

# Trump welcomes Ohio State football team to White House

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**Cleveland.com**

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Proclaiming it a “proud day for the scarlet and gray,” President Donald Trump on Monday welcomed Ohio State University’s championship football team to the White House.

“You are a special group from a special state,” said Trump, who recounted key details of the team’s winning season and greeted individual players by name in a ceremony on the White House South Lawn before hundreds of Ohio State fans.

“This team showed the world that the road to greatness is paved by hard work, sweat and often a great deal of adversity,” said Trump. “Many people counted you out, as you know, after the losses against Oregon, which is a great team and that team up north. You refused to let the Buckeye nation down.”

Trump asked team members to raise their hands if they’d like him to give them a tour of the Oval Office. They did so.

“These people are going places that are going to be very exciting in the future,” Trump said of the team. “We’re going to be watching them all on Sundays for a long time to come.”

Vice President JD Vance, an Ohio State alum, joined Trump at the podium, as did Ohio State University coach Ryan Day. At one point, the championship trophy came apart in Vance’s hands but was quickly repaired. He [subsequently quipped on social media](#) that he “didn’t want anyone after Ohio State to get the trophy so I decided to break it.”

Observing that the championship game was on the day Trump and Vance were inaugurated, Vance recalled asking Trump if he could skip some of the late inaugural balls to attend the game.

“The President said, ‘No, but we’ll have them at the White House.’ So, here we are celebrating that national title,” Vance said. “And I just want to say I’m proud of you guys. You guys were resilient. You were tough. You represented the state of Ohio well. You represented the whole country well.”

Day said the team made history by winning the most difficult series of games in history of college football.

“Through discipline and execution, this team dominated, finished the mission and left no doubt,” said Day.

The ceremony ended with team giving Trump an Ohio State helmet and a team jersey that said “Trump 47.”

Afterwards, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel joined the team at the podium.

Other prominent Republicans in the audience included Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Treasurer Robert Sprague, GOP gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and U.S. Reps. Mike Carey and Warren Davidson.

The Buckeyes are the first college football team to make the trip to the White House since Trump was reelected.

During Trump’s first presidential term, whether championship teams were invited to the White House or accepted the invitation became a [politically fraught issue](#). This time around, teams seem more eager to attend. The Super Bowl-winning Philadelphia Eagles are scheduled visit the White House on April 28.

Ohio State won the national title on Jan. 20 with a 34-23 victory over Notre Dame. It was the ninth national title in the Ohio State football program’s history and and its first in a decade.

The victory against the Fighting Irish marked the end of a memorable season for [Day’s](#) squad.

The team went 10-2 in the regular season, capped by a shocking loss against rival Michigan. However, OSU earned an at-large bid to the inaugural 12-team College Football Playoff.

To open the playoff, OSU hosted and defeated Tennessee before beating Oregon at the Rose Bowl. In the semifinals, Ohio State beat Texas in the Cotton Bowl before defeating Notre Dame in the final.

During halftime of the championship game, ESPN played a pre-recorded [video message from Trump](#) declaring “the Golden Age of America has just begun.”

“To all of the players and fans watching tonight, I know it’s been a long and difficult journey, it’s been a long season but you have two tremendous teams,” Trump said in the message. “Get to the game, and go out and fight hard and fight fair and let the better team win. And I’m going to enjoy watching it.”

After Ohio State’s last football championship in 2014, then-President Barack Obama welcomed the team to the White House, [calling them](#) “a team of true character, of true resilience.”

Then-head coach Urban Meyer [presented Obama](#) with a scarlet “Obama 44” Ohio State jersey, which Obama held up as he posed for photos with the team.