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Friday Sept. 6, 1996

EParthell University Parthell Global Control of the Control of th

Football coach Bobby Pruett is a 1961 Marshall graduate

a new brand of THUNDER

Pruett takes charge of Herd

by DAN LONDEREE staff writer

The Athletic Center is alive and kicking at 8 a.m. Coaches and staff walk from office to office, sitting in on meetings and completing their format for the day to come.

Secretaries arrive to answer the never-ending ringing of phones, and players and managers make

their way through the hallways.

Among these people is Bobby Pruett,
head coach of the Thundering Herd
football team.

Throughout the university, students just now are making their way to class. Yawns can be seen on some faces, and sleep is still in their eyes.

Not so for Pruett. While many people have slept in this morning, he has been working. His tie already loosened and his shirt collar unbuttoned, Pruett has the look of a man who is just leaving the office for the afternoon. But he still has a whole day ahead of him.

"The athletic director [Lance West] grabbed me this morning for a meeting," Pruett says, smiling. "Days are always full here."

He sits down behind his desk and glances out the large window of his office to get a quick look at the field. He seems to enjoy his view.

"This is home," the 1961 Marshall graduate says. "I love Marshall, and there's no place better than right here."

Although Pruett says the transition from defensive coordinator at the University of Florida to head coach of the Herd has been smooth, he also says there have been several adjustments along the way.

"The biggest adjustment has been from 75 degree weather all the time to the occasional 20 inches of snow," he says. "And I'm a little busier now, because I have to take care of one thing after another."

Coming from Florida, Pruett is used to taking care of things. Pruett's 1994 Florida defense yielded a school record low of 84.6 yards per game and held its opponents to 17.1 points per game. He coached in the 1995 Sugar Bowl and the 1996 Fiesta Bowl, in which the Gators lost to Nebraska for the NCAA I-A national championhip.

"The Division I-A championship was thrilling,"
Pruett says. "ABC and ESPN were there, and
there was a lot of hype and excitement. But at the
University of Florida, things were that way all the
time."

Pruett says Marshall holds some key similarities to Florida.

"The fans and players at Florida expected to win every week, and the fans and players here expect to win every week," he says. "Being a coach at a larger school enables me to handle the situation here."

Still, Pruett says the size of Marshall is really no factor.

"At Florida we had 80- or 90,000 people at every game," he says. "But I haven't really thought much about the difference in size. The great thing

see PRUETT, page 19

Football special

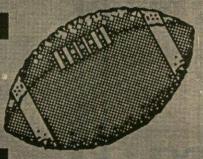
Offense

New starters at quarterback and wide receiver set to drive MU 3B

Defense

Ten of 11 starters return from last year, including two preseason All-Americans

DEVENOUS COMMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER



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4B /parthenon/ Page edited by Brian Hofmann

Where the Herd is

1996 THUNDERING HERD FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 HOWARD 7 p.m. Sept. 14 W.VA. STATE 7 p.m. Sept. 21 at Ga. Southern*3:30 p.m. Sept. 28 W. KENTUCKY 7 p.m. Oct. 5 UT-Chattanooga* 7 p.m. Oct. 12 at VMI* 1 p.m. Oct. 19 W. CAROLINA* 7 p.m. Oct. 26 at Appalachian St.* 1 p.m. Nov. 2 THE CITADEL* 1 p.m. Nov. 9 at E. Tenn. St.* 2 p.m. Nov. 16 FURMAN* 1 p.m.

* Southern Conference game HOME GAMES IN ALL CAPS

The NCAA I-AA national championship game will be played at Marshall Stadium Dec. 16.

First test for Pruett, MU comes against Howard

by CHRIS JOHNSON sports editor

When the Thundering Herd takes to the field Saturday to meet Howard, all of the early hype of the Bobby Pruett era will finally be put to the test.

The two teams have met only once before. MU defeated the Bison, 28-14, in the 1993 NCAA I-AA playoffs. Howard had entered that first round playoff game after finishing the regular season 11-0.

