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THE PARTHENON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 | VOL. 117 NO. 1 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com



Football Edition 2013

Playing for the Front

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FOOTBALL EDITION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Marshall Thundering Herd

2013 Football Schedule

The Miami (OH) Red Hawks



Game 1 - vs. Miami (OH)
Location: Oxford, Ohio
Mascot: Red Hawks
2012 record: 4-8, 3-5 in MAC
Key players: Dayonne Nunley (S)

The Thundering Herd and the Red Hawks have had bad blood since 1971 when the Red Hawks showed no mercy to the Young Thundering Herd. The Red Hawks played a very difficult schedule last season, particularly in the non-conference portion with away games at Ohio State, Boise State and Cincinnati, and finished fifth in the MAC East division. The Red Hawks will be without last years starting QB Zach Dysert, who was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the 2013 NFL Draft.

The Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs



Game 2 - vs. Gardner-Webb
Location: Boiling Springs, N.C.
Mascot: Runnin' Bulldogs
2012 record: 3-8, 2-4 in Big South
Key players: Seth Cranfill (TE), Tanner Burch (LB)

Gardner-Webb will begin the 2013 season with a new head coach with Carroll McCray returning to his alma mater. The Thundering Herd is 12-1 against FCS opponents since moving to the FBS in 1997.

The Ohio Bobcats



Game 3 - at Ohio
Location: Athens, Ohio
Mascot: Bobcats
2012 record: 9-4, 4-4 in MAC
Key players: Beau Blankenship (RB)

The 2013 meeting between these two rivals will be the 57th Battle for the Bell. The Bobcats are 19-8 in the past two seasons, including two straight wins over the Thundering Herd. The Bobcats will have to find a way to win this season without QB Tyler Tettleton, who lead the Bobcats the past two seasons. Ohio leads the all-time series 31-19-6, including 2-1 against the Herd during the Doc Holliday era.

The Virginia Tech Hokies



Game 4 - at Virginia Tech
Location: Blacksburg, Va.
Mascot: Hokies
2012 record: 7-6, 4-4 in ACC
Key Players: Logan Thomas (QB), Jack Tyler (LB)

Last season was a major disappointment by Virginia Tech's standards, but ended on a high note with a close bowl victory over Rutgers. Head Coach Frank Beamer is entering his 25th season in Blacksburg. The Herd has come up short 5 times against the Hokies since 1997, most recently in a 30-10 contest in Huntington.

The UT-San Antonio Roadrunners



Game 5 - vs. UTSA
Location: San Antonio, Texas
Mascot: Roadrunners
2012 record: 8-4, 3-3 in WAC
Key Players: Triston Wade (DB), Steven Kurfehs (LB)

UTSA has an up and coming football team that is joining C-USA this season after spending just one season in the WAC after moving to the FBS as a transitional team. The Roadrunners is coached by former Miami (FL) head coach Larry Coker. The game against UTSA will be Marshall's homecoming game.

The Florida Atlantic Owls



Game 6 - at Florida Atlantic
Location: Boca Raton, Fla.
Mascot: Owls
2012 record: 3-8, 2-5 in Sun Belt
Key Players: Nexon Dorvilus (TE), William Dukes (WR)

The Owls struggled under first year head coach Carl Pelini. FAU is joining C-USA this season after spending the past seven in the Sun Belt.

The Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders



Game 7 - at Middle Tennessee State
Location: Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Mascot: Blue Raiders
2012 record: 8-4, 6-2 in Sun Belt
Key Players: Reggie Whatley (KR), Kevin Byard (S)

The Blue Raiders are coming off of a successful season, including a big win over ACC member Georgia Tech. MTSU is joining C-USA this season after competing in the Sun Belt since 2000.

The Southern Miss Golden Eagles



Location: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Mascot: Golden Eagles
2012 record: 0-12, 0-8 in C-USA
Key Players: Rakeem Nunez-Roches (T), Deron Wilson (CB)
Southern Miss had a disastrous season in 2012, plummeting from C-USA Champions in 2011 to being winless in 2012. Ellis Johnson was fired after only one season as head coach and was replaced by Todd Monken.

The University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers



Game 9 - vs. UAB
Location: Birmingham, Ala.
Mascot: Blazers
2012 record: 3-9, 3-5 in C-USA
Key Players: Darrin Reaves (RB), Austin Brown (QB)
The Blazers had a forgettable season last season but does have plenty of young talent, including rising junior RB Darrin Reaves, who was a first team all-conference selection last season.

The Tulsa Golden Hurricane



Game 10 - at Tulsa
Location: Tulsa, Okla.
Mascot: Golden Hurricane
2012 record: 11-3
Key Players: Keyarris Garrett (WR), Demarco Nelson (S)
Tulsa won the Conference USA championship last season and will probably be favored to defend the title. The Golden Hurricane has won four of its past five bowl games.

