

9-1-2017

The Parthenon

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Recommended Citation

Casto, Jared, "The Parthenon" (2017). *The Parthenon*. 678.
<http://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon/678>

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FOOTBALL EDITION

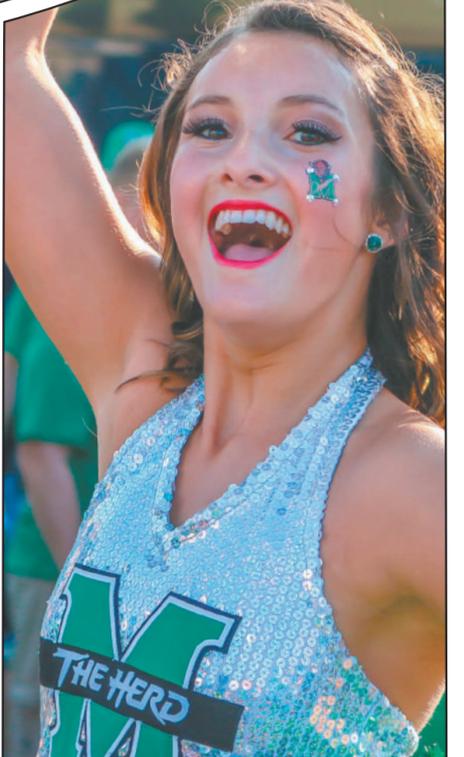
THE PARTHENON

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 | VOL. 121 NO. 2 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com | SINGLE COPY FREE



BRING ON

THE HERD



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Harvey hits close to home for Yurachek

GREEN MACHINE

Thundering Herd season schedule

Thundering Herd depth chart

page designed and edited by JARED CASTO and ADAM ROGERS | casto178@marshall.edu and rogers112@marshall.edu



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FOOTBALL EDITION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM



Marshall Thundering Herd Head Coach, Doc Holliday.

PARTHENON FILE PHOTO



Doc to Fans: You. Matter.

By DOC HOLLIDAY
HEAD COACH

Thundering Herd students:
In football there are coaches and trainers, quarterbacks and defensive linemen, those who play on special teams and those who may never see a snap but make our program better every single day by what they give on and off the field. Students are as important as any other component of our game days. Let me repeat: You. Matter.

There is nothing I love more than football, and there is nothing that excites me more than the pageantry of college football and the thrill of competition. We need you to be part of that experience, filling the student section and standing and making noise that frustrates our opponents and invigorates our guys.

When we play at home, we have one of the best winning percentages of any team in college football. The schools directly behind us on that list are Boise State, Alabama, Oklahoma, Penn State, Auburn and Ohio State. We need to continue that tradition by making Joan C. Edwards Stadium a challenging place to play. A loud and involved student section goes a long way in accomplishing that.

This is my favorite time of the year. The occasional chill in the air that hints at the coming fall season. The sound of football pads cracking and young men straining to get better. The feel of the "pigskin" in my hands. It all takes me back to my childhood, when football was so fun and pure.

We've won a lot of ball games since I have been here, and we will win many more in the years ahead. Back when I was a young man running around an open field, winning and fun courted each other. We had fun because we won football games. We won because we had fun.

We want you along on this season's ride with us. Pop over to the university bookstore to join one of the best student support groups in the business, the Marshall Maniacs. A lot of great Herd Perks with this membership.

Tickets for home games may be picked up at the Cam Henderson Center athletic ticket office during the week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are FREE to students with a valid MU ID.

We can't wait to see you on Saturdays this fall. We're going to have a heck of a good time. GO HERD!

Sincerely,
Doc Holliday

page designed and edited by Jared Casto | casto178@marshall.edu

Worship Directory

Fifth Avenue Baptist Church
1135 Fifth Avenue
Corner of Fifth Avenue & 12th Street in downtown Huntington

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 am
See our website for many other times of Bible study, worship, and activities for children, youth, and adults.

www.fifthavenuebaptist.org
304-523-0115

PRESBYTERIAN

Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church
469 Norway Ave., Huntington, WV
304-529-4651
Sunday Service 11 a.m.
ALL WELCOME
Pastor, Cinda Harkless
bhpcusa@comcast.net

FREE WILL BAPTIST

Central Free Will Baptist Church
451 6th Avenue, Huntington, WV

9:45 A.M. — Devotion
10:00 A.M. — Sunday School
11:00 A.M. — Morning Worship
6:00 P.M. — Evening Worship
Weds. Services — 7:00 P.M.

Pastor Steve Williams

METHODIST

Steele Memorial United Methodist Church
733 Shaw St.
Barboursville, WV 25504
304-736-4583

Sunday School — 9:40 A.M.
Sunday Worship — 8:45 A.M. & 10:45 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Celebrate Recovery - Tuesday - 6:30 P.M.

Rev. Kevin Lantz
Rev. Ralph Sager, Associate Pastor

EPISCOPAL

Trinity Episcopal Church
520 11th Street Huntington, WV
(304) 529-6084

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Adult Sunday School 9:15 A.M.
Children's Sunday School 10:15 A.M.

www.wvtrinitychurch.org

PENTECOSTAL

Pentecostal Truth Ministries
(304) 697-5600
PASTOR JANET MOUNTS

SERVICES:
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday: 7:30 P.M.
www.pentecostaltruth.com

1208 Adams Avenue
Huntington, WV 25704

CATHOLIC

OUR LADY OF FATIMA Catholic Parish & Parish School
545 Norway Ave., Huntington • 304-525-0866

Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:30 P.M.
Sunday 8 A.M. and 10:45 A.M.
Spanish Mass: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9:15 A.M.
Misa en Español: segundo y cuarto los domingos a las 9:15 A.M.
Confession: Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.

www.ourfatimafamily.com
Father Paul Yuenger

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church
828 15th St. (on 9th Ave) Htgtn.
304-523-7311

Sunday Mass: 11:00a.m.
Daily Masses: 12:05 on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Confession by appointment

Father Charles McGinnis, Pastor

St. Stephen Catholic Church
2491 James River Turnpike, Ona, WV
304-743-3234
ststephens@suddenlinkmail.com
www.ststephens1.com

MASS SCHEDULE
Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.
Fri. - 9:00 a.m. Sat. - 9:00 a.m.
Confessions: After 9:00 am daily masses.
Rev. Prakash Sebastian, H.G.N.