Back in 1993, however, Howard faced a completely different Herd. Gone are coach Jim Donnan, quarterback and son Todd Donnan and tailback Chris Parker. The Bison now have to contend with a new-look Herd featuring new coach Pruett, quarterback Eric Kresser and wide receiver Randy Moss.

Running back Erik Thomas said, "I'm ready to strap it on and go out there and play. It's time to get down to business."

The Herd has been picked by many preseason polls as the top team in the country. Pruett said he is more concerned with seeing his team ranked No. 1 at the end of the season rather than the begining.

ing.
"We can't look too far down
the road. We are just going to
treat every game as the
biggest of the season."

Junior defensive end B.J. Cohen said the team can't afford to look past any oppoGame 1 facts



Howard at Marshall

Game time: 7 p.m.
Site: Marshall Stadium
Records: First game for
both teams.

Last meeting: 1993, Marshall 28, Howard 14 (I-AA playoffs).

Outlook: Marshall is rated No. 1 in the Sports Network I-AA poll. The Bison return 19 starters.

nent and pay too much attention to all the preseason hype.

Cohen said, "Right now, we are concentrating on Howard like it's the only game of the season. We have to treat every game like that if we are going to be successful."

In the past, Howard has been known as a passing team but head coach Steve Wilson said his team is going to try and mix it up a little more.

"We have some good young talent at the running back positions. We hope to have a more balanced attack."

Junior tailback Tyrone Lewis will be the Bison's main running back, but Desmond Wise will also get plenty of opportunites. Howard will still pass, and when they do, expect senior wide receiver Marco Ward to be the primary target for quarterback Ted White.

The battle of the trenches will be important to the Bison as their size (average size of the offensive line is 6-foot-3, 285 pounds) will try to stop the Herd's feared front four of Cohen, John Duncan, Billy Lyon and Ricky Hall. (Hall is starting in place of the regular starter Will Edwards, who is sidelined with a minor knee injury)

Defensively, the Bison start six underclassmen. Three of the underclassmen are in the secondary, which could create problems for Wilson as the Herd is poised to introduce a wide-open passing attack.

Leading the new-look Herd offense will be senior quarter-back Eric Kresser, who beat out sophomore Chad Pennington and junior Mark Zban for the starting role. Kresser, who transferred from Florida will have a talented group of receivers from which to choose. Tim Martin, Randy Moss and Jerrald Long will start and expect Thomas to catch some passes out of the backfield.

Thomas said, "We have so many options on offense,

see **HERD**, page 18

We have some good young talent at the running back positions. We hope to have a more balanced attack."

> — Steve Wilson, Howard coach

Parthenon

Volume 98 • Number 2

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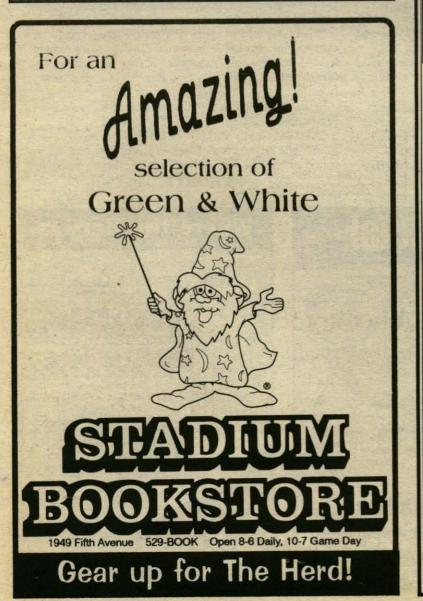
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Parthenon _____ Friday, Sept. 6, 1996 O-f-f-e-n-s-e: Just call it awesome

by CHRIS JOHNSON sports editor

Bobby Pruett has had to make some adjustments since leaving Florida for Marshall, but one thing that should make the transition a little easier is the Herd's potential to put Gator-like numbers on the scoreboard.