The Florida International Golden Panthers



Game 11: - at Florida Int'l
Location: Miami, Fla.
Mascot: Golden Panthers
2012 record: 3-9, 2-6 in Sun Belt
Key Players: Greg Hickman (DL)
Florida International is the fourth and final new member of C-USA the Herd has on its schedule in 2013. The Herd and Golden Panthers last met in the 2011 Beef-o-Brady's bowl, in which the Herd was victorious 20-10.

The East Carolina Pirates



Game 12: - vs. East Carolina
Location: Greenville, N.C.
Mascot: Pirates
2012 record: 8-5, 7-1 in C-USA
Key Players: Vintavious Cooper (RB), Derrell Johnson (LB)
East Carolina finished its season off with a loss to Louisiana University in the R+L Carriers Bowl. 2013 will be the third straight season that the Herd and Pirates have played each other in the regular season finale.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRAXTON CRISP
Marshall University Athletic Director Mike Hamrick speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony of the indoor practice facility Friday, April 26 in Huntington.

Hamrick choosing non-conference schedule selectively

By BRAXTON CRISP FOR THE PARTHENON

With Marshall beginning the season against a former Mid-American Conference rival in Miami (Ohio) and playing another former MAC rival two weeks later at Ohio, Thundering Herd Athletic Director Mike Hamrick has been making non-conference games close to home a priority.

"You would like to get every opponent close," said Hamrick. "Obviously within the conference it is what it is, but when you schedule out of conference the closer the opponent is from a mileage standpoint it gives your fans an opportunity to travel and support your team."

The 2013 season is not the only example of Hamrick's effort to schedule regional games for the non-conference schedule. The Herd will play at Virginia Tech in the 2013 season, as well as hosting other teams from reasonable driving distances in the coming years.

"Our future football schedules are very good with games with Louisville and Purdue coming up," Hamrick said. "We've got a series down the road with Navy, we're going to start playing Kent State and Akron from the MAC, and we're talking with East Carolina about continuing that series."

In 2014, Louisville will come play the Herd inside Joan C. Edwards Stadium in a matchup that will presumably pit two of the best quarterbacks to ever come out of Miami, Marshall's Rakeem Cato and Louisville's Teddy Bridgewater. The two faced off in 2011 when both were just freshmen at their respective schools.

Marshall will also continue series with Miami (Ohio) and Ohio University in 2014, and

add Akron as a non-conference opponent because the series with Virginia Tech ends this season.

Hamrick feels that adding Miami (Ohio) is a big time series with a team the Thundering Herd is extremely familiar with, despite not playing each other since 2004. "Marshall has had a lot of great games with them, some good, some not so good," Hamrick said about the series with the Redhawks.

The game in 2004 was won by the Thundering Herd by a score of 33-25 in Huntington and resulted in quite an outburst from the Redhawks coaching staff.

History between the Herd and Redhawks goes back to 1905. Games were played between the two when Hamrick was a player at Marshall in the late 1970s and Miami was the "Redskins" as well. All of that played a part in motivating Hamrick to rekindle the series.

"I just felt it was very important to get Miami back on the schedule because they're a rival, their proximity is very close and I'm very excited about them coming to Huntington and us going there next year," said Hamrick. Marshall and Miami will also play in Huntington in 2017 and in Oxford, Ohio in 2018.

The 2015 schedule will feature a home game against the Purdue Boilermakers as the second half of a home-and-home series that began in 2012 with the Herd playing in West Lafayette. Also in 2015, the current series with the Ohio Bobcats will run out when the Herd heads to Athens. The Navy series that Hamrick alluded to will be a home-and-home series with the Midshipmen in Annapolis, Md. in 2021 and in Huntington in 2022.

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FOOTBALL EDITION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Cato, Marshall offense continues to improve

By **BRAXTON CRISP**
THE PARTHENON

When comparing pictures from three years ago to now, the physical changes are plain for Rakeem Cato, but those aren't the only changes for the now junior quarterback for the Thundering Herd. He's also evolved into being a smarter quarterback as well.

"There are times when he'll check to something [change the play at the line of scrimmage] and I'm sitting there thinking 'That's exactly what I wanted him to do,'" offensive coordinator Bill Legg said of Cato's understanding of the offense.

Stories of that nature are a far cry from the stories of Cato's freshman season, which featured the infamous slamming of the phone up to the coach's box in frustration during the monsoon-like game against UCF in Orlando. That move got Cato benched for three games until midway through the Tulsa game in

2011, when his replacement, AJ Graham, was injured.

Cato has grown mightily from that 2011 season as well. He stepped on campus at around 160 pounds, and now through his second summer of strength and conditioning, he has grown into a 188 pound player with much improved arm strength.

