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The Daily Mississippian

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Recommended Citation

The Daily Mississippian, "March 4, 2014" (2014). *Daily Mississippian*. 575.
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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

University working to handle sexual assault cases

BY LACEY RUSSELL
llrusse2@olemiss.edu

The topic of sexual assaults at universities has been highlighted both in recent media reports and government actions. The University of Mississippi is working to properly handle student sexual assault cases that occur both on campus and in the city of Oxford. A federal law called the Jeanne

11

offenses reported to UPD in 2013

6/5

were on campus were off campus

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were reported to OPD in 2013

Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires universities to distribute descriptions of policies related to campus security and disclose crime statistics to the public. The University of Mississippi
See ASSAULT, PAGE 4



James Meredith speaks during an interview at the Willie Morris Public Library in Jackson Saturday.

THOMAS GRANING | The Daily Mississippian

Meredith discusses incident

James Meredith sat down with The Daily Mississippian Saturday to talk about the desecration of his statue and the future of both Ole Miss and the state of Mississippi.

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU
dmeditor@gmail.com

James Meredith, whose statue on the University of Mississippi campus was desecrated Feb. 16 with a noose and a flag bearing the Confederate “Stars and Bars,” thinks the university is focusing too much on the incident and should keep it “strictly a University of Mississippi affair.”

“(University administrators) haven’t kept me updated on any of it, but they shouldn’t. They shouldn’t be making this an international crisis,” Meredith said in an interview with The Daily Mississippian on Saturday at the Willie Morris Public Library in Jackson.

The 80-year-old Ole Miss graduate offered solutions – two of which would be very visible.

“Remove the James Meredith idol at Ole Miss, and remove the statue of the Confederate soldier at the university,” he said. “If you move the Confederate statue, you end the Civil War. If you move the Meredith idol, that ends the black-white race thing.”

Meredith encourages students to not become discouraged by the hateful act.

He referenced what he calls the “most-used photograph” when he integrated Ole Miss in 1962 – Meredith sitting alone in an empty classroom on his first day of class because the whites in the class walked out when he entered.

“I ended up ahead of everyone else in my class on that very first day because I was the only one that heard what the teacher taught that day, and it was pure foolishness on their part,” he said. “If students at Ole Miss are focusing on (the statue desecration) right now more than

As for the noose hanging around the neck of his statue, Meredith is not intimidated by the symbol.

“How could the noose be anything other than an emotional distraction?” he asked. “There hasn’t been a lynching in Mississippi since 1958. It’s time for Mississippi to start ignoring these emotional distractions and move forward.”

Meredith thinks both the university and the state are ready to move forward.

“We’ve got a lot to do,” he said. “Since I was really young, the most devastating

thing to me when I traveled the country and the world was that Mississippi was so negatively perceived. I always wanted to be from the best, not the

worst. I think of any other place in the world, Mississippi is ready to do things differently than what we’ve been doing.”

As for the incident that has generated so much media attention, Meredith said, “Quite frankly, I have 100 percent confidence in the rules, regulations and procedures at the university. I have that same and full confidence in the officials, even the board of trustees and the state legislature. So I’d have to know more than I know to have any reason to not trust and believe in these people.”

“Remove the James Meredith idol at Ole Miss, and remove the statue of the Confederate soldier at the university. If you move the Confederate statue, you end the Civil War. If you move the Meredith idol, that ends the black-white race thing.” - James Meredith

their studies, that’s the real tragedy here – not what those teenagers did.”

Meredith also believes that Mississippi and Ole Miss are being unfairly targeted. He said he was shocked when he spoke to students in Alabama and Tennessee after his book, “A Mission From God,” was published last year.

“They thought they were so much better than Mississippi,” he said. “That’s nothing but total foolishness. There aren’t 10 ounces of differences between the racial situation in Mississippi than in all 49 other states.”

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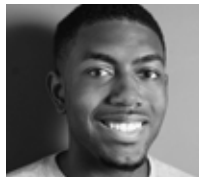
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COLUMN

Lessons from my mother



BY TIM ABRAM
toabram@go.olemiss.edu

As I begin to write this, I can feel my heart beating rapidly, and I can feel my tear ducts filling as I ponder the immense love my mother has shown me my entire life. Much of the man I am today is because of this woman. I truly wish I possessed the lexicon to adequately express the magnitude of my admiration of her and my deep affinity for her. Before I share the lessons I learned from my mother, let me spend a little time just honoring my mama.

