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The Parthenon, September 4, 2015

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FOOTBALL EDITION

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Herd revamps defensive line after several key losses

By JOSEPH ASHLEY

The Marshall University 2014 football team capitalized on a favorable schedule and a highly efficient offense that propelled it to a 13-1 record. The weakness of the defense was demonstrated against Western Kentucky University, as the Hilltoppers piled up 67 points on the Herd.

This year starts off with a higher level of competition, Purdue University. The Boilermakers have a lot of skill returning, including eight starters on offense.

Purdue’s entire offensive line and its quarterback are returning from last year, as well as wide receiver Danny Anthrop, who led the team with 616 yards receiving.

While the defense had its ups and downs, it was consistent enough to win the conference, overcoming a big challenge from Louisiana Tech University in the conference championship game.

The graduation of perhaps the program’s most revered recruiting class will test that theory Sunday when a number of new starters take the starting spots, but defensive tackle coach J.C. Price will devote snaps to sophomore Tomell One and redshirt senior Ricardo Williams as part of the team’s three-technique tackle rotation.

Based on Cronin’s assertion, that means plenty of snaps for redshirt junior Gary Thompson and sophomore transfer Blake Keller.

On a high note, Marshall University returns defensive standing shoulder Evran McKelvey, who went down with an ACL injury in the game at Old Dominion University last season.

In the coach’s press conference, Holliday named him an emotional leader and said McKelvey would have likely been the best player on defense last year if not for his season-ending injury.

Herd looks to continue success after championship season

By BRADLEY HELTZEL

The Marshall University defense was key in the Herd’s success during the 2014 championship season. The team capitalized on a favorable schedule and a highly efficient offense that propelled it to a 13-1 record.

The weakness of the defense was demonstrated during the game against Louisiana Tech University, as the Hilltoppers piled up 67 points on the Herd. However, the defense was able to rebound from last year, as well as wide receiver Danny Anthrop, who led the team with 616 yards receiving.

While the defense had its ups and downs, it was consistent enough to win the conference, overcoming a big challenge from Louisiana Tech University in the conference championship game.

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Joseph Ashley can be contacted at ashley38@marshall.edu.
Big Ten finally makes debut in Huntington

By Trace Johnson

The Marshall University football program will be in an unfamiliar situation this Sunday when the Purdue Boilermakers come to town. Purdue will be the first Big Ten Conference football team to visit Huntington in Marshall football history, and the game will be the first time in program history Marshall will open the season at home on a Sunday.

The Herd is 0-5 all-time against Big Ten competition; however, all of those games were away from the familiar confines of Joan C. Edwards Stadium, a place where the Herd is 142-26 since the stadium opened in 1991. That is good for a 4.85 winning percentage, which is the third best home winning percentage of any FBS program. The Herd averaged a 72 percent capacity of fans attending home games last year for the number of fans it will take to pack Joan C. Edwards Stadium.

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There is no denying the significance of this game and the excitement continues to grow throughout the whole Marshall community.

"It's a great opportunity for us," Marshall Head Coach Doc Holliday said. "To get a team like Purdue with their tradition, their coaching staff, their players coming here, it's a great opportunity for our program, and it says a lot about where our program is going.

"We're really looking forward to it."

According to Johnson, who is from Richlands, Virginia, expect to see some familiar faces in the crowd. With Marshall only being about three hours from home, it gives his family, friends and former coaches the opportunity to travel to Huntington and watch him play.

"This Sunday I'm going to have a lot of people up here supporting me from home," Johnson said. "My high school coaches, my family, and my friends will all be there, so I'll have close to like 20 people there."

As the program seeks a sell-out Sunday as it hosts its first Big Ten team in Huntington, Johnson asks one thing of his fans:

"Come here. Be loud. Cheer hard... and support us.

Predicted score: 24-17

Marshall

Brittanie Fowler can be contacted at fowler85@marshall.edu.

Purdue will be the first Big Ten team to visit Huntington in program history.

"It's a great tribute to Mike Hamrick and what he's had the opportunity to do because we've got Purdue coming in here, a year down the road we've got Louisville coming, we've got UC State coming, we've got Pitt coming, we've got Navy coming, so it's just a tribute that they think enough of Marshall University to come here and play in our stadium, and I think it's a great opportunity for our program and it says a lot about where our program is going," Hamrick said.

"It's a great opportunity to bring the entire Marshall family together."

Marshall is encouraging all fans to wear Kelly green for the "15 Green Acres Eally Gave It Out" promotion. The Herd and the Boilermakers kickoff at 3 p.m. on Sunday in front of a national TV audience on Fox Sports 1.

My prediction is Marshall will defeat Purdue 28-24. Trace Johnson can be contacted at johnson940@marshall.edu.

Purdue fans cheer on the Herd. Marshall had the best attendance numbers amongst Conference USA members for home games last season.
**FOOTBALL EDITION**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015**

**The PartHENON**

**MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM**

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**By Scott Bolger**

**The PartHENON**

When the Marshall University Football team takes the field Sunday against Purdue University, six running backs will be wearing Kelly green.

Seniors Remi Watson and Devon Johnson, sophomore Tony Pittman and freshmen Kelvin Davis, Delvin Weaver and Ellis Cain are the six running backs on the Herd’s roster.

The three eligible carriers returning from the previous season -- Watson, Johnson and Pittman -- combined for 2,351 of the 3,807 rushing yards and 24 of the 60 rushing touchdowns accumulated last season.