That arm strength and improved football IQ fueled Cato with having a sophomore season as good as most senior quarterbacks had a year ago.

That is a testament to how well Cato and Legg work together. During the 2011 season, the quarterback position was in flux with Cato starting some games, then Graham, then back to Cato. That made it a little difficult for Legg to grow accustomed to the habits and abilities of the quarterback he was calling plays for. Now with Cato being starter all of 2012, Legg and Cato are on the same page with no confusion. That bond is growing even stronger in preparation for the 2013 season because Legg is now the quarterbacks coach in addition to being the offensive coordinator and play caller.

"There are times when he turns and he's about to give a signal to the box, and I've already called it," Legg said.

With Cato and Legg being on the same page and having the kind of working chemistry they do, that allows Legg to be more aggressive in his play calling because he knows what Cato is capable of.

Flash back to 2011 once again, and Herd fans remember that the most memorable plays of that season came late in the season once Legg and Cato had built a rapport. "The Catch" by departed receiver Aaron Dobson against East Carolina comes to mind on that list of memorable plays, along with long receptions by Dobson and Jermain Kelson in the Beef 'o' Brady's Bowl.

In 2012, Tommy Shuler and Gator Hoskins were prime targets for Cato for those key receptions. Now in 2013, everyone, including Cato and Legg, will have to see what the next evolution in the quarterback from Miami will be.

Braxton Crisp can be contacted at crisp23@marshall.edu.

The Cato File

12
POSITION: Quarterback
HEIGHT: 6'0"
WEIGHT: 188 lbs.
FROM: Miami, Fla.

2012 stats: 406-584-11, 4,201 yards, 37 touchdowns

- 2012 Conference USA Most Valuable Player
- Led nation with 350.8 passing yards per game
- On watch lists for Walter Camp Award, Maxwell Award, Davey O'Brien Award and Manning Award

Playing for the front

By **ADAM ROGERS**
THE PARTHENON

No individuals. A team. One.

Those are just a few words to describe the 2013 version of the Thundering Herd football program who is playing for the front this season.

It started off with head coach Doc Holliday shocking the fan base during last Thursday's Paint the Capital City Green event, where he announced the team would not be sporting surnames on the backs of the jerseys.

According to HerdZone.com columnist Jack Bogaczyk, Marshall head equipment manager Rich Worner said Holliday talked to him back in January about not putting names on the jerseys.

Holliday said during Tuesday's weekly press conference that he made the change because he did not like where his team was.

"I've always felt like if you didn't like where you are, you have to change something," Holliday said. "Number one you work extremely hard to become a good football team. There's a lot of teams out there that are talented teams, as far as athletes and personnel goes, but in order to win you have to have a great team. So we really wanted to emphasize team."

You might think the Marshall players were upset with not having their names on their jerseys, but they actually welcomed it with open arms because they know there is still something to prove.

"We know if we stick together, nobody can beat us," junior wide receiver Tommy Shuler said. "We don't care who you are, we know our team is strong enough. If we go out there and we're on the same page everything will be great for us."

Senior defensive ends Jeremiah Taylor and Alex Bazzie took the idea of something to prove even further.

They said the team needs to prove itself to the Huntington community as a whole.

"That's what we preached about all offseason," Taylor said. "I think the coaches actually got that from us. We didn't talk about taking our names off, we were just focused on being the Herd and talking about playing for protecting the 'M'."

"Our goal is to satisfy them and bring victory to this community, not to represent ourselves or the cities and states we left to come here," Bazzie said. "With the names being taken off - we want to show the community that this is serious and we want to please you guys by winning. That we don't care nothing about who we are, it's about the Herd and what the Herd has made us."

The last time Marshall football stepped out onto a field without names on the back of a jersey was a 14-7 victory over Eastern Kentucky in a 1991 NCAA D-I AA Semifinal.

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FOOTBALL EDITION

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Williams: walk-on to semi-finalist

By **ADAM ROGERS**
THE PARTHENON

When Marshall dukes it out with former Mid-American Conference rival Miami (Ohio) on Saturday, one Thundering Herd player will be walking out on the field with scholarship in hand after last season's award-worthy performance.

Sophomore punter Tyler Williams came to Huntington last year and joined the Herd football program as a walk-on, which he said helped him ease into his role.

"As a scholarship guy, you have more on your shoulders," Williams said. "They want you to produce because you're on scholarship and they're paying you to go to school, because you're supposed to be the guy. So coming in as a walk-on I got to ease into it a bit more and got to earn my stripes the right way."

After dueling former teammate Austin Dumas for the starting role last season and winning the job for the season opener against West Virginia, Williams went on to land on the Ray Guy Award Semi-Finalist list as a true freshman.