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
HUNTINGTON, WV
526 13th Street
(304) 525-5202
Pastor: Fr Dean Borgmeyer

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

Confessions
Saturday 8:00 am-8:25 am
Saturday 4:00 pm-4:25 pm
Tuesday 5:00 pm-5:25 pm
or by appointment

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bethel Temple Assembly of God
900 9th Street
Huntington, WV 25701
304-523-3505

Pastor Timothy Snavely
Wed. Bible Study 7pm
Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:45am
Sun. Morning Worship 10:45am
Sun. Eve. Worship 6:00pm



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Richard Crank / The Parthenon

Hurricane Harvey hits close to home for Yurachek

By **DANITE BELAY**
THE PARTHENON

With the first football game of the season approaching, Marshall University tight end Ryan Yurachek did not expect to have any thoughts on his mind other than getting ready to play the Miami (Ohio) RedHawks Saturday. This was until catastrophic flooding and devastating weather from Hurricane Harvey took over Houston, Texas and surrounding areas, leaving thousands with no homes, no food and nowhere to go.

Friendswood, Texas, the town where Yurachek's family currently lives, was one of the many areas hit by Harvey earlier this week. After talking on the phone with his parents, Yurachek said he knew there had to be some way he could help. Yurachek said speaking with his parents about the damage and how they were rescuing people from their houses and helping people move from retirement homes made his desire to help much stronger:

"I just wanted to find a way to help out," Yurachek said. "Being 20 hours away, there's not a whole lot you can do from a physical stand point"

Yurachek took matters into his own hands that day and began a GoFundMe account to raise money for the flood relief in the town of Friendswood. Yurachek said the outpour of support he has received has been much more than expected.

"I thought that I could try to figure out a way to help out there, and fundraising is what I stumbled upon," Yurachek said. "It's worked out great. We've raised over \$2,200 in less than the first 24 hours, so it's something that's going to make a huge impact."

Because of the flood, Yurachek said he thought that people in Huntington especially would understand what the people in Texas are going through and would really be able to help.

"Not only people from here are donating, but there's even some

who have no relation to Houston, no relation to Marshall, that just wanted to help out by donating," Yurachek said.

The campaign has raised over \$6,000 in just three days. Yurachek said he began the fundraiser with a goal of only \$1,000, so the money raised is going to make a huge impact.

Hunter Yurachek, Ryan's father, said he has never been more proud of his son than when he saw this initiative.

"It's awesome," Ryan Yurachek said. "People are grateful for what I'm doing and for what people here in Huntington are doing. It's working out great for sure."

Yurachek said he plans to make the donation personally to the Lighthouse Charity, a non-profit organization that provides food and other supplies to all of the shelters. The fundraiser will last until Sept. 3.

Danite Belay can be contacted at belay3@marshall.edu.

Marshall Football welcomes new faces and a new attitude in 2017 season

By **KYLE CURLEY**
THE PARTHENON

With college football right around the corner, the Marshall football team is getting ready to start their 2017-18 campaign Saturday at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium against Miami Ohio.

The all-time series between the Herd and the Red Hawks weighs heavily in favor of Miami, 30-12, although Marshall has managed to win the last three meetings between the two schools.

The players and coaches worked hard this offseason and have moved players around to strengthen the front seven.

Most notably, red shirt junior defensive lineman Ryan Bee has been moved to nose guard. Bee's confidence has continued to grow with the recent position change.

"The last three or four games last year I was kind of playing both positions so I had a little bit of experience," Bee said. "I got a little bit in the spring but I had that injury and I missed most of spring, so it's kind of a question mark going into camp. I've had a really good camp and I've been able to work the position and learn all the new techniques and stuff so it's going pretty good."

Bee totaled 54 tackles last season, 6.5 tackles for loss of yardage and 4.5 sacks.

Junior starting quarterback Chase Litton is now entering his third season at the helm for the Herd. Litton's freshman year was draped with success after the team finished 10-3 (6-2) and secured another bowl victory for the Herd when they defeated the University of Connecticut.

Head coach John 'Doc' Holliday said he loves to see the junior's progression entering his third season.

"He has worked extremely hard to become a better player," Holliday said. "He has put on weight and become more physical and has a better understanding of the game. What he did to improve over the summer, including what he did at the Manning Passing Academy, are some of the things you'll see out there on Saturday. He has been great in practice and this point and that has to carry over to the games."

Litton finished last season with a completion

percentage of 62.3 (231-371), 27 touchdowns, nine interceptions and 2,612 total passing yards.

Marshall lost five players from their receiving core when the previous season concluded. The most notable addition to the receiver core is redshirt junior Tyre Brady who has transferred to Marshall after two seasons with the Miami Hurricanes.

The Herd has new faces in the backfield as well. Litton said he is looking forward to sharing the field with his new teammates.