I am reminded of the scene from "Forrest Gump" when his mother is about to pass away. In some of her final words, she affectionately states, "I didn't know it, but I was destined to be your mama." I know my mother feels the same way about me. I am also reminded of Anthony Hamilton's song, "Mama Knew Love." Oftentimes, I play this

song on repeat as I travel from Oxford to Horn Lake. I keep the shades on to hide the flowing tears. Here are the lyrics that "get me" every time: "I know you love me, I can tell by the way that you kiss me, tight when you hug me. Took me to school the very first day, gave me a piece of butterscotch, sent me on my way."

Another lyric from the song that gets me is ... "Mom, I'm going to struggle with you. I'm going to help you see the bigger picture. You gave me something no one can take away, you make it so easy to say, 'I love you, mama.'" This resonates with me so well, because of the struggle I lived through with my mama. She had me while she was still a babe herself, but she made it do what it do. And because of that, "Mom, I swear you never have to worry again." (Just to finish out the Anthony Hamilton song.)

Switching gears a bit, I have to reference Tupac's "Dear Mama." I'm sure this is a song we can all readily identify with. The song is filled with countless lyrics that demonstrate Tupac's outstanding love for his

mother. For the sake of brevity, I will only cite two of the lyrics. The first is: "... and when I was low, you was there for me. You never left me alone, because you cared for me." This lyric truly struck a chord with me after an incident back in August. I was at my lowest and mama was there. Through and through. I will end by simply letting the world know: "AIN'T A WOMAN ALIVE THAT COULD TAKE MY MAMA'S PLACE!" On to the lessons from my mother. Every day my mother would take me to school and drop me off. Before getting out of the car she would always say, "I love you. Be good. And have fun." She never missed a day. She continued this tradition when my brother began going to school. I honestly believe if we followed my mom's advice the world would be a better place.

1. Just love people. The Bible teaches us that the greatest commandment is to love. So do it. Love your enemies too.
 2. Be good. Plain and simple.
 3. Have fun. Life is far too short not to have any fun!
- In addition to her tri-fold

morning message, my mother would tell me to always "keep my nose clean." *reaches for Kleenex*

Basically, always try my best to do what is right in the eyes of God. Obviously, I am a human and will sometimes fail to please God in all of my actions. But I am eternally grateful for the sense of Christian responsibility my mother instilled in me. So ... keep those noses clean!

Finally, my mom always told me to watch my actions because you never know who is watching you. This message became even more concrete for me on March 31, 1999, when my brother was born. Since the day of his birth, I have always striven for excellence in everything that I have done because if no one else was watching me, I knew my brother was.

The lessons my mother has taught me are endless. But I figured I might as well share some of the lessons from my mother with the world. I love you, mama!

Tim Abram is a senior public policy leadership major from Horn Lake.

THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN

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The Daily Mississippian is published daily Monday through Friday during the academic year.

Contents do not represent the official opinions of The University of Mississippi or The Daily Mississippian unless specifically indicated.

Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity, space or libel.

ISSN 1077-8667

The Daily Mississippian welcomes all comments. Please send a letter to the editor addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, University, MS, 38677 or send an e-mail to dmeditor@gmail.com.

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Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Ole Miss social media takes top honors

BY PETE PORTER
tjporter@go.olemiss.edu

University of Mississippi Communications has established itself as one of the most interactive in the country when it comes to social media.

The Ole Miss Instagram and Pinterest accounts won first place in their respective categories in PR Daily's 2013 Social Media Awards, given out Feb. 18. The Instagram team won the Best Use of Instagram category, and the Pinterest team took the Best Use of Pinterest category.

Ryan Whittington, a member of both teams, said the awards show the emphasis Ole Miss puts on social media, as well as the hard work of a few.

"We were beyond excited when we found out we were finalists," said Whittington, assistant director for social media for the university. "It says a lot about our team, our university, and it shows we take a lot of stock in social media excellence. We probably have four individuals that work on social media, and I'm the only full-time one. This proves we can work together and have content that students want to see, which is obviously our number-one priority."

PR Daily's website said the university's Instagram account won the award because it "cultivated and curated an Instagram account that spoke directly to its audience," and because of the account's effective illustration of the Ole Miss experience.

PR Daily particularly recognized the app for its appeal to users under age 25; the app features prospective and current students' photos and videos in addition to those shot by professional university photographers.