With a mixture of proven returnees and a crop of promising transfers, the offense is set to make Southern Conference defensive coordinators have nightmares.

"We have a lot of different options to go to," Pruett said. "There are plenty of guys who have the ability to make big

plays."

One of the transfers, senior quarterback Eric Kresser also comes to Huntington via Gainsville, Fla., where he spent the past two seasons as current Gator quarterback Danny Wuhrful's back-up. Kresser is considered one of the top NFL prospects quarterback in

wasn't handed to him. He had to beat out

he offense has plenty of options, veterans and new players. It is said to be an defensive coordinator's nightmare.

last year's Southern Conference Freshman-ofthe-Year, Chad Pennington and Mark Zban. Pennington, who threw for 2,445 yards and 15 touchdowns last

year will like-

ly be red-

shirted so he

three years of

have

the country, but the MU job eligibility left when the Herd joins the Mid-American Conference in 1997.

will

"It will be hard to sit on the bench after playing in the national championship last year," Pennington said. "But I'll do whatever it takes to help the team win and do my best to learn and improve behind Eric.

With the graduation of Chris Parker and the transfer of Olandis Gary to Georgia, Erik Thomas will be the feature running back. Last season, Thomas rushed for 613 yards and scored nine touch-

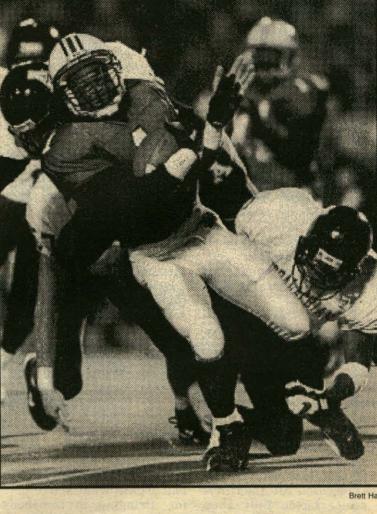
"I'm ready," Thomas said.
"I've added 10 pounds and I've worked with the ball machine to help improve my receiving ability."

The senior running back said he and the rest of the backs will be much more involved with the passing game this year and the offense will be more wide open.

'Last year, teams keyed on Chris Parker," Thomas said. "This year, teams won't know what to expect."

Other running backs expected to help Thomas are Javonne Darling, Doug Chapman and Jason Balwanz. Thomas said it won't matter which of them is in the game because all of them can get the job done.

The Herd receiving corps is perhaps the best in the SC. Two transfers, Jerrald Long from West Virginia University and Randy Moss from Florida State have made the Herd receiving corps the deepest in the SC. Long and Moss are slated to start along with Tim Martin who caught 54 passes for 793 yards and five touchdowns for the Herd



Tim Martin was the leading receiver in the SC last season. He is considered one of the most dangerous players in the league due to his receiving ability and kick returning ability.

last season.

Mark Wicks, Lavorn Colclough, Damone Williams and Anthony Dixon will see plenty of playing time behind the three starting receivers.

mast year, teams keyed on Chris Parker. This year they won't know what to expect." -Erik Thomas

Long said, "We have a lot of guys who can catch the ball and there will be plenty of passes to go around for every-

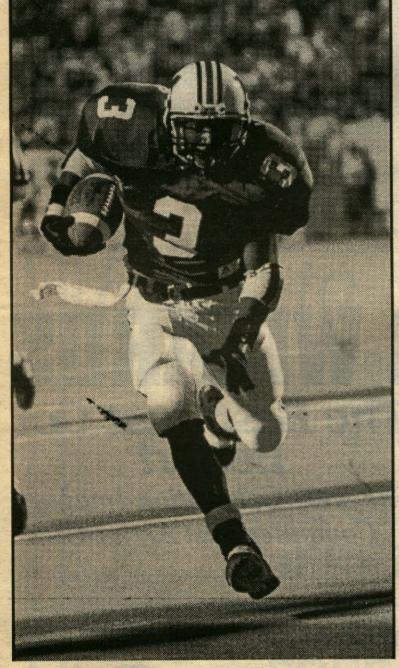
Herd running back

John White will start at tight end replacing all-conference performer Jermaine Wiggins who also transfered to Georgia. Javonne Jenkins will also see playing time at tight end when he recovers from a pre-season knee injury.