"Making the finalist list and everything was surreal,"

Williams said. "It's unexplainable because in high school you think 'Oh, that's a cool award' and 'if I got nominated for that I wouldn't care,' but when you make the finalists that's just a great pat on the back."

The Fort Wayne, Ind. native finished his inaugural punting campaign with 43 punts for an average of 45.2 yards per punt, a single-season school record; while 13 of those went for 50 or more yards, including a long of 66.

Williams said his impressive statistics from last season do more than show his ability, they also show how hard the rest of the punt team works.

"That list is the whole punt team," Williams said. "I can't do it without anybody else. Them blocking for me, Matt (Cincotta) snapping for me, the missiles making the tackles. So it was great not only for me, but it's great to get respect down to the other guys who help me."

With his freshman year behind him, Williams' focus is now set square on the Redhawks and opening the season at home.

Adam Rogers can be contacted at rogers112@marshall.edu.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Sophomore Tyler Williams prepares to punt the ball. Williams received a scholarship for the impressive work he did in the 2012 season.

Fans excited for new season

By **CAITIE SMITH**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday is a big day for a number of reasons. The biggest among them is the real start of college football. (While there is a Thursday night game to officially begin the season, most teams dip their feet on Saturday.)

For Marshall University, the day is no different. The Herd will begin its 118th season when they face former Mid-American Conference foe Miami (Ohio). As a team with the reputation as "the winningest team of the 90s," this year's Herd has much to prove as it looks to rebound from a subpar 5-7 record.

Not only are the players looking forward to greeting the gridiron, but Marshall fans are as well.

First year graduate student Whitney Jude has been a lifetime fan of the green and white.

"I'm really looking forward to this season," Jude said. "We have one of the nation's top offenses coming back, and I think we're going to have a few receivers really step up. That's what I'm hoping, anyway. I really expect a solid season from our guys."

Junior accounting major Ryan Scroggins from Cross Lanes has also been a supporter of the Herd since childhood.

"It's the first time since Pruett left that we have an all-around talented roster, not just a couple good guys," Scroggins said. "They all want to win so badly, so I'm excited to watch a good team play."

Scroggins emphasized team, noting head coach Doc Holliday's recent announcement that there will be no last names on the jerseys this fall.

"I love that," Scroggins said. "The players are going to buy into the team concept."

Jude was also in support of Holliday's decision.

"I don't have a problem with removing the names. I think what Doc is trying to do is build up the guys as a team and teach them that the most important thing is the name on the front, not the back."

The new marketing has been adjusted to this new idea, noting the slogan 'We play for the front.'

"It's a good theme for the season," Scroggins said. "I might not like not knowing who some of them are, but I think it's a good thing."

Just as the players have been through intense pre-season workouts, the Marshall faithful have been preparing for Saturday at 7 p.m.

Jude has been cooking and preparing food all week for her tailgate.

"I absolutely love games at the Joan," Jude said. "The atmosphere is impossible to describe with words. Everything, from tailgating to the game itself, is just an amazing experience to be a part of."

With anticipation, though, comes hype. Some might think that Marshall may be getting "over-hyped" and receiving too much preseason notice, but Scroggins and Jude do not think so.

"I'd like to think we aren't getting over-hyped," Jude said. "As a longtime fan, I know what its like to be so excited and then get let down when the season starts. But I think this year will be different."

"So what if they're getting hyped?" Scroggins said. "They deserve it."

Jude was in agreement. "The hype is well deserved for this team, and I hope to see them live up to it," Jude said.

Scroggins and Jude, like so many other Marshall fans, will get their answers Saturday. Until then, maybe a little more hype wouldn't hurt.

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Furrey, WRs try to continue 2012 success

By **JAMES COLLIER**
THE PARTHENON

Coming off a season in which Marshall football passed for over 4300 yards and nine different receivers had touchdown catches, it may seem impossible to better that the following season.

For Marshall head coach Doc Holliday, he envisions 12 or more receivers contributing to the Herd's pass-happy style of offense. That is where newly hired wide-receivers coach Mike Furrey comes into the picture.

Furrey joined the Herd in the offseason after leaving the helm of Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Ky. Furrey inherited a program that went 0-11 in his first season only to finish his 2012 season 7-4 and a national ranking of No. 25 in NAIA Division I.

Furrey not only brings successful coaching experience to Marshall, but also a successful career with three teams in the NFL. He led the NFC in receptions (98) in 2006 and was second only to Houston's Andre Johnson in the NFL.

After losing wide-outs Aaron Dobson and Antavious Wilson to graduation, Marshall receivers found an opportunity to quickly climb the depth chart.

Marshall wide receiver Tommy Schuler said Furrey is the reason the team is so deep at receiver this season.