"It's different all the way around," Litton said. "You look at the receivers and we have five new guys; we lost five from last year. You look at it and a lot of people probably won't know the roster. When Trey (Rodriguez) comes in it's going to bring a whole new and different aspect to our team, with him and Keion (Davis) doing like a one-two punch."

Though this is not your typical rivalry game, there is history between the two teams. The teams first met in a game in 1905, which ended in defeat for Marshall 35-0. In 1971 Marshall suffered one of its most lopsided defeats to Miami, and it has not been forgotten amongst the community.

"Yeah, it's a bigger game," Bee said. "Every game is a big game, but this game has got a lot of history to it and we need to go out there and play for the community, represent Marshall and I guess get back at Miami for the past years."

see **FOOTBALL WELCOMES** | pg. 7

Marshall approves alcohol sales at Joan C. Edwards Stadium

STAFF REPORT

Fans attending football games for the 2017 season will be able to purchase both beer and wine, however there will be sections of the stadium that will be designated as alcohol-free.

The Marshall University Board of Governors voted unanimously to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium during a Board of Governors meeting June 28.

Last season, Marshall Athletics expanded alcohol sales from the Big Green Room only to include the chair-back seating areas.

There is also a new service being offered to fans on the West Concourse this season. The "Herd-Zone Beer Run" is located near section 112 and permits two entries per Big Green Card and one entry per season ticket.

Section 228 will be entirely alcohol-free for fans wishing to be seated away from sections serving alcohol.

A full list of alcohol-free sections is available on herdzone.com.

Marshall meal service provider Sodexo projects that alcohol sales within the stadium will be able to raise \$50,000 in revenue for the Fall 2017 season.

Chase Litton: new year, new man

By **LUKE CREASY**
THE PARTHENON

Quarterback Chase Litton took Herd Nation by storm in his true freshman year, in turn, setting the bar high for his sophomore campaign, as well as the rest of his time in a Marshall uniform.

After disappearing in what were two of the biggest home games on the schedule, a Top 5 Louisville Cardinals team in Week 3 and the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers to end the year, it was brought to light that there were clear issues that needed addressed.

A hard offseason addressed some of those

issues. Upon his return to fall camp, Litton was stronger and more physical, but, most importantly, he said he realized that his biggest weapon wasn't his arm.

"It's all from the neck up. That's what separates the guys who are successful and unsuccessful, and I had to learn that the hard way," Litton said. "I've had to take that on the chin and realize that the bond and chemistry of this team is the most important thing."

The rising junior spent time with a legendary football family over the summer at the Manning Passing Academy, but even that was all a part of the process to turn the page from the previous year.

"It was great to pick their brains; great to learn from the two greats of football," Litton said. "(They're) the best family out there that's ever played football, especially quarterback. It's about just enjoying the process and really working for these guys out here."

Head Coach Doc Holliday said he has noticed a clear difference in both the man and the player Litton is this fall.

see **LITTON** | pg. 7

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Marshall University Thundering Herd

2017 Schedule

The Miami (Ohio) RedHawks



Sept. 1: Miami (Ohio) University
Location: Huntington, W.Va.
2016 record: 6-7, 6-2 in MAC

Key Players: Defensive end Joshua Maize, tight end Mitchell Lewis and running back Davion Johnson. **Top returnees** for the 2017-18 season is QB Gus Ragland, RB Alonzo Smith and CB Heath Harding. Key losses for the Red Hawks OL Colin Buchanan, DE Austin Gearing and DE JT Jones. Game day Saturday, September 2, 6:30 PM at the Joan C. Edwards stadium. The **last time** these two teams met Marshall won in 2014 by a score of 42-27 in Oxford, OH.

The NC State Wolfpack



Sept. 9: NC State
Location: Raleigh, N.C.
2016 record: 7-6, 3-5 in ACC

Among the team's **key losses** are RB Matt Dayes, WR Bra'Lon Cherry and OL Joe Scelfo. **Top returnees** for the Wolfpack are DE Bradley Cobb, QB Ryan Finley, CB Mike Steven and OL Garrett Bradbury LB Jerod Fernandez, LB Airius Moore, DB Shawn Boone, CB Mike Steven, P A.J. Cole. 1995 was the **last time** these two school met, NC State won 33-16.

The Kent St. Golden Flashes



Sept. 16: Kent State
Location: Huntington, W.Va.
2016 record: 3-9, 2-6 in MAC

Key losses for Kent State are WR Ernest Calhoun, OL Reno Reda, OL Wayne Scott and TE Brice Fackler. **Top returnees** for the Golden Flashes are RB/WR Raekwon James. WR Johnny Woods, OL Nathan Puthoff, OL Connor Shinsky and QB Nick Holley. Kickoff is set for Saturday, September 16, 6:30 p.m. at Joan C. Edwards stadium. **Last time** these two teams met Marshall won in 2015, 36-29.

The Cincinnati Bearcats



Sept. 30: Cincinnati Bearcats
Location: Cincinnati, Ohio
2016 record: 4-8, 1-7 in ACC

Key losses: UC are QB Gunner Kiel, RB Tion Greene and S Zach Edwards. **Key players:** DT Cortez Broughton, DB Alex Thomas, DB David Pierce, and QB Hayden Moore. Game day is Saturday, September 30, kickoff time is TBA at Nippert Stadium, Cincinnati. The **last meeting** between these two schools occurred in 2008, 33-10 Bearcats.

UNC Charlotte 49ers



Oct. 7: Charlotte 49ers
Location: Charlotte, N.C.
2016 record: 4-8, 3-5 in C-USA

Key losses: RB Kalif Phillips, WR Duke Austin, OL Casey Perry, DL Larry Ogunjobi, DL Brandon Banks. **Top returnees:** OL Chris Brown, OL Nate Davis, DB Ben DeLuca, LB Nick Cook, DB Kendrick Davis. Game day is set for Saturday, Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. at Jerry Richardson Stadium. The **last time** the 49ers and the Herd clashed was in 2016, 27-24 Charlotte.