The offensive line will be anchored by All-American Aaron Ferguson at right guard. Ferguson has started four years and has caught the eyes of pro scouts as a potential NFL player.

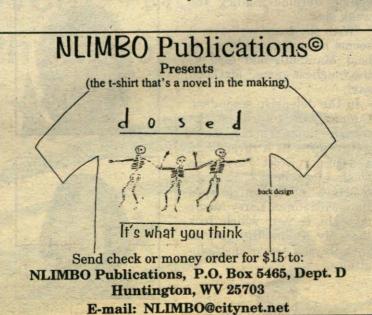
Brian Reed will start at the other guard position and the starting tackles will be Jamie Wilson and Mike Webb. John Wade will start at center. Buck Manning, Mike Guilliams and Bert Scarbrough will serve as valuable backups on the offensive line.

The Herd probabaly won't have any trouble scoring points this year, the only problem will be figuring out which player is going to score. But that's a problem every team would like to have.



Erik Thomas replaced Chris Parker as the feature running back in the offense. Thomas said he is excited about getting the chance to catch passes out of the backfield this year.







Defense poised to perform

by BRIAN HOFMANN

editor

As far as Will Edwards is concerned, opponents can focus all they want on the Thundering Herd's new starting quarterback and new starting wide receivers.

Edwards is a senior nose guard for MU on a defense that returns 10 starters and is quietly building for another strong season while names such as Eric Kresser, Jerrald Long and Randy Moss take the spotlight.

"You can forget about us all you want," Edwards said. "That doesn't bother me, but that's probably the big mis-

"I'll sit in the limelight. That doesn't bother me any. Go ahead and concentrate on them over there - the offense."

In case you couldn't tell, Edwards was being sarcastic. With all the key transfers on offense during the offseason, it might have become easy to forget the Herd's defense.

The unit, however, features two preseason All-Americans in senior tackle Billy Lyon and senior cornerback Melvin Cunningham, four first-team All-Southern Conference members in Lyon, Cunningham, junior end B.J. Cohen and junior linebacker Larry McCloud, and a highly touted Division I-A transfer of its own, senior defensive back Andre Goines of Tulane.

"We should be real strong on defense this year," McCloud said. "We have 10 starters returning, and there's a lot of experience. We have a lot of good depth and we're looking for good things to happen.'

e should be real strong on defense this year. We have 10 starters returning, and there's a lot of experience. We have a lot of good depth and we're looking for good things to happen."

> - Larry McCloud Herd linebacker

Players say little has changed on the defense with the arrival of new coach Bobby Pruett — most of them are in terminology. The defense retains the 4-3 formation it used under former coach Jim Donnan.

And the unit still has high goals, which include a return to the NCAA I-AA national championship.

"During the spring, we weren't catching on," Cohen said. "It was little frustrating because the offense was taking it to us. That's never happened. Everybody's getting a lot more comfortable about what their job is, their responsibility is."

Lyon said Pruett is "one of them guys that comes over, gets into the huddles, hugging you, jumping around and screaming and hollering at you. He just makes everyone else around you do that much

Edwards said Pruett might have shaken up a veteran, yet complacent, defense.

"You get so used to everything," he said, "it gets kind of dull. You're out here playing ball. That's what you're here for. Bringing in somebody new, having a different personality, kind of makes things a little more tough. You don't know what to expect.

The strengths on defense begin up front, where the front four returns.

Cohen is joined by Lyon, Edwards and senior end John

Cohen said, "We feel real comfortable playing with guys that you've been hanging with and you know what they can do."

Edwards, however, will be sidelined with a minor knee injury for Saturday's season opener against Howard at Marshall Stadium, and may sit next week against West Virginia State.

