

Tressel Resigns

Written by Mike Kelly
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Jim Tressel has stepped down as head football coach at Ohio State.

The Columbus Post-Dispatch made the announcement Monday morning. Tressel, who guided Ohio State to its first national title in 34 years back in 2002, steps down amid violations and mounting revelations against the football program. He turned in his resignation Sunday night.

Assistant coach Luke Fickell will take over as interim head coach for the 2011 season. Tressel and the University were scheduled to meet with the NCAA's infractions committee Aug. 12 to answer questions about the player violations and why Tressel did not report them. Tressel has continually denied any knowledge of improper benefits concerning his players until he was finally confronted by investigators with emails that showed he had known about these infractions since April of 2010.

The Ohio State football program came under scrutiny last December when six players were suspended by the NCAA for selling or trading uniforms and other memorabilia to a Columbus tattoo-parlor owner. The NCAA also drew criticism for allowing the players to participate in the Sugar Bowl instead of serving their suspensions immediately.

Tressel, who was an assistant coach at Ohio State from 1983-85, left the BUCKeyes to become the head coach at Youngstown State. During his 15-year stay with that program (1986-2000), Tressel led the Penguins to 135 wins and four Division I-AA national championships.

Tressel was 106-22 during his ten-years stay with the Buckeyes and led them to three national championship game appearances. He won a national title in 2002 as the Buckeyes defeated Miami in the Fiesta Bowl. Ohio State was 14-0 that year. Tressel is 241-79-2 in his 25-year coaching career.