Approaches like these have led to four of its photos appearing on Instagram's most popular page as well as making Ole Miss' account one of the top 10 most engaging university accounts in the United States.

PR Daily was quick to praise the university's Pinterest page for its remarkable story as well. Starting with a nonexistent budget, a four-person team transformed the university's page into the third-most-followed university account in the U.S. behind Michigan and Texas A&M in just one academic year.

PR Daily cited the page's ability to create unique and free content, its use of in-person events to reach prospective audiences and its collaborations with local businesses, the university's athletics department, the education school and the pharmacy school to promote the Pinterest page.

Users of the Pinterest page have the option to obtain 8.5-by-11

printouts from the site, a unique feature that has drawn attention to the university's page. These pictures have been seen at tailgates, among home décor and in other places.

Whittington said the printouts, which have been downloaded more than 70,000 times, came from the rich tailgating traditions seen at Ole Miss.

"We mainly saw the printouts being used for tailgating, but we've seen them in a lot of places," he said. "People's homes, even on the walls of wedding receptions."

As for the future, Whittington said the university's social media focus will be on promoting the use of videos and hosting contests to bring in even more users.

"We are focusing on short, interactive and engaging for all social media platforms," he said. "Our big focus is engagement, and contests are the best way to engage. Check us out next semester."

The Ole Miss Instagram account is managed by Will Hamilton, Ryan Whittington, Lindsey Abernathy, Win Graham, Dennis Irwin and Elizabeth BURGREN. The Pinterest page is managed by Lindsey Abernathy, Ryan Whittington, Meredith Edwards and Jennifer Farish.

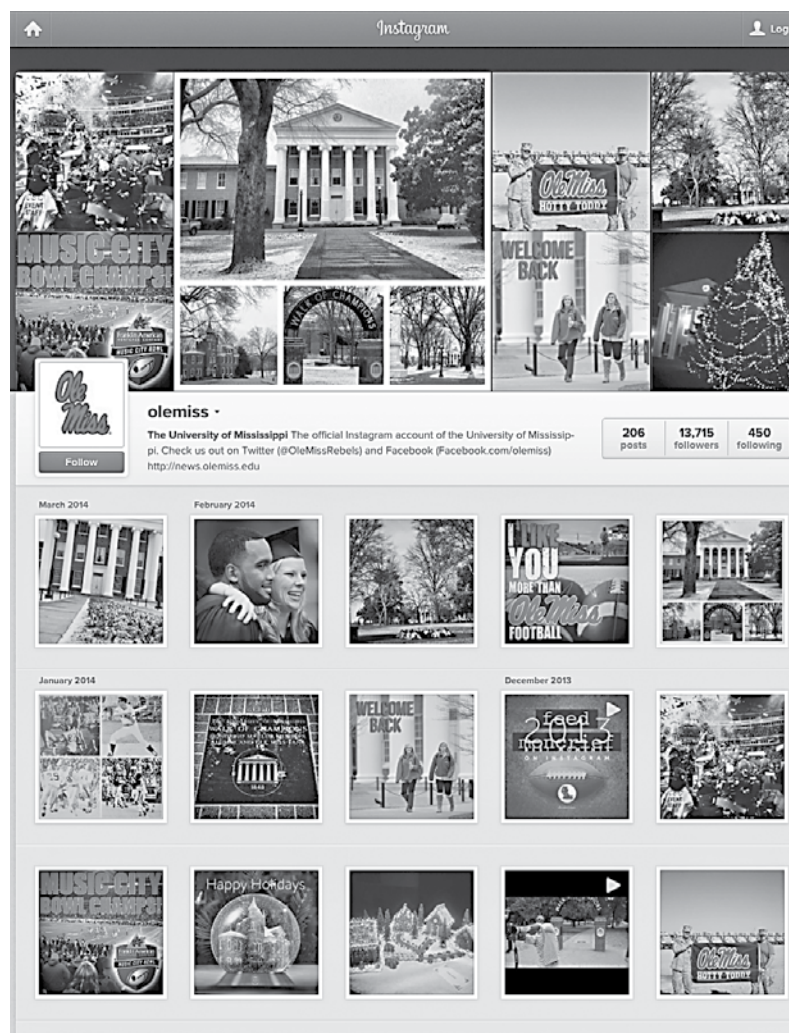


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Ole Miss Instagram page.