The ODU Monarchs



Oct. 14: Old Dominion
Location: Huntington, W.Va.
2016 record: 10-3, 7-1 in C-USA

Key losses: QB David Washington, WR Zach Pascal, OL Troy Butler, S C.J. Bradshaw, CB Aaron Young. **Key returnees:** OL Nick Clarke, WR Jonathan Duhart, RB Ray Lawry, CB Brandon Addison, DE Bunmi Rotimi, DE Oshane Ximines. Game day is set for Saturday, Oct. 14 Kickoff is at 2:30 p.m. The **last meeting** between these two schools was in 2016, ODU won 38-14.

The MTSU Blue Raiders



Oct. 20: Middle Tennessee
Location: Murfreesboro, Tn.
2016 record: 8-5, 5-3 in C-USA

Key losses: RB I'Tavius Mathers, WR Dennis Andrews, OL Josh Chester, OL Maurice Shakir, OL Daniel Stephens, DT Shaquille Huff. **Key returnees:** QB Brent Stockstill, OL Brewer, WR Richie James, WR Ty Lee, DE Walter Brady, LB Chris Melton, LB DJ Sanders. Game day is set for Friday, Oct. 20, 7p.m. in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The **last meeting** between the two schools occurred in 2016, 42-17 Marshall.

The Florida International Panthers



Oct. 28: FIU Panthers
Location: Huntington, W.Va.
2016 record: 4-8, 4-4 in C-USA

Key losses: LT Trenton Saunders, TE Jonnu Smith, LT Dieugot Joesph, DT Imarjaye Albury. **Top returnees:** QB Alex McGough, RB Alex Gardner, WR Thomas Owens, WR Stantley Thomas, LB Anthony Wint, CB Isaiah Brown. Game day is set for Saturday, Oct. 28. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. Last meeting: The **last time** these two schools met was in 2016, 38-14 FIU.

The Florida Atlantic Owls



Nov. 3: FAU Owls
Location: Boca Raton, Florida
2016 record: 3-9, 2-6 in C-USA

Key losses: C Dillion DeBoer, TE Tyler Cameron, DE Trey Henderickson, DT Shalom Ogbonda, LB Nate Ozdemir. **Top returnees:** QB Jason Driskel, RB Buddy Howell, WR Kamrin Solomon, WR Nate Terry, WR Kalib Woods, CB Chris Tooley. Game day is set for Friday, Nov. 3, kickoff is 6 p.m. Last meeting: The **last time** these two teams met occurred in 2016, Marshall won 27-21.

The WKU Hilltoppers



Nov. 11: WKU Hilltoppers
Location: Huntington, W.Va.
2016 record: 11-3, 7-1 in C-USA

Key losses: WR Taywan Taylor, WR Nicholas Norris, C Max Halpin, LT Forrest Lamp, RT Darrell Williams Jr., TE Shaquille Johnson, LB Keith Brown, LB T.J. McCollum, DT Omarius Bryant. **Key returnees:** QB Mike White, LG Brandon Ray, RG Dennis Edwards, WR Nacarius Fant, DE Derik Overstreet, DT Chris Johnson. Game day is set for Saturday, Nov. 11, kick off is set for 6:30 p.m. **Last meeting:** 2016, 60-6 WKU.

The UTSA Roadrunners



Nov. 18: UTSA Roadrunners
Location: San Antonio, Tx.
2016 record: 6-7, 5-3 in C-USA

Key losses: RB Jarveon Williams, RB Andrew King, TE Trevor Stevens, OL Gabriel Casillas OL Jevonte Domond, DE Ben Kane, DE/DT Jonathan Tuiolosega, S Michael Egwuagu, S Jordan Moore. **Key returnees:** QB Dalton Sturm, OL Austin Pratt, RB Jalen Rhodes, WR Josh Stewart, WR Kerry Thomas Jr., DE Marcus Davenport, LB Josiah Tauaefa. Game day is set for Saturday, Nov. 18, kickoff is set for 7 p.m. **Last meeting:** 2013, 34-10 Marshall.

The USM Golden Eagles



Nov. 25: Southern Miss
Location: Huntington, W.Va.
2016 record: 7-6, 4-4 in C-USA

Key losses: QB Nick Mullens, WR D.J. Thompson, LG Brandon Farmer, C Cameron Tom, RG Oliver Bates, DE Dylan Bradley, LB C.J. Perry, LB Elijah Parker, S D'Nerius Antoine. **Key returnees:** RB Ito Smith, RG Devin Fariior, RT Ty Pollard, WR Allenzae Stagers, WR Isaiah Jones, TE Julian Allen, CB Cornell Armstrong, S Picasso Nelson Jr. Game day is set for Saturday, Nov. 25, kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. **Last meeting:** 2016, 24-14 Southern Miss.

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FOOTBALL EDITION

OPINION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Editorial: We are Marshall

"In the middle of Huntington, West Virginia there's a river. Next to this river there is a steel mill. And next to the steel mill there is a school. In the middle of the school, there is a fountain. Each year on the exact same day, at the exact same hour, the water to this fountain is turned off. And in this moment once every year, through out the town, through out the school, time stands still."

If you've seen the movie We Are Marshall then I'm sure you know where this line comes from. This quote is strong and significant, and when thinking of a way to describe the community that is Marshall University, this quote always comes to mind.

Becoming one of the Herd is a smart choice, one of the smartest anyone could ever make for a number of reasons. The biggest of these reasons is the atmosphere.