Plugging the hole at nose guard will be sophomore Ricky Hall.

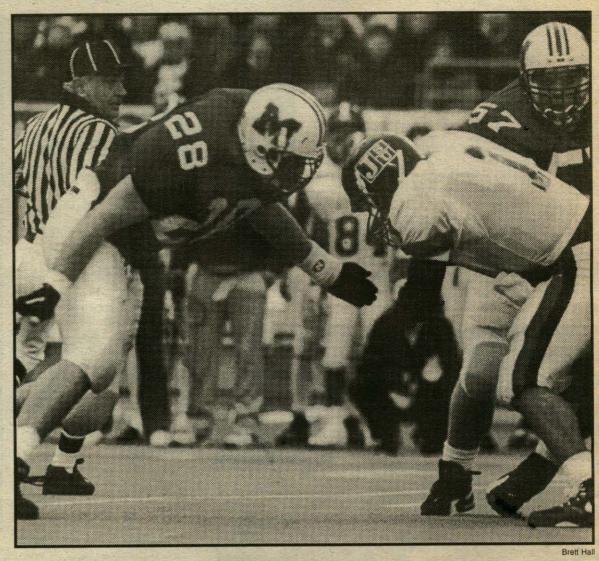
"We're going to take care of business," Cohen said. "We're going to try to put up the same numbers we did last year."

Behind the front four, all three starting linebackers return. McCloud is back as middle linebacker while senior Jermaine Swafford works the strong side and senior Jerome Embry the weak side.

"With the team we have, it seems most teams are out to beat Marshall, and give us the toughest game," McCloud said.

In the defensive secondary, Cunningham returns at left corner, junior Thomas Maxwell returns as a rover back, and junior Scott Smythe is back at free safety.

Goines is expected to split time with junior Larry Moore at right corner, which took the only hit on the defense with Jayson Grayson gradu-



Herd linebacker Larry McCloud (28) and nose guard Will Edwards (57) are two of the 10 starters returning to the defense. McCloud is a preseason All-Southern Conference selection.