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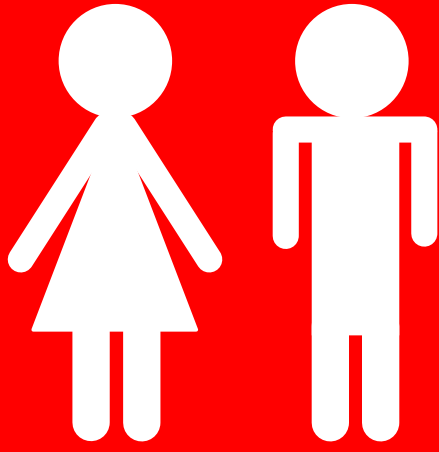
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What is sexual assault?

- "An individual subjecting another person to any sexual contact without the consent of the other person"
- Consent requires "a clearly communicated agreement to engage in sexual activity"
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time



GRAPHIC BY NATALIE MOORE | The Daily Mississippian

ASSAULT,

continued from page 1

The topic of sexual assaults at universities has been highlighted both in recent media reports and government actions. The University of Mississippi is working to properly handle student sexual assault cases that occur both on campus and in the city of Oxford.

A federal law called the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires universities to distribute descriptions of policies related to campus security and disclose crime statistics to the public. The University of Mississippi Police Department provides a daily crime log for significant crime reports that is available for public viewing.

According to the log, 11 sexual offenses were reported to UPD in 2013. Of those 11, six were reported on campus, while five

were off campus.

Oxford Police Department Investigator Jeff McCutchen said there were 12 forcible sexual offenses reported to the Oxford Police Department in the 2013 fiscal year, not including those that occurred on university grounds.

While sorting through past reports, McCutchen noticed a trend.

"What I saw was a peak during football season and then when it warms up (after winter)," McCutchen said. "There were really none through the summer that I could find."

However, the number of sexual assault incidents that occurred in 2013 was not unusual for the city, according to the Clery report issued for both the university and the city of Oxford.

Four counts of forcible sexual offenses were reported to UPD in 2010, five in 2011 and one in 2012.

Fifteen counts of forcible sexual

offenses were reported to the Oxford Police Department in 2009, two were reported in 2010 and 13 reported in 2011 and one in 2012.

McCutchen realizes that the reports he and the UPD receive may not accurately represent the true number of times an offense has actually occurred.

"It happens more than we realize," McCutchen said. "The 12 (sexual assaults) that we had for 2013 may not even be scratching the surface to how often this truly has happened to someone."

To better understand the scope of the issue on campus, the university released a Sexual Harassment Climate Survey via email on Oct. 22, 2013, according to Associate University Attorney Donna Gurley, who spoke on behalf of Title IX Assistant Coordinator Joseph Lawhorne and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Leslie Banahan. The survey concluded Oct. 30, 2013, and its results were published Nov. 1, 2013.

According to Gurley, the survey was launched after a student filed a sexual assault claim with the Office of Civil Rights and became unhappy with how the university dealt with their case.

The survey was sent to 19,224 email accounts, and only 1,468 surveys were either partially or

fully completed. According to the results, 17 percent of those who responded had been sexually harassed.

While the response rate to the survey was relatively low in numbers, the results offered updated statistics about the views and perspectives of students regarding dealing with sexual violence on campus.

A recent report released by the White House Council on Women and Girls states that one in five women has been sexually assaulted while attending college, but only 12 percent of those student victims reported it.

The University of Mississippi provides a number of services for those seeking guidance when going through the sensitive process of an assault investigation.

The Violence Prevention Office, located in 114 Vardaman Hall, specializes in promoting awareness and prevention of sexual violence, dating violence and stalking on campus through education, events and training for students, faculty and staff.

"Victims of sexual assault can reach out to the Violence Prevention Office for support through the reporting process both on and off campus," said Lindsey Bartlett, Violence Prevention Office project coordinator. "The office works closely with Title IX, the Counseling Center, UPD, off-campus Family Crisis Services and many other departments to ensure that victims have access to all the resources they potentially need."

When it comes to reporting these types of crimes, Lawhorne said there is no wrong door to turn to.

"I would like for (students) to be able to go to anywhere on campus and report to any employee, and get directed to my office," Lawhorne said.

Because federal law requires Title IX coordinators to investigate any case of sexual misconduct or harassment as fully as they can, the victim of an alleged assault holds most of the control.

