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The Parthenon, August 31, 2012

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John Gibb, Jeremy Johnson, Adam Rogers, Nikki Dotson, Joanie Borders, and Eden Adkins
Herd to take on 11th ranked Mountaineers

BY JEREMY JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall University football opens the season on the road with the last favorable friend of Coal Bowl game against the 11th ranked West Virginia Mountaineers. Thundering Herd Head Coach Doc Holliday said he is well aware of the talent that his squad will be facing. “Anytime you’re going into somebody else’s venue and playing a top-10 team that is picked either to be first or second in the Big 12, conference, you know they’re an excellent team,” Holliday said.

Holliday also said with the likes of Geno Smith, Tavon Austin and顺着 West Virginia’s high-powered offense will be a tall task for the Herd. “Geno Smith probably is the best quarterback in America and has a shot to be,” Holliday said.

University Mountaineers. These nine players know there is a lot of work to be done between them, but Okoroaha said they are ready for the challenge.

Marshall’s seniors have already experienced their last first practice and are close to playing their last first game. There are several last first experiences these nine players will go through over the course of the season. The first one of which is Saturday’s game against West Virginia University and Snipes-Booker said he cannot wait for his last shot at defeating the Mountaineers. “This might be the last time Marshall plays him and it’s my last time playing them,” Snipes-Booker said. “I’m 0-3 against them and I’m not trying to go 0-4, so I’m trying to make a big difference out there.” Arrington said he only thinks about this being his last season when everything slows down in front of him, but he already knows he is going to miss playing college football. “It’s the college experience,” Arrington said. “You have tons of fun and you’re doing what you love, playing college football. I already know I’m going to miss it and because my teammates are like my brothers.” Fortunately for Arrington and the rest of the senior class, there are still 12 guaranteed games in 2012 and they don’t have to begin thinking about life after Marshall football just yet. Adam Rogers can be contacted at rogersa12@marshall.edu.

2012 Herd football schedule

Where: Sept. 1
Who: West Virginia Mountaineers
Where: Charleston
Who: Appalachian State
When: Sept. 8
Where: Eastern Carolina
Who: Shippensburg University
Where: Huntington
Who: Bowling Green
When: Sept. 15
Where: Ohio Bobcats
Who: Huntington
When: Sept. 22
Where: Rice Owls
Who: Huntington
When: Oct. 6
Where: SUNY Buffalo
Who: Huntington
When: Oct. 13
Where: Memphis Tigers
Who: Huntington
When: Oct. 20
Where: Purdue Boilermakers
Who: Huntington
When: Oct. 27
Where: West Virginia Mountaineers
Who: Huntington
When: Nov. 2
Where: SUNY Buffalo
Who: Huntington
When: Nov. 9
Where: Memphis Tigers
Who: Huntington
When: Nov. 16
Where:vioin
Who: Huntington
When: Nov. 23
Where: Temple Owls
Who: Huntington
When: Nov. 30
Where: Tulsa Golden Hurricane
Who: Huntington
When: Dec. 7
Where: Central Florida Knights
Who: Huntington
When: Dec. 14
Where: Western Carolina Catamounts
Who: Huntington
When: Dec. 21
Where: Tulane Green Wave
Who: Huntington
When: Dec. 28
Where: East Carolina Pirates
Who: Huntington
When: Jan. 4
Where: Bowling Green
Who: Huntington
When: Jan. 11
Where: Appalachian State
Who: Huntington
When: Jan. 18
Where: Shippensburg University
Who: Huntington
When: Jan. 25
Where: Charleston
Who: Huntington
When: Feb. 1
Where: Morgan State
Who: Huntington
When: Feb. 8
Where: Virginia Commonwealth
Who: Huntington
When: Feb. 15

GO HERD!

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SUNTIME TANNING
AUGUST SPECIAL
2 x 2.0
Rakeem Cato: Prepared and poised for the big stage

BY JEREMY JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Rakeem Cato relishes the big stage; like a rock star who laps up the energy of a devoted audience. Cato braves off of packed houses and pressure-filled environments.

This dates back to him leading Miami Central High School to its first ever state title in 2010 and as recent as a bowl clinching 341 yard two touchdown performance against East Carolina and a victory against Florida International in the Beef 'O' Brady’s Bowl as a true freshman.

The stage doesn’t get any bigger for the Thundering Herd quarterback than the Friends of Coal Bowl in hostile Morgantown, West Virginia to start the season.

With a year under his belt Cato said he has continued to develop and evolve as a quarterback.

“My first year, it was a learning experience,” Cato said. “I look at film every day and see the things that I did wrong and trying to make progress every time that I come out here and practice. I just want to be great.”

In the 2011 season, the 6-foot 182-pound quarterback threw for 15 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Cato said his decision-making has improved and the game has slowed down and comes easier to him than last season.

“The defense has slowed down a lot more,” Cato said. When to throw the ball down the field and not to throw the ball downfield, settle for less or just the basic things like throwing the ball out of bounds and those type of things.”