College towns are always said to be the epicenters of support and spirit for the students attending the college there, but there is no other college town quite like Huntington, West Virginia.

The plane crash was a horrible tragedy, and one that is remembered every day, not just on November 14. Even though the tragedy took place nearly 50 years ago it becomes a part of every single person who steps foot onto campus and becomes a son or daughter of Marshall.

Words cannot describe the fountain ceremony itself. You may consider skipping it, but don't. Once you've heard the incredible silence that remains when the fountain is turned off you will

never feel the same.

The community support is overwhelming. Mayor Steve Williams himself was a member of the Young Thundering Herd, the team that emerged from the ashes and began piecing Huntington back together again after the tragedy.

The fountain ceremony serves as a way to remember those 75 lives lost during the plane crash in 1970, but it also reminds us to keep moving forward. In those moments when the final drops of water descend from the fountain time truly does stand still, if only for few minutes. After that, we have to keep living the kinds of lives that honor the legacy of the 75.

Most people you will meet in Huntington, or anywhere you go once you mention you're a student at Marshall, will have a story to tell. Stories of love, stories of loss, stories of lessons learned. They'll all tell you what Marshall gave to them.

Beginning college is a chance to do something, to leave your mark on the world. Join a club, volunteer at a local nonprofit, play for a sports team, perform at a comedy night or do anything that you've always wanted to. Take risks and put yourself out there. See what Marshall and Huntington can give to you, because they've given so much to so many already.

"We are Marshall" is not just a chant before a football game or the name of a movie, it's a part of every one of us, and it's about to become a life-long part of you.



Column: Game Day Advice for Freshmen



By NICK HERRICK FOR THE PARTHENON

As I enter my senior year of college, I look back over the past three seasons of Marshall football.

I have seen a near perfect season, a C-USA Championship, a big win over Purdue at home, a Heisman winner play against the Herd and so much more.

While those moments are memorable, the best part of it all is waking up on gameday, grabbing a Tudors Biscuit with some friends and then heading to the dozens of tailgate spots all over Huntington.

My advice to a freshman on game day is simple: get out and enjoy all that Marshall game days have to offer and make a routine of it.

Since this weekend is the season opener, there will be plenty to do. The Thunder Walk, which takes place two hours before kickoff, is a fantastic opportunity for students to get out and see the team and show support.

The Thunder Walk will start on 18th Street and proceed through the center of campus all the way to the stadium. As the team walks, I encourage students to follow the team and make their way to the stadium lots. There, students will have countless opportunities to get involved in pregame events and activities.

From the events put on by Marshall

organizations like Campus Activities Board or tailgates put on by Greek Life, there is always something to keep you entertained until kickoff.

Walking around outside the stadium can create some great game day memories. Everybody out tailgating is there to have fun, meet other fans and get ready for the Herd.

One of my favorite activities on game day when I was a freshman was seeing all the different ways people would tailgate. Some were simple with a Marshall tent and some burgers and hot dogs, and then some were massive and almost a little too over the top.

Some people play games, like cornhole, and some will do something else to draw a crowd. I think my favorite was a tent with karaoke and the mic was autotuned. That made for some interesting covers to "Thunderstruck" by AC/DC. (Get ready for that to become your new favorite song.)

Getting out early on game days and exploring the tailgate lots is the first step to a successful and fun game day. The next step is to get to the stadium early.

As a freshman, I sat front row of every game with a group of friends of mine and I must say it was one of the best decisions of my college career.

By getting to the stadium early, you get to meet other fans, get a quality spot and you get to see the teams warm up.

As a fan in the stands, and especially in the student section, you have a job to do. Be the iconic twelfth man that college football teams thrive for. Throw the opposing team off their game and pump your team up.

When the Herd is in front of you, get loud, start a few chants, call out individual players and let them know you support them.

As a fan in the stands, and especially in the student section, you have a job to do. Be the iconic twelfth man that college football teams thrive for. Throw the opposing team off their game and pump your team up.

Marshall football has a rich history of traditions, and the fans and students are the most important part when it comes to continuing those traditions.

As a freshman, get out on gameday, find all that the city and school has to offer, cheer on the Herd and be ready to answer every time you here a loud "WE ARE..."

Nick Herrick can be contacted at herrick8@marshall.edu.

A Season for Hope

By DYLAN STONE FOR THE PARTHENON

Hope springs eternal in the fall here at Marshall University; the hope for a successful Thundering Herd football season. This is especially true following last year's debacle that saw the Herd finish with its worst record since 1981 at 3-9. In fact, following the season-ending 60-6 loss to Western Kentucky, at Joan C. Edwards Stadium no less, Herd head coach Doc Holliday remarked that he would immediately begin working to fix the issues that plagued Marshall throughout 2016. Holliday had no shortage of problems to try and fix.

When a team falls as short of expectations as Marshall did in 2016, multiple factors played into the team's demise. For the most part though, three key problems existed with the play of last year's squad.

First, was a largely ineffective defense that allowed opponents to score early. Marshall allowed the first score of the game in 10 of 12

games, and often, Marshall ranked 107th out of 128 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in scoring defense, allowing over 35 points per contest. The Herd has several newcomers along its defensive line, and with more seasoning for last season's first and second year players, will hopefully add to a defensive turnaround. Add to that an experienced linebacking corps and Marshall has the makings for marked improvement from last season.