"Coach (Furrey) got us ready at every position," Schuler said. "He had everyone at every position on the field and he's even got the freshmen involved."

While the receiving core praises the work the Furrey has done thus far with the team, he inherited a talented staff at the same time. Schuler, who is on the Biletnikoff Award watch list, returns as the team's leading receiver from last season when he grabbed 110 passes for 1138 yards.

With teams focusing on Dobson and Wilson last season, Schuler became a prime target for his former Miami Central High School teammate Rakeem Cato. However, Schuler knows

this season will be different than last and he prepared for the added attention in the offseason.

"I expect man coverage most of the time this season," Schuler said. "I know teams are going to play bump coverage on me and that just motivates me to get better."

Two receivers who could see added playing time this season is redshirt sophomore Davonte Allen and redshirt senior Devon "Moo-Moo" Smith. Allen produced a game-winning touchdown grab last season in Marshall's 38-28 win over Memphis which Holliday claimed was a glimmer of hope from what the team had expected from Allen.

Smith, who transferred in from Penn State, had a good fall camp which propelled him up the depth chart for the Herd and is expected to see significant playing time this season. Smith caught 54 passes in three seasons for the Nittany Lions but may be one of the most known players in school history.

Smith was the player that made incidental contact with then-head coach Joe Paterno that left the legendary coach with a broken hip.

Smith had a break-out night during Marshall's second scrimmage of the fall camp. Smith finished with 10 receptions totaling 103 yards and a touchdown. He is expected to split time with Allen in the Miami (Ohio) game.

With eight receivers on the charts for the Herd, one cannot forget the depth at tight end with Gator Hoskins and Eric Frohnapfel. Hoskins, a Mackey Award semi-finalist last season, finds himself on the watch list once again in 2013. He finished with 10 touchdowns receptions last season, leaving him second only to East Carolina's Justin Hardy (11) in Conference USA.

Hoskins attributes the depth of the Herd for his success last season.

"Our depth forced teams to



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Redshirt sophomore Davonte Allen breaks away from the defense.

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FOOTBALL EDITION

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THUNDERING HERD STATS (2012 SEASON) and PROJECTED STARTERS SCOREBOARD

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | TOTAL |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| MU | 88 | 136 | 130 | 117 | 20 | 491 |
| OPP | 82 | 165 | 120 | 127 | 23 | 517 |

Marshall University and opponent points per quarter

POINTS PER GAME



OFFENSIVE PRODUCTION

| RUSHING | RECEIVING |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| K. Grooms (737 yards) | T. Shuler (1138 yards) |
| S. Burler (500 yards) | A. Dobson* (679 yards) |
| R. Watson (380 yards) | A. Wilson* (741 yards) |

*no longer on roster

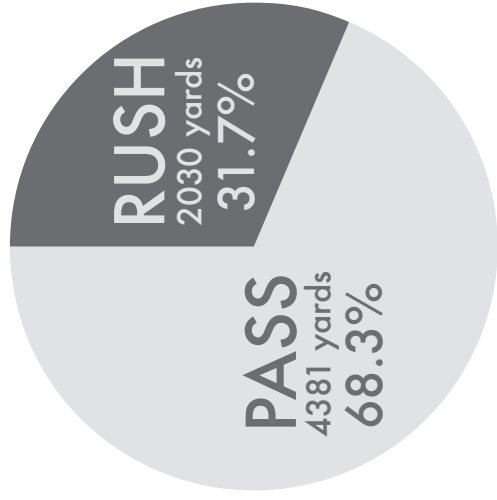
TACKLES PER GAME



DEFENSIVE PRODUCTION

| TACKLES | SACKS |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| D. Legrande* (132) | J. Taylor (5.5) |
| O. Okaroha* (108) | B. Sparrow (5) |
| D.J. Hunter (102) | M. Aiken* (2) |

*no longer on roster



statistics and roster information courtesy of HerdZone

MARSHALL

THE HERD

MARSHALL

OT: J. Haig #23, M. Cincotta #88, K. Grooms #37, R. Cato #12, D. Holliday, B. Legg, C. Heater

WR: T. Shuler #1, D. Allen #6

TE: G. Hoskins #26

LT: G. Niemeyer #63

LG: S. Johansson #71

C: C. Jasperse #60

RG: A. Schooler #74

RT: J. Jeffries #77

WR: J. Hunt #9, G. Hoskins #26, G. Niemeyer #63, S. Johansson #71, C. Jasperse #60, A. Schooler #74, J. Jeffries #77

CB: D. Roberts #7, J. Taylor #58, B. Sparrow #96, S. Dillon #93, A. Bazzie #53, C. Tindal #10, D. Thomas #2

RE: J. Taylor #58

DT: B. Sparrow #96

DT: S. Dillon #93

LE: A. Bazzie #53

LB: N. Hewitt #43, J. Holmes #46

P: T. Williams #38

S: D.J. Hunter #22, T. Letman #17

FOOTBALL EDITION

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New attitude heats up Herd defense

By **JAMES COLLIER**
THE PARTHENON

If asked to give a single word description of Marshall University football's defense during the 2012 season, a common response would be nonexistent.