"The only real exception to the victim being in control is that there's a reason to think that the

rest of the campus is in danger," Lawhorne said. "In that case, you still don't have to participate. You don't have to talk, but I still may have to investigate. That's only when we think others are in danger."

Lawhorne said the potential consequences associated with this particular criminal charge are not to be taken lightly.

"For someone who's found responsible of a sexual misconduct violation for sexual assault, the punishment in all likelihood is going to be expulsion or suspension for a number of years with certain conditions upon return," Lawhorne said.

Not only is the student offender violating university policy, but they are also committing what McCutchen classifies as a violent crime, an offense that could constitute anywhere from 20 years to life in prison depending on the severity of the case.

Many of the sexual harassment or assault cases that come to the university involve alcohol, according to Gurley.

"In almost all student-on-student cases we see, alcohol is involved," Gurley said. "Worse things happen when alcohol is involved, too."

University Police Department Detective Peggie Jane Tutor said that while some cases may involve alcohol, there are cases that do not.

"There are times when sexual harassment cases involve alcohol or drugs, the combination of both and times when neither is present," Tutor said.

Students as victims will not be charged with an alcohol or drug violation if they are under the influence at the time of the incident, according to the Clery Act.

Lawhorne stressed to all students that if they or someone they know has experienced any form of sexual misconduct, they should contact him through the Office of Equal Opportunity & Regulatory Compliance or by email at joseph@olemiss.edu.

Former DM reporter Amina Al Sheriff, who graduated in December, contributed to this report.

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Carlyle Wolfe: an infatuation with nature

BY VIRGINIA ENGLAND
vhengland@go.olemiss.edu

At dawn Carlyle Wolfe sits on her front porch, quietly listening, watching and waiting. The sun rises, gradually illuminating the new day, bringing forth a vibrant palette of hues that Wolfe paints in her sketchbook.

This is how Wolfe, artist and adjunct professor at The University of Mississippi, began the process for the oil and watercolor paintings that are a part of her newest body of work, "Until the Day Breathes." The paintings feature intricate layers of delicate flowers and plants, all done from Wolfe's observations at daybreak.

"In the morning it's just so thrilling after not seeing any color or light to slowly seeing more and more color," Wolfe said. "It's much more dramatic than the evening when the colors just softly fade away. I've never been much of a morning person, but I really got into waking up early and having that quiet time."

Over a cup of Earl Grey tea in the kitchen of her home a few miles outside of Oxford on Highway 30, 36-year-old Wolfe tells of her lifelong fascination with nature.

"My father is a pilot and he loves looking at the earth from that perspective. He just really loves beauty," Wolfe said. "His father worked on the water a lot and had that same experience of appreciating the natural world. I know some of that was passed on to me. I know something develops over generations."

Wolfe recalls a particular day from her childhood when she gathered leaves and flowers from her neighbors' yards.

"I was around 4 years old and had all these clusters of leaves and flowers all laid out on the carport and my mom got so angry, telling me I can't do that," Wolfe said.

Not much has changed since then. Wolfe gathers flowers, twigs and plants from not just her garden but other people's gardens to sketch in her studio. Much of her work is done months before she even begins painting.

Wolfe makes records of colors in her sketchbook and completes drawings of plants that she will eventually use to make stencils, cutting shapes out of thick museum board and printmaking paper, sometimes weeks before she actually starts painting on her large wooden panels.

"I'm really interested in the changing of the seasons and cycles of the day so it lets me move faster than if I were to work start to finish on a painting that would take me a month or two months. Then the season would be over," Wolfe said. "This lets me document it over time, then I am able to finish it over time. For example, with one of the morning observations I might collect 20 colors in an hour then I might work on the painting for the next two months."

Wolfe's studio beside her home, typically filled with her colorful paintings, is currently bare. Her newest paintings are on display at three different galleries in Memphis, as well as in Hattiesburg and Laurel, in South Mississippi.

"I had three shows in three months," Wolfe said. "It was an intense time because I had to make separate work for all of the shows and a lot of new work. I was in a very intense working rhythm, but I never got tired of painting because I really love what I do."

Wolfe grew up in Canton and received a BFA in painting from Ole Miss. She went on to get an MFA in painting and drawing from Louisiana State University.