Senior wideout Aaron Dobson established a connection with Cato in their first year together. In the final two Herd games, including the bowl game, the two connected 11 times for 191 yards and four touchdowns.

Cato progressed mightily down the closing stretch of last season and Dobson said he is excited to see the growth of his sophomore quarterback.

“He has grown up a lot,” Dobson said. “His maturity level is just cut the rug. To see somebody start their true freshman year the first game of the season to now, he has grown up tremenously and I can’t wait to see what he is going to do this year.”

Instead of the traditional first and last name for a football profile, Cato’s reads “Tosuccess Onamission” and he said it reminds him of whom he is striving to be.

“To be successful at everything I do both on the field and off the field as a man and as a player,” Cato said. “That I am trying to do right now and just make my life better and make the people around me lives better too.”

As a man, an athlete and quarterback for the Thundering Herd, Cato is primed for the spotlight. Jeremy Johnson can be contacted at johnson783@live.marshall.edu.
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>JOHN BRUHIN</td>
<td>OL</td>
<td>JR</td>
<td>Miami, Fla. (Edison)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORIE WILSON</td>
<td>LB</td>
<td>RS / FR</td>
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<td>RYAN RIEDEL</td>
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<td>SETH DOSS</td>
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<td>ERIC ANSLEY</td>
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TRANSITIONING LINEBACKERS READY TO TAKE THE FIELD IN MORGANTOWN

BY MARCUS CONSTANTINO

The Thundering Herd defense will feature two brand new faces in the secondary during the 2012 season. Co-defensive coordinator Chuck Rippon recruited two veteran players from Boston College, Dominick LeGrande and Okechukwu Okoroha.

Rippon said that the duo from the Atlantic Coast Conference will make up for a lack of depth at the position. He will join a crew of linebackers who, for the most part, weren’t at the position last year, either.

Marshall head football coach Doc Holliday said he thinks the only player who played a year ago is Jeremiah Holmes, who started some games last year, as he’ll play there again.

A year ago, Devin Arrington was playing safety, and has played linebacker in the past. We have Evan McKelvey and Raheem Waiters who were both safeties a year ago.

“...the experience they have already. The other, and probably most important, is now gives us a little more time before we throw in the three or four younger guys into the mix who don’t have playing experience.”

Beyond the immediate impact, the transfers also create a long-term win-win situation for themselves and for their new teams.

“...(By) ...transition from safety to linebacker. McKelvey made three tackles in six games last year, in addition to his special teams duties and Waiters added six tackles in 11 appearances throughout the 2011 season.

Waiters said the transition hasn’t been easy, but he’s excited about the switch-up. “So anything I'm having troubles with, I can go ask him and he will coach me up on the field.”

Finally, it didn’t hurt for Okoroha that the team recruiting him not only wanted him, but also his destination seemed perfect for him and he will coach me up on the field.”

“I like that,” said Okoroha. “That’s something that Dominick and I talked about. They’re going to throw the ball around 50 times and few of them will end up in our hands.”

Finally, it didn’t hurt for Okoroha that the team recruiting him not only wanted him, but also his
tmarshall.edu. contacted at payne122@capmar.edu.

capable and experienced the secondary is in the those fears to bed.

of football, some fans might God working."

wanted both of us, that was We've been roommates ever teammate that he has grown
teenage, that was a pretty the Thundering Herd's 2012 roster.

Sophomore Travon Van is just one of nine running backs listed on the Thundering Herd’s 2012 roster.

Marshall talented and deep at running back

Football backfield so you still just get to go out there and play the game," LeGrande said.

"It's going to be a big game but I'm going to take it like I am going to take any game," LeGrande said.

for seven years, the Friends of Gale Brown has brought excitement and interest to the state of West Virginia.

"For anybody to say they are not interested in the games they're kidding themselves," Holliday said.

"If you give them a chance to play, they are going to play with whatever." Holliday said he is eager to see if his new crop of linebackers can put their best foot forward and successfully fend off the West Virginia University Mountaineers.

"I'm anxious to watch those guys play," Holliday said. "I feel like we're more athletic there. There's a time when you've been working all winter and summer practicing to where, as a coach, you just need to go out there and watch guys improve."}

"As long as I'm on the field and help my team win, I'm with whatever!"

Running backs coach Jeff Jordan said that the accumulation of talent in the backfield over the past five years has been a "life changer!"

"Every year we get better with our defensive line, both Grooms and Butler have improved the Thundering Herd during training camp with Speed, strength, and toughness."

"I know they could run the thing that surprised me a little bit about Butler and some of those other guys in that they're tough, too," Holliday said. "They like to play and they'll stick it in there." Holliday and his coaching staff plan to use some of the speed back at wide receivers in certain situations, a role that Grooms says he would relish.

"As long as I'm on the field and help my team win, I'm with whatever!"

"Whatever play I get, I want to do my best and wherever they put me I'll help the team out," Redridge said.

