,' shall be known and designated hereafter as 'The Ohio State University." Those who wanted the name change thought the original name was too narrow in scope, and that it was inadequate for the institution that was the only beneficiary of the land grant act. President Edward Orton was insistent that a new name would separate the institution from other colleges in Ohio. Legend also has it that "The" was used to show the other colleges which institution was supposed to be the leader in the state - both in size and in financial support from the legislature.

1.3k views · Answer requested by Greg Leeper



Milliam Jackson, studied at Howard University Answered Feb 28, 2019

Some may consider it braggadocio or bluster but "The" signifies a celebration, an admiration, for the vaunted and lauded. You see "the" means almost "thee" to the Ohio State fan. An almost sacred honor, as Ohio State cannot compete in drafting players destined for the famed warm weather states or annual football powers, but there is one undeniable fact, its players have heart. When they line-up against the huge players of similarly ranked teams they are smaller in stature, but heart makes them ten feet tall. They take that heart and usually "WIN". So not to be boastful, fanfaronade, or bombastic "The' means the one and only, a sacred one designated for team with that kind of swagger!

865 views



Kathleen Havel Nichols, studied at Kent State University Answered Nov 30, 2018 · Author has 1.4k answers and 340.7k answer views

Yes! Absolutely. OSU's official name is "The Ohio State University". Most of us use "the" anytime we reference the Univerity. It was the name given upon its founding, after Lincoln funded multiple universities with land grants. It's "the" only university with "the" in its title. GO BUCKEYES!



David Aaron Sobel, studied History & Mathematics at The Ohio State University (1990)

Answered May 13, 2018 · Author has 326 answers and 70.7k answer views

Originally Answered: Is Ohio State called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context?

The University as a Land Grant university sits very close to down town in Columbus. However, the grant was for farmland and a lot of it spread over the city of Columbus. Later part of the farmland was dedicated to the University Airport. The remainder of the land remains for research in agriculture and to the study of animals. Part of the land was later dedicated to the West Campus of the University proper. I do not think that back in the day anyone expected there to be 62,000 students

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Chris Williams

Answered Mar 1, 2020

As you will read, TOSU is called "The" (not "THE") for a variety of reasons—historical, official, competitive, and even as a simple common sense matter.

As to why the "The" is emphasized, accentuated and explicitly called out, as indicated by its frequently being capitalized...that's an emotional issue. Do people with a confident, positive self image do such things? Does it exemplify what Jesus taught by saying (three times, no less) that "those who exalt themselves will be humbled?" Was Jesus wrong?

There are good historical reasons for including the "The" in TOSU. Rubbing others' noses in it \dots

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Paul Stromberg, B.Sc, PhD, DVM from The Ohio State University Answered Feb 21, 2018

Originally Answered: Is Ohio State called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context?

The attachment of "The" to the title of the university is official and refers to the entire university, not just to the sports program. I presume this was done by the state legislature or board of reagents. It is not unique to Ohio State University. Many other universities have the same article in their names (The University of Georgia, The University of Texas).

1.4k views · View 1 Upvoter · View Sharers



Kevin Johnson, B.A. '96 Political Science, The Ohio State University Answered Jun 18, 2018

Originally Answered: Is Ohio State called "THE ... Ohio State University" outside of an athletic context?

Yes The Ohio State University is the school's full academic and official institutional name.

1k views



Scott Johnson, MD General Surgery, The Ohio State University (1992) Answered Feb 28, 2019

President Gordon Gee was the one who initiated this phrase "The Ohio State University" to distinguish OSU from other state schools like Ohio Research Institute for Computer Science GmbH, 1120 Wien, Austria graduation, he reinterated "Tell them you graduated from The Ohio State University

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"THE Ohio State University?"

Written by <u>Kelsey Tschanen (https://undergrad.osu.edu/buckeyes_blog/?author=102)</u> **②** November 3, 2015

My first post! YAY! For those of you who don't know me (consider yourselves lucky we haven't crossed paths yet) my name is Kelsey Tschanen and I am not only a proud Ohio State alumna, but I am also one of the admissions counselors here at THE Ohio State University.

When I first started as an admissions counselor, I worked with students from Akron, Canton, and Youngstown, Ohio, and I currently work with students from the East Coast (specifically the Boston area and all of Connecticut). Most people I encounter (both in state and out of state) are familiar with our emphasis of the word THE in our name, but I frequently get asked *why* we do it.

Most people assume it's because we are arrogant due to our recent domination of the college football world, to which I respond typically respond something like this:



(http://undergrad.osu.edu/buckeyes_blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Beyonce-Hair-Flip.gif)

"Yeah, so?"

BUT actually there are a few reason for it! You can pick your favorite among these 3 very good* reasons for emphasizing the THE:

1. The cheesy answer I always give is that it's an acronym that stands for **Tradition Honor and Excellence**, three things that are valued among all Buckeyes past and present. Nauseatingly adorable, isn't it? Liz Lemon things so too.