"We had a visiting artist at LSU who gave me some good



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"April Dawn Darks", part of the new collection "Until the Day Breathes"

advice. He said the bottom line is you need a space to work and time to work," Wolfe said. "So I found a studio space and got my teaching job then moved back to Oxford because it felt like moving back home. I wanted to work with students in Mississippi and invest in my own community. My work has so much to do with the land and with plants and place, so that made a lot of sense to me."

Wolfe is not solely a painter. She has a wide range of skills that include photography, printmaking and graphic design, which has allowed her the flexibility to teach 15 different classes over the past 10 years at Ole Miss. She is currently teaching a beginning painting and photo imaging class.

Senior Nathan Adams is currently pursuing a BFA in painting at Ole Miss. Adams took Wolfe's photo imaging class, which teaches students Adobe Photoshop, an image editing software program.

"She taught about the process of making art and to ask why we do things we do when making art," Adams said. "It

was hard because in that class we had to learn a lot of technical knowledge about the software, but even though there were limitations when working on the computer, we were still making art."

Wolfe said she enjoys passing on her knowledge and skills to students.

"It takes a lot of creative peo-

ple longer to find their fit, but a lot of times they find themselves in really rewarding situations," Wolfe said. "It is wonderful to teach out of an active studio practice, and whatever I am doing in my studio I can share with my students, even if it is indirectly. It's wonderful to get to pass along something you love that much."

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SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Hummel throws perfect game, Rebels split series

SALT LAKE CITY – Ole Miss senior pitcher Carly Hummel threw the first perfect game in school history Monday in a 5-0 win over Utah State. Hummel's perfect game highlighted a day in which the Rebels split their doubleheader between the Aggies and Utah at Utah Softball Stadium.

"Carly throwing the first perfect game in Ole Miss history was awesome," Ole Miss head coach Windy Thees said. "She had every pitch working today and the confidence was there, our defense played well behind her, and when you pitch and play defense like that our hitters loosen up and we were able to score some runs. It was a great first game."

A senior from Bakersfield, Calif., Hummel struck out a career-high 12 batters against Utah State. Hummel's perfect game marked the fifth no-hitter in school history, and the second no-hitter of her career

with the Rebels.

"I haven't felt like I've had a performance this good since before I had my first surgery back in August a year ago," Hummel said. "It was really good for me, not so much the outcome of the game, but even pitch movement wise and placement. Today was definitely one of my top performances."

Ole Miss (12-7) lost the second game of the day Monday against home-standing Utah, 6-2.

"In the second game, I really thought Shelby Jo Fenter pitched very well against a very offensive team in Utah," Thees said. "We made mistakes and gave away some outs by misjudging a few balls, and you just can't do that against a solid team like that. That's probably what hurt us the most."

"All in all, it was just great to play. It was hard getting rained out (in San Diego), so we're really happy and grate-

ful to Utah and Utah State that they were able to make this happen."

Utah grabbed the lead in the bottom of the third with a two-RBI double to left field.

Ole Miss evened the game a half-inning later with two runs on three hits. Junior third baseman Allison Brown led off the inning with a solo home run just left of center field on the first pitch she saw. Following a single by senior first baseman Londen Ladner and a walk from freshman Courtney Syrett, senior Marina Parra hit an RBI single through the right side to bring home Melina Preciado, who was pinch running for Ladner. The home-standing Utes then regained the lead in a see-saw battle with three unearned runs in the bottom of the fourth to take a 5-2 lead.

Utah added one more run in the sixth inning to take a 6-2 lead which proved to be the final score.

Ole Miss will play again

Tuesday at 4 and 6 p.m. CT at home against Arkansas-Pine Bluff. The first 100 fans in attendance will receive a free ticket to the Ole Miss baseball game vs. Memphis on Wednesday.

Hummel's Perfect Game Highlights 5-0 Win over Utah State

Ole Miss senior pitcher Carly Hummel was on top of her game Monday en route to throwing the first perfect game in school history. Aiding Hummel's performance in the circle was the Ole Miss offense, which scored five runs on nine hits.

Hummel entered Monday's game against the Aggies coming off a strong week at the Red and Blue Classic in which she won two games and earned her first two saves of her career with the Rebels. Hummel's perfect game lowered her ERA for the year to 1.89.

"It's the best stuff she's ever had," said head coach Windy

Thees of Hummel. "It's the best mentality she's ever had. She competes, doesn't get down when something happens, and has very good perspective right now."

Ole Miss got on the board in the top of second with a deep, solo home run to left-center field by senior first baseman Londen Ladner.