Johnson finished the season as a Doak Walker semi-finalist, one of the most coveted awards for running backs. The Richlands, Virginia, native amassed 1,767 yards, sixth in Division I football despite only having his number called 206 times.

Watson ended the season with 546 yards and six touchdowns on just 107 carries and seven touchdowns.

With new quarterback Michael Birdsong at the helm and the one-two punch in Johnson and Watson coming back, Marshall still plans to do what it did last year: take what the defense is giving them with a balanced attack.

"A lot of that depends on what we get, the defense often was left helpless," Barclay said. "Fortunately, Michael has used to the line and getting the game experience, getting used to the guys around him, getting some game experience from a different level, but he has some game experience but not necessarily in this offense or in this environment. I think, early on, we’re going to have to lean on the running game a little bit."

Barclay added that Pittman can also be an important piece to the Herd’s running game this season.

"He’s a freshman with great size and great instincts," Barclay said. "So, he may be able to carry some of the workload this season, Barclay said.

"He can play some good minutes for us," Barclay added that Pittman can also be an important piece to the Herd’s running game this season.

"He is giving them with a balanced attack." Head coach Doc Holliday said the team’s Running back coach Chris Barclay said he thinks this group could be just as talented as last year.

"I think this group could be just as talented as last year," Barclay said. "So, he may be a guy that flashes this season as well. We feel good because we’ve just as talented if not more talented than last year."

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**Senior running back Devon Johnson pushes a defender off during a game last season.**

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**Thuddering Herd Football Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Sept. 6</td>
<td>vs Purdue University</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 12</td>
<td>@ Ohio University</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 19</td>
<td>vs Norfolk State University</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 26</td>
<td>@ Kent State University</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 3</td>
<td>vs Old Dominion University</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 9</td>
<td>vs Southern Miss University</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 17</td>
<td>@ Florida Atlantic University</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 24</td>
<td>vs North Texas University</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 31</td>
<td>@ Charlotte University</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 7</td>
<td>@ Middle Tennessee State University</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 14</td>
<td>vs Florida International University</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 27</td>
<td>@ Western Kentucky University</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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By TAYLOR POLING  
THE PARTHENON

Rowan County clerk held in contempt over marriage licenses

By TAYLOR POLING  
THE PARTHENON

Federal Judge David Bunning ordered Kim Davis, Rowan County clerk, jailed Thursday for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in Kentucky. Davis was elected county clerk in Rowan County, Kentucky only 66 miles west of Huntington in November 2014. Davis said she is “under God’s authority” for not issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

A ruling on Aug. 32 by Judge Bunning instructed Davis to issue the same-sex marriage licenses. She submitted an appeal that was overruled Monday. It was her defiance against the Monday ruling that brought her to the courthouse in Ashland, Kentucky on Thursday.

Davis was not the only person present at the courthouse. Protesters flooded the courtroom and the stairs outside of the courthouse. Dozens of signs were carried by the crowd.

“Repent or Perish” and “Repent, Turn to Jesus or Burn” were two of the largest signs visible that supported Davis’s decision to refuse to distribute the marriage licenses.

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“Judge Bunning ruled Davis would be released as soon as she agrees to start issuing same-sex marriage licenses. Until that time, Davis will remain in jail.”

Taylor Poling can be reached at poling37@marshall.edu.

Student Government Association meetings underway

By CADI DUPLAGA  
THE PARTHENON

Senate meetings are underway for the 2015-2016 school year with the Student Government Association.

Tuesday was the first Senate meeting of the school year and the second meeting of Senate session 73. There were two nominations to present to the Senate for Secretary and Chief of Staff. There were also a nominations for President Pro Tempore. Barkley Castro was picked as President and Cody Hatten was chosen as Chief of Staff.

Hatten had to resign as President Pro Tempore in order to become Chief of Staff. Many of those in attendance competed for the position. Each candidate gave a speech and Alex O’Donnell came out on top.

Izzy Rogner was thrilled to take the position and explained that she could not have been more excited for O’Donnell.

“Be given an awesome speech and really showed that he was so deserving of the position,” Rogner said.

Tracce Wingham was unable to attend this Senate meeting and won’t be able to attend future meetings due to his capstone course. Wingham explained that the first meeting was mainly to bring everyone back together and get started with elections in order to get the ball rolling as soon as possible.

“I am very excited for all these new senators to come in,” said Wingham. “Any success that I try and myself and the executives here all come from the hard work of the senators and the Legislature Branch, so I’m really excited to get to work with them and start the new school year.”

The Marshall chapter has not yet reached its goal of 100 beanies sold, so it has not been able to make the hospital visit.

“I thought they were cute at first, then I started reading about them and I thought it was very interesting and I wanted to start a chapter on Marshall’s campus,” Riddick said.

Riddick then contacted Love Your Melon, learned the requirements and started a chapter.

“I was really happy with the response at Rec Fest,” said Riddick. “I thought they were cute at first, then I started reading about them and I thought it was very interesting and I wanted to start a chapter on Marshall’s campus,” Riddick said.

The non-profit originally used a buy one, give one program.

“In this new program fifty percent of net proceeds on every product sold will be donated to the Pinky Swear Foundation and CureSearch, both organizations dedicated to helping children diagnosed with cancer,” Riddick said.

After the chapter reaches 100 beanies sold, the ambassadors and CureSearch will send out a new order of beanies to the children in local hospitals.

This new program allows the crew to replace the buy one, give one program.

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