

my interests...



Evan Blankenship on...

His musical background

"I grew up with music. From the time I was a little tyke, my mom recorded me singing. I have videos of myself with a plastic guitar going at it making up a wild song. Music was all around my family. My mom and sister sing and my uncle is a DJ."

His music preferences

"I like everything. And I really mean that. I like all R&B, country, rap, rock and Hip Hop. I even own a couple opera CDs and a few Latin and techno CDs by foreign artists."

Evan's Top 3 Songs:

1. Me and Mrs. Jones (Michael Bublé)
2. Believe (Brooks & Dunn)
3. Slow Dancing in a Burning Room (John Mayer)

Preparing for Buckeyes Got Talent

"I practiced at least five times a day leading up to the talent show. After I finished studying for the day, I used this recorder on my computer to tape myself. I sat in my room and played the song over and over again, recording myself singing. I think my roommate Spencer Smith got a little sick of hearing me and by the time the talent show came around he knew what to expect."

Becoming an American Idol contestant

"People tell me I should try out for American Idol all the time. After graduation if the opportunity for something like that arises I'd be all for it. But I always tell people that my sister can sing better."

Evan's Got Talent

by Emily Meyer, Ohio State Athletics Communications

His name may not be featured in the headlines just yet, but Ohio State redshirt freshman Evan Blankenship is certainly garnering some well deserved attention and for something not necessarily expected from a football player – his voice.

Making his musical debut at the second-annual Buckeyes Got Talent last May, Blankenship received high marks from a panel of celebrity judges with a rendition of Bill Withers' Ain't No Sunshine. Kirk Herbstreit, former Buckeye (1990-92) and college football television analyst, even compared him to the talent featured on the hit television show American Idol. So just how was the young, smooth crooner discovered?

"I am always humming and singing whatever song is stuck in my head at the time," Blankenship, a native of Monaca, Pa., said. "Word eventually got out I could sing and I started to hear rumors I was going to be representing the team at the talent show."

A few weeks later, teammate Rory Nichol called Blankenship, asking if he would be interested in participating in the annual spring student-athlete talent show, a community event which raises funds for the Boys & Girls Club of Columbus. The first-year student agreed and immediately began to work on his act.

"I had never sung in front a crowd of people," the offensive lineman said. "So I was a little hesitant, but when the night actually came I had fun with it."

For Blankenship, who was selected to lead the 2008 Buckeye football team in its tradition of singing Carmen Ohio, picking out the perfect song was the hardest part of the preparation.

"The song took me a month to think about," Blankenship said. "I didn't want to sing a five minute song because it was my first time singing in front of people and I already was nervous. So I made a list of songs and put all the shorter songs on the top. When I got to Ain't No Sunshine, I remembered how much I liked it."

Clad in jeans and a t-shirt, Blankenship won over the crowd and judges but still finished out of the competition's Top 3, giving the redshirt freshman motivation for next year.

"At the beginning of the show, they listed off what the judges were going to be grading on, including costumes, creativity, number of people in it and so on," Blankenship said. "And I was one guy, wearing jeans and a shirt singing. Not a lot dancing or movement up on the stage. So hopefully, I get picked by my teammates again to be in the talent show next year because I've already starting thinking about it."