Secondly, Marshall struggled with injuries along its offensive line in 2016, which led to ineffectual run blocking and protection for quarterback Chase Litton. The lack of continuity among the o-line was felt as the Herd finished a lowly 122nd in rushing offense, according to NCAA statistics, which is by far the worst among Conference USA schools. Litton, who flourished as a starter for most of his freshman campaign in 2015, struggled to find a rhythm in games as his

see HOPE | pg. 7

LET ME BE FRANK: WITH FRANKLIN NORTON

By FRANKLIN NORTON SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Growing up, sports were never really my thing. I played soccer up until high school, but traded that out to run cross country and track over the next four years. I loved being a part of a team, and I loved the thrill of competition. But I knew that I never really had any passion for athletics, and I never really understood why it was a passion for so many people. It wasn't until high school, on a football Friday night, that I realized something: this matters.

Friday nights were the highlights of my week. All my friends and classmates would be in one place, and for at least one night of the week, all of us in that student section had one thing in common: we wanted our team to win. By my senior year, I was so attached to our sports teams that I would celebrate our victories as if they were my own, and view a loss from the stands with tears in my eyes, in collective disappointment with my peers.

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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"Factual errors appearing in the Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

THUNDERING HERD DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE



#14 — QB
Chase Litton
Tampa, Fla.

#17 — QB
Isaiah Green
Fairburn, Ga.



#76 — RG
Nate Devers
Massillon, Oh.

#77 — RG
Alex Locklear
Huntington,
W.Va.



#9 — SL-WR
Marcel Williams
Palm Coast, Fla.

#10 — SL-WR
Nick Mathews
Haymarket, Va.

#4 — SL-WR
Donquell Green
Waynesboro, Ga.



#67 — LT
Sandley
Jean-Felix
Sunrise, Fla.

#74 — LT
A.J. Addison
Ruther Glen, Va.



#71 — RT
Tarik Adams
Valdosta, Ga.

#50 — RT
Will Ulmer
Richmond, Va.



#85 — TE
Ryan Yurachek
Myrtle Beach,
S.C.

#82 — TE
Cody Mitchell
Point Pleasant,
W.Va.

#11 — TE
Xavier Gaines
Frostproof, Fla.



#58 — LG
Jordan Dowrey
Winchester, Va.

#62 — LG
Cain Madden
S. Webster, Oh.



#1 — Z-WR
Willie Johnson
Ft. Myers, Fla.

#2 — Z-WR
Hyleck Foster
Gaffney, S.C.



#5 — RB
Trey Rodriguez
Daytona Beach,
Fla.

#24 — RB
Keion Davis
Fairburn, Ga.

#21 — RB
Anthony
Anderson
Eden Prairie, Mn.



#61 — C
Levi Brown
Franklin, Ga.

#55 — C
Alex Mollette
Suwanee, Ga.



#8 — X-WR
Tyre Brady
Homestead, Fla.

#19 — X-WR
Monterio Hunt
Walnut, Ms.

DEFENSE



#44 — DE
Blake Keller
Bradenton, Fla.

#17 — DE
Ty Tyler
Punta Gorda, Fla.



#21 — SLB
Artis Johnson
Lott, Tx.

#38 — SLB
Eli Gates
Martinsburg, W.Va.



#3 — CB
Chris Jackson
Tallahassee, Fla.

#11 — CB
Rodney Allen
Dallas, Tx.



#54 — NT
Nyquan Harris
Norfolk, Va.

#69 — NT
Aaron Dopson
Hagerstown, Md.



#35 — MLB
Frankie
Hernandez
Largo, Fla.

#31 — MLB
Omari Cobb
Port St. Lucie, Fla.



#1 — S
C.J. Reavis
Chester, Va.

#29 — S
Malik Gant
Washington, D.C.



#91 — DT
Ryan Bee
Ashland, Oh.

#94 — DT
Channing Hames
Baltimore, Md.



#37 — WLB
Chase Hancock
Daniels, W.Va.

#2 — WLB
Jaquan Yulee
Chesapeake, Va.



#8 — S
Brandon Drayton
Largo, Fla.

#14 — S
Kendall Gant
Lakeland, Fla.



#6 — DE
Marquis Couch
Miami, Fla.

#36 — DE
Davon Durant
Greenwood, S.C.



#22 — Nickel
Jestin Morrow
Hilton Head, S.C.

#27 — Nickel
Kereon Merrell
Vienna, Ga.



#20 — CB
Jaylon
McClain-Sapp
Jacksonville, Fla.

SPECIAL TEAMS



#16 — KO, P, FG/PAT
Kaare Vedvik
Stavanger, Norway



#89 — LS
Matt Beardall
Merritt Island, Fla.



#13 — H
Jackson White
Gainesville, Ga.

Police Blotter

By **KAYLA SIMMONS**
THE PARTHENON

Striking Unattended Vehicle
August 23, officers responded to a report of a damaged vehicle. Damage was found towards the rear end of the truck. They reviewed the surveillance video but nothing was found. The vehicle was parked in general student parking. MUPD filed a report for the victim.

Petit Larceny
August 23, a West Virginia ID and debit card were stolen from a vehicle parked in the stadium parking lot. MUPD caught the male suspect fleeing the scene on the video surveillance cameras.

Underage Consumption
August 24, MUPD conducted an underage drinking operation on and around campus. Eleven citations were issued for underage consumption and one arrest was made for possession with intent to deliver and obstructing.

Sexual Assault
August 25, MUPD received report of a sexual assault at the South Residence Hall. The case is still under investigation. Larceny from Building August 25, report of a dell laptop, mobile HD hard drive and a book bag left unattended were taken from the second floor of Drink Library.

Underage Drinking
August 26, officer was on patrol and observed multiple individuals, one of them staggering. The individual was glossy-eyed and smelled of an alcoholic substance. She was issued a citation of underage consumption.