While the Herd had one of the best offensive teams in the nation, it also had one of the worst defenses.

Last season, Marshall's defense simply could not get off the field on third and fourth down. Marshall's opponents converted on third down 45 percent of the time, but more importantly, Marshall failed to prevent a fourth down conversion on 19 of 25 attempts.

Within a season full of high expectations, the Herd watched its bowl chances slip away in the fourth quarter of its

season finale at East Carolina. With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, East Carolina converted a fourth and ten on its own 24-yardline leading to a game-tying touchdown with four seconds left on the clock to force overtime. East Carolina's 65-59 double-overtime victory sent Marshall home with a 5-7 record and ended any chances of going back to a bowl game since the 2011 Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl.

Of course, every Herd fan remembers the 48-yard touchdown run by Tulsa's Alex Singleton on fourth and one. Singleton went untouched on the scoring play that Marshall head coach Doc Holliday called a blown-blitz assignment.

With so many painful memories of defensive let downs last season, week one co-captains Alex Bazzie and Jeremiah Taylor said a change in attitude was first and foremost what the defensive unit needed.

"Last year it just wasn't there," Taylor said. "We as a unit decided that things had to change and a change in attitude was a must."

Taylor said it is key that everyone bought in to the changes.

"Up to this point, everyone on the team has accepted the changes and are on-board with what we are trying to do here," Taylor said. "Looking back at camp, I can say this is the best camp I have been a part of."

Attitude is not the only change for the defensive unit as most of the members have added 15 pounds to what was consistently an undersized line last season.

Bazzie and Taylor will bookend a defensive line whose job is to get a push up front. Taylor said that motivation from Chuck Heater, defensive coordinator, provide the four defensive linemen an added push.

See **HEATER** | Page 7

Roberts regains his swagger after injury

By **ADAM ROGERS**
THE PARTHENON

The last time redshirt junior Darryl "Swagg D" Roberts touched a football field in a game situation was in 2011, and what he did during his last time-out inside Joan C. Edwards Stadium was what sent Marshall bowling.

That would be picking off then-East Carolina quarterback Dominique Davis in overtime on 4th and 12 to seal a 34-27 victory for the Thundering Herd and would ultimately send it to the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Now Roberts is back out on the turf playing the game he loves.

"Just to be back out here around my teammates, I feel a lot of love out here," Roberts said. "I'm just

ready to come out here this season and do work, do what I've been waiting to do all last year."

After being forced to sit out due to a broken ankle in 2012, Roberts said it was difficult only being able to watch and not being able to help his team on the field.

"Well, it was really, really difficult," Roberts said. "Knowing that I couldn't help my team when they were in need. We had limited corners and at one point last season I thought about coming back just to help those guys. It really hurt me bad just to know I couldn't help those guys out."

At the same time, Roberts said he knows watching the game from a close distance will make him better.

"Sitting back watching anything will make you

hungrier for the game," Roberts said. "(It) increases your knowledge for the game and for a whole year gets you stronger, physically and mentally."

Things have changed defensively for the Thundering Herd since the last time Swagg D was in uniform and Roberts said a lot of that has to do with new defensive coordinator Chuck Heater.

"Back then we were more of a zone team," Roberts said. "But now since we have Coach Heater, he's a good man corner coach. He likes to bump and run, get in receiver's face, get physical and make them make tough throws and catches."

If coverage style was up to Roberts he would "bump and run" as often as possible.

See **SWAGG** | Page 7

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Senior defensive lineman
Brandon Sparrow

PHOTO BY TYLER KES | THE PARTHENON

FOOTBALL EDITION

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Miami of Ohio: Marshall's most bitter rival

By **WILL VANCE**
SPORTS EDITOR

When the Young Thundering Herd defeated the Xavier Musketeers 15-13 in the wake of the 1970 plane crash, it uplifted a team, a school and a community still coming to terms with a major tragedy. Some people accused the final scene in "We Are... Marshall" as a work of Hollywood because it fit so perfectly.

Something not as well-known occurred the following weekend when the Young Thundering Herd travelled to Oxford, Ohio to take on the then-Miami of Ohio Redskins. The Redskins bullied the Young Thundering Herd, running up the score to 66-6. The rest of that season most teams would gain a comfortable lead over the Herd and ease off the gas, but not the Red Hawks.

