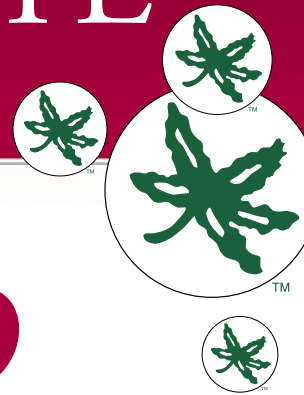


# STUDENT-ATHLETE

## Ryan Lukens

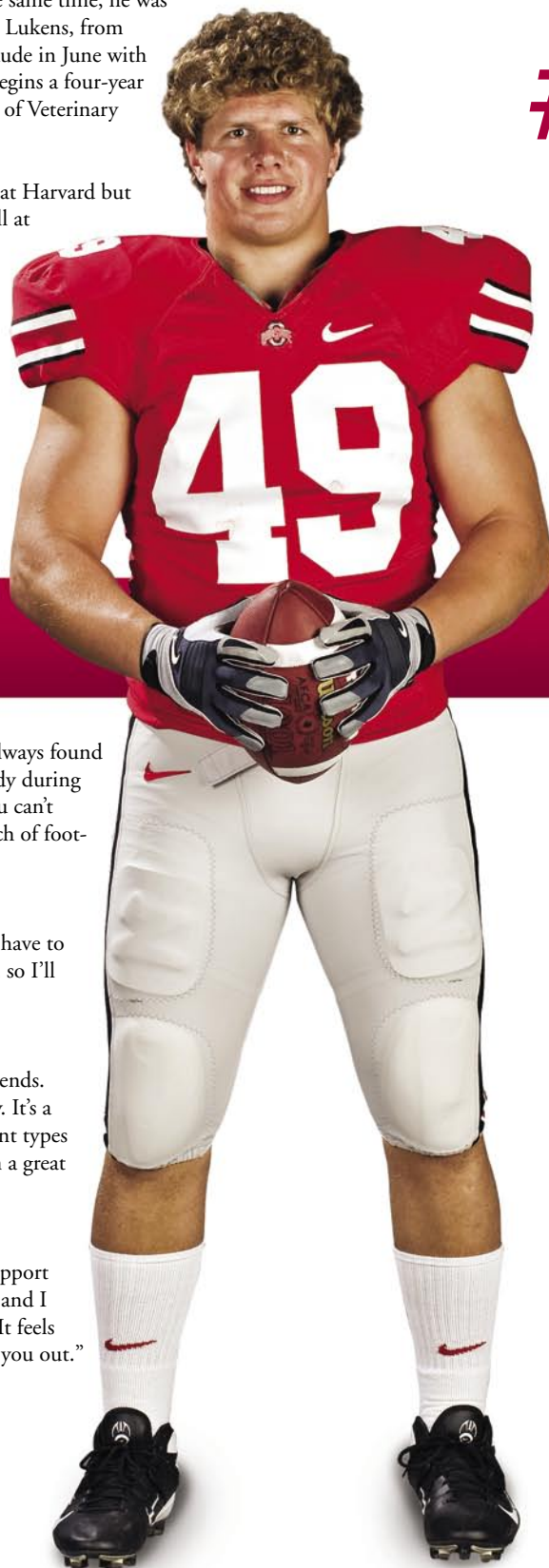


Since his freshman season on the football field, Ryan Lukens has been climbing the depth chart. At the same time, he was climbing his way to the top academically. Lukens, from Lebanon, Ohio, graduated magna cum laude in June with a degree in animal sciences. This fall he begins a four-year graduate program at Ohio State's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Lukens had a scholarship offer to wrestle at Harvard but instead chose to walk-on and play football at Ohio State. His dad, Bill, also played for the Buckeyes and was a member of four Big Ten championship squads. Ryan has now been a part of three Big Ten champion teams. This season he'll hope to make it four, just like his Dad. He moved to fullback this spring – his Dad's position – and entered fall camp battling for the starting job.

# #49

**Fullback**  
**6-0, 238**  
**5th/Sr.**  
**Lebanon, Ohio**  
**Animal Sciences**



### The Student

Ryan Lukens on...

#### Graduating magna cum laude

"I didn't really think school was hard. I always found time to study and felt it was easier to study during the season since you have study table. You can't really procrastinate since you have a bunch of football stuff to do."

#### Beginning vet school this Fall Quarter

"It's going to be time consuming and I'll have to work extra hard. It's a four-year program, so I'll still be around for a while."

#### The Ohio State University

"I've met so many, hopefully, life-long friends. Obviously this place is growing every day. It's a beautiful campus and there are all different types of people you can meet. Overall, it's been a great experience."

#### Being a student-athlete at Ohio State

"It's cool. You get the Student-Athlete Support Services Office program helping you out and I feel it adds to the experience even more. It feels like there are always people there to help you out."

### The Athlete

Ryan Lukens on...

#### His family's legacy at Ohio State

"My dad played for Woody Hayes (1973-76) and blocked for Archie Griffin. My uncle (Joe) played here in the early 80's (1979-82). I've been wearing Ohio State gear since I was little. My dad took me to my first game when I was 6 or 7 and we came to at least one game after that. It's always been my dream to play for Ohio State."

#### Moving from linebacker to fullback this year

"It's been exciting and very interesting. It was actually really easy with the help of the three senior fullbacks last year. There have been some learning curves to it, but I've had some ample time to get a good grip on things."

#### Being a three-sport star in high school

"I liked it. I was always busy and enjoyed all three sports (football, wrestling & lacrosse). If I had a preference it would've been football and wrestling, but I had to do something other than baseball. I was never really good at baseball. So I played lacrosse in the spring."

#### Being a walk-on

"There have been some rocky roads. Coming in, you really don't know what to expect. You have to earn your respect a little more and work extra hard to prove yourself."

By Kyle Rowland,  
Ohio State Athletics Communications