Striking Unattended Vehicle
August 29, reports of a jeep wrangler being struck in a parking garage. The suspect was identified on video surveillance. The case is still pending.
Kayla Simmons can be contacted at simmons162@marshall.edu.

FOOTBALL WELCOMES cont. from 3

Defensive back Chris Jackson is no longer a greenhorn. He is returning for his sophomore year and said he believes that having a tough opponent like Miami to start off the season is a good thing. "It's fun, I mean last year we had a bye week in the beginning," Jackson said. "But this week, week one, we are right into action. Miami (Ohio) is a great team. It's real fun, it's real competitive and this just gets my juices going. It makes me feel good that we are playing in the first week against a great team."

Safety and fellow defensive secondary player C.J. Reavis said the team is anxious to start the season. "One of the biggest differences is not having a long camp like we did last year," Reavis said. "We get to get to it faster. We are just anxious. We are real anxious to get the season started off. Last (season) was not good enough for anybody's standards. I feel like we are licking our chops and we are ready to get started this year."

Marshall finished a lackluster 3-9 in the previous season and special teams was a major issue for Doc Holliday and his team. Red shirt senior Kaare Vedvik has been shown a bode of confidence by his head coach. Holliday has named Vedvik the starting punter and kicker for the Herd.

"Vedvik is probably one of the most athletic kickers that I've ever been around in all of my years of coaching," Holliday said. "He's an unbelievable kid who goes to work every day and takes great pride in what he does. He's a talented guy who is fun to watch and be around."

With a renewed roster and a rekindled hope of success surrounding the Marshall football program, the time for talking about improvements is over. It's now time to reap the benefits of preparation, practice and perseverance.

The Thundering Herd will look to walk off the turf field at the Joan on Saturday 1-0 and make it four straight wins over the Miami Red Hawks. Kick-off is set for 6:30 p.m.

Kyle Curley can be contacted at curley2@marshall.edu

FRANK cont. from 5

Of one day becoming a part of the Marshall story. In a society that feels like it's becoming increasingly individualistic, it is a football game that will bring our community together.

We will know our neighbors. We will reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Grandparents will bring their grandchildren, passing a love

of the Herd through a generational gap. For this one day, we can all come together and have one thing in common: we want our team to win. In a world saturated with selfies and selfishness, there is a special power in the words "We are..."

Franklin Norton can be contacted at norton18@marshall.edu.

HOPE cont. from 5

Protection broke down and he was forced into short, quick throws. With better health in 2017, the offensive line should again prove to be one of the conference's better units, which would lead to more effective offensive play. The Herd will rely on a stable running backs led by junior transfer Trey Rodriguez. Rodriguez impressed throughout the spring and fall camp and was named the starter for the season opener with Miami (OH), but he will have plenty of help in the form of a pair of redshirt juniors. Keion Davis, who led the team in rushing touchdowns last season with six, will be back, as well as Anthony Anderson, who handled a good deal of work last year.

Litton returns as the starter quarterback after playing in 21 games his first two seasons in kelly green and white. Despite the overall inconsistency with the offense in 2016, Litton played well for the most part, improving on many statistics from his freshman campaign. He will have to break in a new receiving group after the Herd lost virtually the entire group from last season, except for senior tight end Ryan Yurachek, but the talent is there for continued success in the passing game. Another year for Litton in the offensive system, along with the hopeful health of his offensive line and the deep receiving and tailback groups could mean big things are in store for the Herd on offense this season.

Lastly, the major area of weakness in the 2016, dreadful season was the Herd's placekicking. Kicker Amoreto Curraj did not

Gilbert sets goals for second year

By **CAROLINE KIMBRO**
THE PARTHENON

As his second year at Marshall University commences, Dr. Jerry Gilbert reflects on his initial year as president and turns his aim towards the future.

Gilbert said he feels much more engrained in the Huntington community after a year at Marshall than he did at the beginning of last fall.

"You know, I didn't know many people to begin with and I still don't know everyone, but I feel more at home now and like I know more people," Gilbert said. "I feel more connected this year."

Gilbert said one new goal he has for this year is opening up thoughtful discussions on campus about "hot button topics," such as race and intolerance.

"I want us to give [students] an opportunity and a venue to express their ideas in an open and respectful manner so that we can debate topics the way they should be debated – and that is without excessive emotion and with respect for other people's opinions even when they disagree or don't line up with yours," Gilbert said.

"I want us to create a level of civility on our campus so that we can agree to disagree on topics but not be disagreeable toward each other. I think that's an important life lesson and I think it's something we need to model as educators. We need to show people how you can strongly disagree with someone, but still be friendly with that person."

Gilbert said if he could say one thing to the student body, he would express a hope that students feel at home at Marshall.

"By feeling at home, I would hope that all of the things I just mentioned would be something that they would expect and would exhibit in terms



RICK HAYE | UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

President Jerry Gilbert presents new marketing campaign and discusses university goals at a reception.

of how they act as a community or as a family – that is, that they would feel like they have a place here where they can say what they want to say without fear of anyone getting violent or being obnoxious towards them and that we can all express our opinions freely without fear of any retribution," Gilbert said.

Gilbert said that this sense of belonging and the ability to interact well with others is of equal importance to students' academic accomplishments.

"Of course I want our students to have a great learning experience," Gilbert said. "I think this is a time as an undergraduate or a graduate student where you expand your view of the world and I want them to learn and become prepared for their careers, whatever they are, but I think a large part of that is learning how to get along with other people."

Gilbert also said he hopes Marshall students, faculty, and

staff will have a lasting impact on the opioid crisis in the Huntington community and surrounding areas.