For the remainder of the '70s the teams continued to play, with the Redskins dominating the series. After a 17-year hiatus, the series restarted after the Herd moved to Division-I football and rejoined the MAC. As it did with most teams, the Herd dominated the Redskins/Red-Hawks from 1997 to 2004, going 6-2 in the series.

The last time the two teams played in 2004, a 33-25 Thundering Herd win, the Red Hawks coaching staff gave the Herd a parting gift by trashing the coach's box inside Joan C. Edwards Stadium, putting holes in walls and throwing furniture around the room. Two years prior, a Marshall fan got punched in the face by then RedHawk defensive coordinator Jon Wauford at a game in Oxford, Ohio. These teams

simply do not like each other. On Saturday, the rivalry will be renewed.

The 2013 season has the potential to be special for the Thundering Herd. For the first time since Byron Leftwich's departure, the Herd has a legitimate star quarterback in reigning C-USA MVP Rakeem Cato. In addition, Doc Holliday has finally assembled a team as fast and talented as was expected when he took the reins of the Herd.

Hopefully, the community and school will respond to its much-improved team.

Though current Thundering Herd players were still in grade school the last time these two teams played, the Huntington community remembers the RedHawks well and will turn out for Saturday's game. The rivalry with

Ohio University is definitely higher profile, but truly bad blood flows between the Herd and the RedHawks and Marshall fans have a way of showing up to see teams they really hate.

The difference between a good turnout and a great turnout will come from the students. Somewhat understandably, last season student attendance steadily dropped as the losses for the Herd added up.

For freshmen, what better way to kick off their college football experience than a night game against a heated rival back from the past? Or for a senior beginning their final season of Herd football after watching sub-par seasons during their time on campus?

When considering that the Herd has often times played its first home game against FCS opponents,

Marshall students got lucky this season. With Gardner-Webb coming to Huntington the following Saturday the back-to-back home games to start the 2013 season will mark the first time this has happened since the 2005 season.

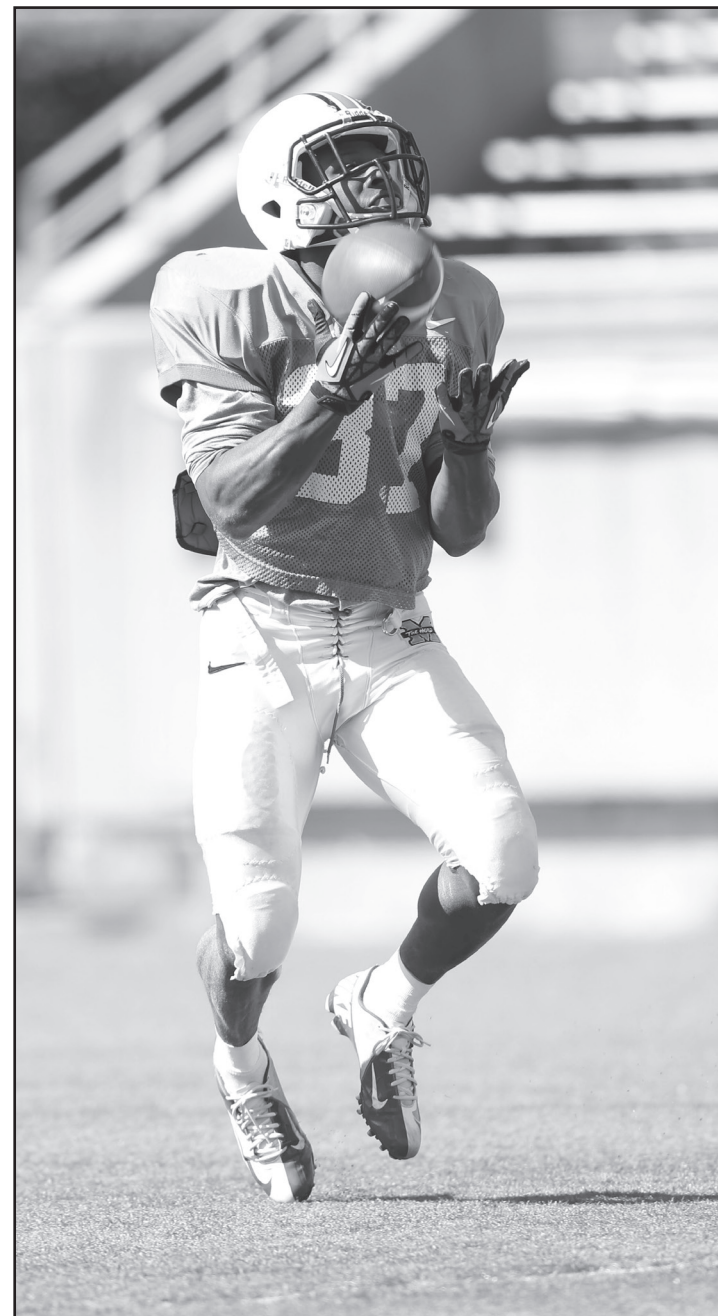
The 2013 Thundering Herd has a motto for the season, "We play for the front," meaning they play for "The Herd" written across their chests, for the team and the school. Consider this an appeal for Herd fans young and old, Huntingtonians and Marshall students, to come out Saturday night and support the team that plays for them, especially against a team that punished the freshmen of the Young Thundering Herd 66-6.