After sitting out last season due to NCAA clearance problems, both Grooms and Butler have impressed the Marshall coaching staff with their speed, strength, and toughness.

"I know they could run the thing that surprised me a little bit about Butler and some of those other guys in that they're tough, too," Holliday said. "They like to play and they'll stick it in there." Holliday and his coaching staff plan to use some of the speed back at wide receivers in certain situations, a role that Grooms says he would relish.

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The time has arrived: for all the silly preseason polls, press conferences, and all-conference teams and stereotypical preseason banquet to start. The true college football season is upon us and what a better way to start it for the 2012 edition of the Thundering Herd to start the season. It’s ironic that the season starts with the final game in a series that season destined to end (although the majority of West Virginia fans don’t want it to). The Thundering Herd will travel to a more northern part of the state to take on the highly ranked (preseason) West Virginia University Mountaineers. This is a team that has all of its weapons back from a season that ended with a 7-6 record last season. Young men, however, was a sudden awareness of my eyes, however, was my sudden awareness of. Access mean fall. Full mean football. Football is coming. It’s hard not to get excited about football, especially at this point in the year. Nothing has happened yet on the field, so anything can happen. It’s not hard to convince yourself that this is the year the Thundering Herd will finally get the monkey off of us all by defeating the Mountaineers, of course that doesn’t mean that the WVU fans will change their attitude from “We’re not a rivalry because you haven’t beaten us” to “We’re not a rivalry because you’ve only beaten us once.” It’s the same line of thinking that leads me to believe that the Minnesota Vikings will win the Super Bowl thanks to the play of Adrian Peterson and his amazing reconstructed knee. Consequently, it’s also the same kind of thinking that leads me to spend thousands of dollars on therapy getting over the way my heart is continually ripped out and stomped on every year, but hey, that’s sports. But that doesn’t mean that I’m not super pumped for Marshall to open up the season. Last year the Thundering Herd exceeded expectations and managed to win seven games, after most people didn’t pick them to win more than three games. This year, it’s difficult to imagine the team winning less than seven games. Last year, the buzz about true freshman quarterback Rakeem Cato gave fans something to talk about besides the legal troubles of various players, new and old. But after a season of controversy in which he led the team to some of its most surprising and exciting victories while also managing to avoid starting job for three games, you couldn’t see less before wearing the “Fear the Beard” shirts around campus. This season, Cato is more mature and assured of his starting spot, barring injury. Last year, I was mildly excited about Marshall football, but this year, I’m playing “Thunderbeard” on repeat as I look into the cost of Kelly green body paint. Football season is here. I hope you are ready. Tyler Kes can be contacted at Kes@marshall.edu.

Tyler Kes
DIGITAL EDITOR

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Tyler Kes
DIGITAL EDITOR

The time has arrived: for all the silly preseason polls, press conferences, and all-conference teams and stereotypical preseason banquet to start. The true college football season is upon us and what a better way to start it for the 2012 edition of the Thundering Herd to start the season. It’s ironic that the season starts with the final game in a series that season destined to end (although the majority of West Virginia fans don’t want it to). The Thundering Herd will travel to a more northern part of the state to take on the highly ranked (preseason) West Virginia University Mountaineers. This is a team that has all of its weapons back from a season that ended with a 7-6 record last season. Young men, however, was a sudden awareness of my eyes, however, was my sudden awareness of. Access mean fall. Full mean football. Football is coming. It’s hard not to get excited about football, especially at this point in the year. Nothing has happened yet on the field, so anything can happen. It’s not hard to convince yourself that this is the year the Thundering Herd will finally get the monkey off of us all by defeating the Mountaineers, of course that doesn’t mean that the WVU fans will change their attitude from “We’re not a rivalry because you haven’t beaten us” to “We’re not a rivalry because you’ve only beaten us once.” It’s the same line of thinking that leads me to believe that the Minnesota Vikings will win the Super Bowl thanks to the play of Adrian Peterson and his amazing reconstructed knee. Consequently, it’s also the same kind of thinking that leads me to spend thousands of dollars on therapy getting over the way my heart is continually ripped out and stomped on every year, but hey, that’s sports. But that doesn’t mean that I’m not super pumped for Marshall to open up the season. Last year the Thundering Herd exceeded expectations and managed to win seven games, after most people didn’t pick them to win more than three games. This year, it’s difficult to imagine the team winning less than seven games. Last year, the buzz about true freshman quarterback Rakeem Cato gave fans something to talk about besides the legal troubles of various players, new and old. But after a season of controversy in which he led the team to some of its most surprising and exciting victories while also managing to avoid starting job for three games, you couldn’t see less before wearing the “Fear the Beard” shirts around campus. This season, Cato is more mature and assured of his starting spot, barring injury. Last year, I was mildly excited about Marshall football, but this year, I’m playing “Thunderbeard” on repeat as I look into the cost of Kelly green body paint. Football season is here. I hope you are ready. Tyler Kes can be contacted at Kes@marshall.edu.

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