# [***CLARETT SEES LIE IN BUCKEYES***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47K8-W2G0-00T0-G23C-00000-00&context=1516831)

Daily News (New York)

January 1, 2003, Wednesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

**Section:** SPORTS;

**Length:** 359 words

**Byline:** BY DICK WEISS

**Body**

TEMPE, Ariz. - Ohio State's Maurice Clarett has stepped up his criticisms of school officials, saying they have lied about a form he said he filed. The freshman tailback is upset that the school would not fly him home to Youngstown for the funeral of a friend in the week leading up to Friday's national championship game with Miami at the Fiesta Bowl.

Yesterday, on media day, he directed his frustration at AD Andy Geiger and Heather Lyke Catalano, the university's associate AD in charge of NCAA compliance. Geiger claimed Monday that without the completion of required financial assistance forms, the school could not supply transportation costs under an NCAA student assistance fund that is usually reserved for family emergencies.

"I filled out the paperwork before I left Ohio so I won't let them sit there and lie about that," Clarett said. "I'm surprised they said it was my fault."

Catalano said she was not allowed to comment, but sports information director Steve Snapp said he had talked with Catalano and "she said he (Clarett) had not filled out the proper paperwork."

Geiger said in a statement issued last night that Clarett had not submitted a free application form for federal student aid to Ohio State as of Monday.

"Maurice may have begun the process but at the time we had to make the decision there was no indication of an FAFFSA on file for Maurice," he said. "We were therefore compelled to follow the NCAA rules as they apply in this situation."

Clarett said his mother filled out the paperwork last week and he submitted it to the school compliance department, which must approve any finanical aid or benefits given to student athletes.

Clarett said he was upset he was not contacted by Catalano after he filed his paperwork. "The compliance lady said she'd get back to me in my room," he said. "She never called me back in my room or on my ***cell phone***. That's the reason I was mad."

By the end of the hour-long interview, he said he came to Ohio State "to play football, not to get an education" and said earlier assertions that he came to the Buckeyes to restore the school's rich tradition was "just something Steve Snapp told me to say."

**Load-Date:** January 1, 2003

**End of Document**