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Above: Two Thundering Herd defenders tackle a Herd ball-carrier during a scrimmage on April 13.

Right: Marshall's Kevin Grooms catches a punt during a scrimmage on April 13.



PHOTOS BY MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Editor's letter

By **BISHOP NASH**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I don't know if I believe in predestination or other concepts regarding fate, but there has never been a shade of doubt in my mind that I would attend Marshall University. I know this sentiment is shared with other kids growing up in the Greater Huntington area like myself, and I'm sure many can relate. For those on campus just recently experiencing life in and around Huntington, the magnitude of how deep these collectivized feelings run through the natives may not immediately reveal itself.

Everyone and their brother know about the plane crash and reconstruction. That alone ought to be enough to warrant pride (and a major motion picture, apparently) even if the Herd never won another football game.

But the comeback story didn't end after that 1971 victory over Xavier. The ending sequences of "We Are... Marshall" only briefly touch on the Herd's skyrocketing ascension from an obscure Division-II program to a full-fledged national powerhouse.

That's the Marshall I grew up around.

I was far too young to realize the magnitude of the Herd winning its SECOND national championship in the same decade. It didn't mean much at the time that Marshall was a Top 25 team. All I knew is that we were invincible, and it was going to take bigger fish than

Clemson, BYU and Kansas State to bring us down.

To an Ona Little Leaguer scampering around in oversized shoulder pads, the Thundering Herd was a team of superheroes. We treated everyone in the MAC like a punching bag; like stepping-stones en route to a bowl. We practically sleepwalked to championships. "We."

We felt like we were as much to credit for the football's success as Chad Pennington or Bobby Pruitt. WE were defending OUR house with every home game, and WE were tearing down THEIR house when the Herd rolled into town.

We were fearless. Totally, totally fearless.

To me at least, that feeling is returning. I'm so unbelievably psyched for 2013. We can do this. This is our chance to return a massive part of everyone's childhood: a fearless Marshall. I want to be able to walk in the Joan and demand a victory like I once could. I want to click on the radio and hear Steve Cotton's golden voice tell me we just broke thousands of hearts in a road victory.

I want to win without a second thought.

I'm 21, bearded and the editor of a college newspaper, but smacking around a MAC foe on Saturday would send me straight back to 4th grade.

Let's feel like '90s kids again. Go Herd!

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FURREY

Continued from Page 4

choose who to cover," Hoskins said. "With a quarterback like Cato, it's up to us as a group to just run our routes and let him find the open guy."

With the Herd's depth this season, opponents can only hope to slow down an offensive

attack that averaged 90 plays per game last season. However, with so many threats to line up against, it's only a matter of time before Cato connects with his next target—the receiver left uncovered.

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HEATER

Continued from Page 6

"Coach (Heater) told us that if we couldn't rush with four guys, he would use three," Taylor said. "Hearing that as a player is enough to motivate you to do whatever it takes to stay on the field."

Bazzie says the defensive unit plays vicariously through their coach.

"Coach (Heater) has that killer instinct that we all feed off of in practice," Bazzie said. "We are relentless on the field and that is all because of him. We just want to play fast and go out and have fun. We just need to go out and enjoy the game we love playing and be young, reckless men, fly around, be physical and be the aggressor from the first snap."

Bazzie and Taylor will be joined by Brandon Sparrow, Ra'Shawde Myers, Steve Dillon and James Rouse on a revamped defensive line. Taylor said the depth on the line this season allows the players to stay fresh the entire contest.

"Our depth on the line will especially help us in conference this season," Taylor said. "Instead of playing 75 or 80 snaps, our depth knocks that down to 45 or 50. We can go hard and keep guys fresh for the fourth quarter."

While the defensive unit passed the eye test during fall camp, the true test takes place Saturday night at 7 p.m. when Marshall opens its 2013 campaign against Miami (Ohio) at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

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SWAGG

Continued from Page 6

"Challenging receivers on all routes," Roberts said with a smile. "Squeezing top shoulder on deep balls and stuff like that. Its more exciting for us and it can give us an edge, because not too many coaches or defensive coordinators run

man to man coverage in this conference."

Roberts' return to the secondary boosts an already deep talent pool on the defensive unit and he will be put to the task of defending a youthful Miami (Ohio) receiving corps.

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