**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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A tale of hard work and team spirit for Buckeyes of all ages!

***The Best in the Land: The Story of Brutus Buckeye***

**By Paul Keels, the Voice of the Buckeyes**

**Illustrated by Chad Thompson**

Follow Brutus Buckeye on his journey from nut to beloved mascot in ***The Best in the Land***by “Voice of the Buckeyes” Paul Keels. Young Brutus dreams of one day playing football for his favorite team, The Ohio State Buckeyes, and hearing the home crowd cheer for him. When he finally arrives at Ohio State, Brutus finds unique ways of helping his friends to victory week after week and soon learns there’s more than one way to be part of a team. From running the scoreboard to helping coaches craft plays, to giving the players an extra boost of confidence, Brutus is determined to do his part. But will he ever get to take the field with the team? Will he be able to find his true place at Ohio State?

Brutus’ perseverance and a positive attitude help him achieve his greatest goals in ***The Best in the Land: The Story of Brutus Buckeye,*** a must-have for any OSU fan. This wonderfully illustrated, rhyming story offers readers both young and old a new perspective on all that contributes to a successful season, from a crisply lined field to a beautifully crafted play to a Buckeye who never gives up. This story of team spirit and perseverance will appeal both to young readers and lifelong fans. ***The Best in the Land***is officially licensed by The Ohio State University and is sure to become a favorite for Buckeyes of all ages!

“I really enjoyed reading ***The Best in the Land: The Story of Brutus Buckeye***. I can only imagine how kids in Buckeye Nation will enjoy reading about Brutus' rise to the top of Mascot Land.”

—Archie Griffin, former OSU All-American, two-time Heisman Trophy winner, and NFL running back

“Paul is an absolute legend as the ‘Voice of the Buckeyes.’ What a fun and creative story of Brutus Buckeye that I can’t wait to read to my daughters!”

— James Laurinaitis, former OSU All-American and NFL linebacker

**PAUL KEELS, Author Bio:** A native of Ohio, Paul Keels began his radio career in Cincinnati, then graced the airwaves in Detroit and Washington D.C. before returning home to become the announcer for the Cincinnati Bearcats and then the Cincinnati Bengals. Recognizable across the state, Paul became the “Voice of the Buckeyes” in 1998, providing play-by-play commentary ever since to grateful fans of Ohio State football and men’s basketball. He has been named Ohio Sportscaster of the Year four times by the National Sports Media Association and was inducted into the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2007. Paul is also the author of ***Tales from the Buckeyes’ National Championship Season***and, with Zach Meisel, ***If These Walls Could Talk: Ohio State Buckeyes***. This is his first children’s book.

**CHAD THOMPSON, Illustrator Bio:** Upon graduating from Columbus College of Art & Design, Chad began his career with Walt Disney Feature Animation in Orlando, Florida, working on animated movies such as *Mulan*, *Lilo and Stitch*, and *Brother Bear*. Currently, Chad works as an illustrator, designer, and author of children’s books for publishers around the globe. When he’s not at the drawing board, Chad enjoys spending time with his wife and kids and soaking up the Florida sun.

Title: ***The Best in the Land: The Story of Brutus Buckeye***

Author: Paul Keels Illustrator: Chad Thompson

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Children’s / Football / Self Esteem & Self Reliance / Teamwork

Available at local retailers including Barnes and Noble, Rally House, The Ohio State University Bookstore, Giant Eagle, College Traditions and more. Online retailers include Amazon (amazon.com) and Barnes & Noble (bn.com)

For more information and to request a preview copy or an interview with Paul Keels, contact mgore@ascendbooks.com or call (913) 948-7635.

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