(http://undergrad.osu.edu/buckeyes blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Liz-lemon-eye-roll.gif)

*Note: This answer is no way rooted in any sort of tangible fact or historical evidence, and is exclusively something I say to make eager moms and dads chuckle. And it works. Every. Single. Time.

2. It's been in our actual name since 1878.

According to our University Archives FAQ Page:

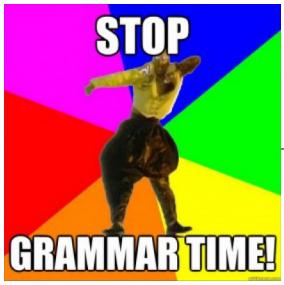
The "The" was actually part of the state legislation when the university was renamed in 1878. The following excerpt is from the Board of Trustee minutes: "...the educational institution heretofore known as the 'Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College,' shall be known and designated hereafter as 'The Ohio State University." Those who wanted the name change thought the original name was too narrow in scope, and that it was inadequate for the institution that was the only beneficiary of the land grant act. President Edward Orton was insistent that a new name would separate the institution from other colleges in Ohio. Legend also has it that "The" was used to show the other colleges which institution was supposed to be the leader in the state – both in size and in financial support from the legislature.



(http://undergrad.osu.edu/buckeyes blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Joe-Biden-Laughing.gif)

'I imagine this is what President Orton looked like when he thought about what the other schools in Ohio would think of our new name...

3. It's grammatically correct.



(http://undergrad.osu.edu/buckeyes_blog/wp-

content/uploads/2015/11/Grammar-time.jpg)

While some might be temped to pronounce it as the standard "thuh", you are an intelligent person and you know when "the" proceeds a vowel (for example the O in Ohio) the pronunciation changes from "thuh" to "thee." Don't believe me? Consult your nearest dictionary or any basic English grammar book. Go ahead. I'll wait.

In sum, although we clearly are just as awesome as our name would indicate, there are some very valid reasons for the way we pronounce The Ohio State University. If anyone ever tries to call you out for being arrogant, smack them in the face with this blog post and walk away singing The Buckeye Battle Cry. O-H!

Beyonce GIF Source:

https://33.media.tumblr.com/509b064ca55d13a556033afce5d356f5/tumblr_mr88i7dCVN1r5n0bg o1_500.gif

MC Hammer Meme

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University Archives FAQ post: https://library.osu.edu/find/collections/the-ohio-state-university-archives/buckeye-history/faqs/#1

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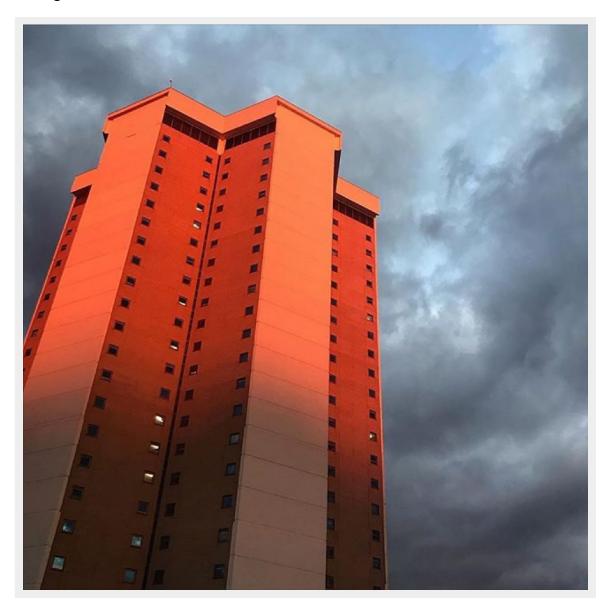


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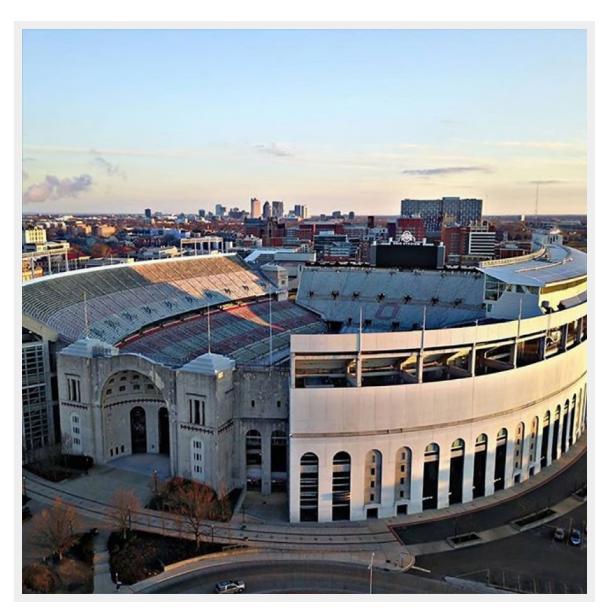
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