Senior center fielder RT Cantillo hit a seeing-eye single to center field in the top of the third. Junior third baseman Allison Brown followed that with a double off the left field fence to score Cantillo from first base and give the Rebels a 2-0 lead. Ladner finished the Rebels' scoring in the inning with a stand up, RBI double to the right field fence.

Sophomore designated player Madi Osias finished the scoring in the top of the seventh with a solo home run to center field. It was the second home run of the season for Osias.

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Spring football: what to watch for this season

BY DAVID COLLIER
thedmsports@gmail.com

It's that time of year again. It's time for spring football practice, and Ole Miss will look to get the most out of its spring season, which begins today.

The Rebels are coming off an 8-5 season that was capped with a 25-17 win over Georgia Tech in the Music City Bowl. Now, Ole Miss is looking to take the next step in year three under head coach Hugh Freeze.

Here are the main story lines to watch for each position as the spring season rolls on:

Quarterback

Ole Miss is one of the only teams in the Southeastern Conference that doesn't have a lot of questions at quarterback.

Bo Wallace will return for his senior season as a three-year starter. Wallace, who threw for 3,346 yards, 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions this past season, will go through his first set of spring drills as the starter.

In his first season, he was bat-

ling for the starting job, and last season he was recovering from shoulder surgery. This year, he will get those valuable reps that could take the Rebel offense to the next level.

The biggest question at the position will be at the backup spot. Who, if anyone, will fill Barry Brunetti's role? Redshirt freshman DeVante Kincade appears to be the leader over redshirt freshman Ryan Buchanan at this point, but spring could tell the tale of who will be Wallace's backup next season.

Running Back

Ole Miss has a stable of running backs, but the need is for a big back that the coaching staff can rely on in short-distance situations.

Redshirt freshman Jordan Wilkins will get his opportunity to get ahold of that spot before junior college signee Akeem Judd gets to campus this summer.

Wide Receiver

Obviously, the loss of Donte Moncrief hurts the receiving units



FILE PHOTO (ALEX EDWARDS) | The Daily Mississippian

Quarterback Bo Wallace throws the ball during the Music City Bowl football game against Georgia Tech.

for the Rebels, but there's still plenty of talent to go around.

Sophomore Laquon Treadwell could move outside to take Moncrief's spot. Senior Vince Sanders will be healthy as well, and sophomore Quincy Adeboyejo will be looking to make more of an impact.

Offensive Line

The biggest question mark offensively is on the offensive line. Ole Miss is replacing three starters from this past season, while also moving guys around.

Sophomores Laremy Tunsil and Austin Golson will be full go at left and right tackle, respectively, after having late-season surgeries. Junior Justin Bell played left guard in 2013, but could see time at both guard and center. At right guard, look for redshirt freshman Daronte Bouldin to get the majority of the reps. The center spot is still in the air, but the two most likely candidates are sophomore Robert Conyers and junior Ben Still.

Defensive Line

The defensive line will be look-

ing to tighten any loose ends this spring. They have a good core group of returners left, so there aren't a lot of changes expected to be made. It's all about getting more production out of guys now that they are a year older.

Linebacker

There will be a lot of movement at linebacker this spring with the loss of Mike Marry and the suspensions of junior Denzel Nkemdiche and senior Serderius Bryant.

The status of Nkemdiche and Bryant is still unknown, but look for senior Keith Lewis to get a shot at stinger if those two don't go through drills. Lewis can play both linebacker spots.

At middle linebacker, junior college signee Christian Russell appears to be the man destined for the starting job. The coaches like his combination of size and speed, so this spring will be all about learning the defensive scheme.

Sixth-year senior D.T. Shackelford will also be in the mix at middle linebacker as well as defensive

end.

Cornerback

This spring will be especially important for sophomore Derrick Jones, who was converted from wide receiver to safety to corner this past season. Jones gives Ole Miss a big corner who can play against taller receivers.

Other than that, the corners will be looking to take a step forward in their progressions.

Safety

The safety position will also see some movement this spring.

Sophomore Tony Conner will be the man at huskie, and senior Cody Prewitt is as consistent as it gets. However, there's a logjam with redshirt sophomore Anthony Alford getting into the mix with juniors Trac Elston and Chief Brown.

The coaches always rave about Alford's athletic ability, so expect him to become a big-time playmaker for the Ole Miss defense.

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