"A goal for this year, which I kind of started last year, was for Marshall to have an impact on the opioid crisis and I think we are making strides in that regard," Gilbert said. "We've got some research going on in that area, also some funding to do some rehabilitation, some type of social readjustment, job training, as well as programs to get people through addiction into recovery. I'm very pleased with what we've been able to do."

As he established at the outset of his presidency, Gilbert said he is still focused on increasing enrollment as a means of enhancing the university community and increasing revenue. Gilbert said Marshall has left close to 140 positions vacant over the past couple of years as a result of budget cuts.

"That's still my first goal, to increase enrollment," Gilbert

said. "I mean that's the way that we can improve the university is with additional students. We need that for the revenue, our budget's still very tight."

Ginny Painter, Senior Vice President of Communications, said she's proud of Marshall's new marketing campaign and looks forward to reaching more potential students in the upcoming year.

"I think the number one thing I'm looking forward to is probably working hand-in-glove with all the departments on campus to increase our enrollment together through marketing, the recruitment office, and customer service," Painter said.

Gilbert said he's excited about the new events, research opportunities and greater student involvement that will enhance Marshall's academics and community this year.

Caroline Kimbro can be contacted at kimbrow9@marshall.edu.

LITTON cont. from 3

"I think he's grown from it and he's learned from it," Holliday said. "I see a different guy out there right now and I'm anxious to see how that carries over onto the field."

One player in particular who was close to his quarterback through the whole process is the Herd's center, Levi Brown, said Litton has returned with a more team-oriented approach.

"He's become more of a person; talking to us and getting people's input instead of making

decisions that effect all of us," Brown said. "I'm looking forward to snapping the ball to him."

After the months of work and training, if you ask him, Litton is far from where he wants to be.

"I'm still turning [the page]," Litton said. "I'm still working every day. I'm not where I want to be, because this team hasn't won every game yet, so I can't be where I want to be."

Luke Creasy can be contacted at creasy4@marshall.edu.

attempt enough field goals to qualify for the overall end of season leaders, but his .400 conversion percentage (4-10) would have ranked last among the 108 kickers that did qualify. Curraj also missed 3 of 42 extra point attempts after touchdowns. The inconsistency in the kicking game led to Holliday forgoing field goal attempts by and large in 2016, choosing instead to go for it on fourth downs and at times, taking points off the board. Curraj left the team over the summer and now the field goals and extra points fall on the shoulders (and right leg) of senior punter Kaare Vedvik. Vedvik has never attempted a field goal or extra point in his Herd career, but there is hope that he will be able to handle those duties as well as he handled punting last season. A reliable kicking game would serve to take pressure off both the offense and defense and can only help the Herd overcome last season's results.

Marshall football and its fans had become quite accustomed to life at the top of Conference USA and its Eastern division over the three seasons prior to 2016. Last season was a struggle, not just for Holliday and his players, but for those fans as well. Marshall saw its lowest average attendance at the Joan since the 2009 season in 2016. If Doc Holliday can find the right prescription for a return to CUSA prominence in 2017, the fans will come and the stands will once again be full in Huntington. Because after all, in the fall, hope springs.

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Marching Thunder prepares for eventful season

By **BUFFY SIX**
THE PARTHENON

Just as Marshall football is gearing up for the start of its season against the Miami (Ohio) Red Hawks, the Marching Thunder is gearing up for its season as well with a new halftime show titled "Light 'em Up."

"Stepping out onto the field is a rush you really can't explain to anyone else unless they experience it themselves," Clarinet player Erin Fields said. "The first time we step out on the field for pregame and hear the crowd roar, it's deafening. It's amazing how our community has so much spirit for our school."

Although Fields did not want to give too much away, she said the halftime show "definitely had some surprises" that have never been done in her time with the band.

"Our show, 'Light 'em Up,' has music from popular artists such as Sia, Fall Out Boy, Journey and Elle Goulding," Fields said. "And, of course, you can't forget the third/fourth quarter tradition of playing Mountain Music."

Going into her third season with the Marching Thunder, Fields said joining the Marching Thunder was "one of the best decisions" of her college experience.

"I will always be thankful for the memories the music program has given me," Fields said.

The Marching Thunder performs for more than just football games. Coming up on their schedule, the band will be performing in the Joan C. Edwards Stadium for the Tri-State Marching festival Oct. 21.

The band will also be hosting "Band Day" at the Sept. 16 home football game versus Kent State.



FILE PHOTO

Clarinet player Erin Fields poses for a photo prior to kickoff between Marshall and Charlotte on October 22, 2016.

High school bands from around the state will have the opportunity to perform alongside the Marching Thunder and experience what is like to perform in a 30,000-seat stadium.

The band will also be performing Oct. 7 in the Mountain State Forest Festival Parade as well as a Veterans Day Parade Nov. 10.

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HerdZone Stadium Store to open for game day

STAFF REPORT

THE PARTHENON

Construction at Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards Stadium is coming to a close, with the newly installed bookstore and concourse being open for

Saturday's game.

"Our first official opening will be the home game," Mike Campbell, manager of University Bookstore operations, said. "We're appreciative to be a part of the university

and proud of it."

Darren Booth, superintendent of the construction project, said construction on the concourse expansion and team store are completed. With the stadium's

concourse renovated, game days will now feature beer sales.

The Stadium Bookstore will open to the general public with regular hours on Sept. 15, featuring mostly Marshall team apparel.



PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN MORRIS
THE PARTHENON

Above, Right: Fans will have their first opportunity to purchase the new HerdZone Stadium Store on Saturday before Marshall kicks off its 2017 season against Miami (Ohio). The official ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 15.

page designed and edited by ADAM ROGERS | rogers112@marshall.edu

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