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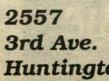
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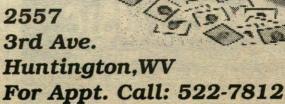
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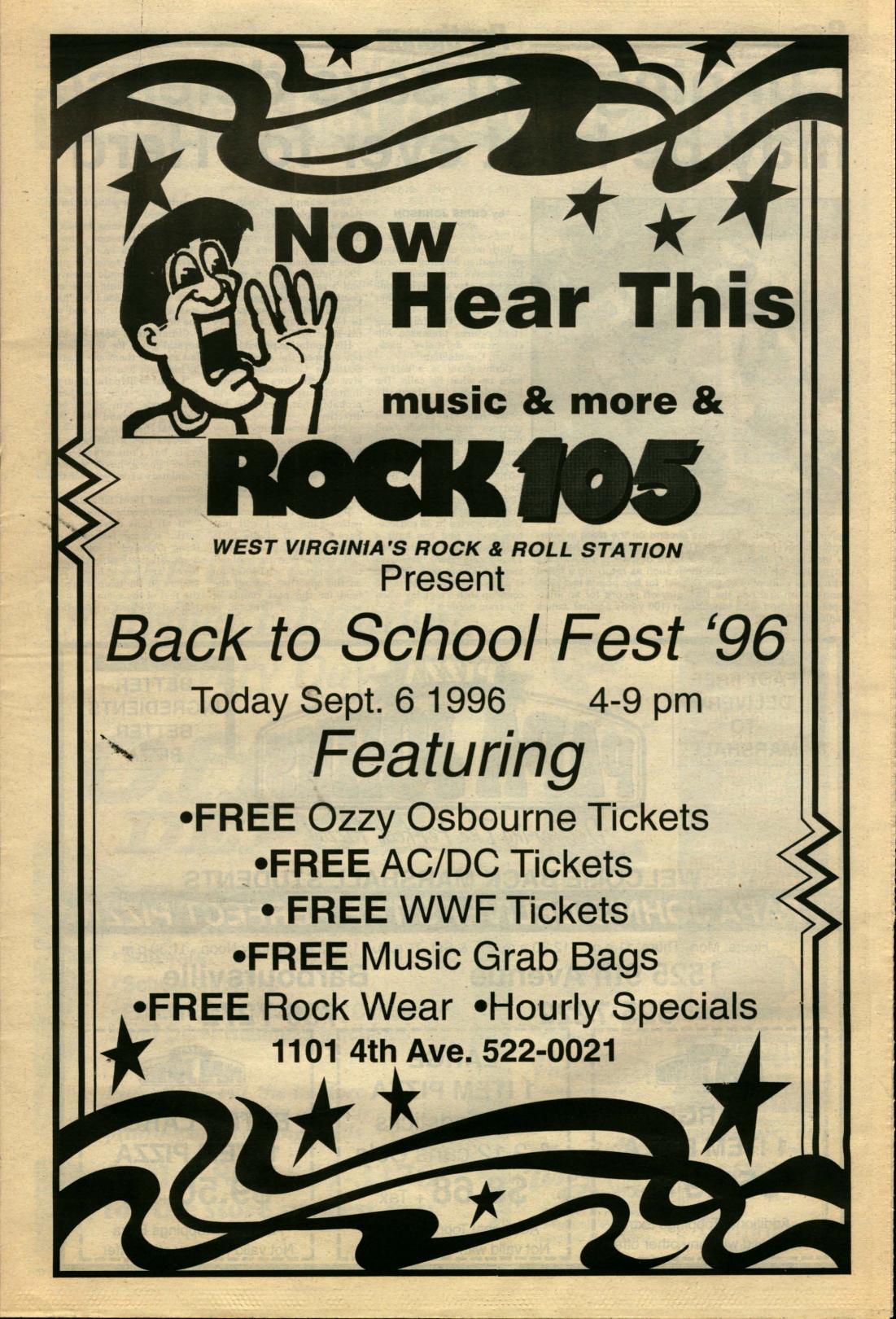
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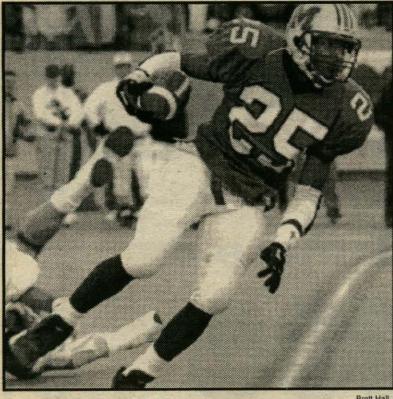








Cunningham says defense may be best ever for Herd



Melvin Cunningham (25) was second on the team in interceptions last year with three. The senior cornerback has nine for his career. He has made a habit of coming up with big plays when the Herd needs them such as returning a failed extra point pass play by the Citadel, for two points last year. Cunningham still has the I-AA play-off record for an interception returned for a touchdown (100 yards against James Madison in 1994).

by CHRIS JOHNSON sports editor

With most of the preseason anticipation focusing towards the passers and receivers, it has been easy to overlook one of the key figures on the other side of the ball.

On defense, the Thundering Herd returns preseason All-American defensive back, Melvin Cunningham.

Cunningham is a cornerback on what he calls "the best" defense in Marshall's history.

"We have 10 experienced starters coming back and that's something that rarely happens at any level," Cunningham said.

The senior cornerback from Red Jacket, W.Va., brings plenty of experience to the Thundering Herd secondary. He has started in 36 consecutive games and has built a reputation as a play maker. Thundering Herd defensive end B.J. Cohen said, "Melvin is a guy who always seems to come up with a big play when the team needs it.

Two examples of Cunningham's big play ability are his record setting 100 yard touchdown return of an interception in the play-offs against James Madison University in 1994 (still a playoff record) and a return of a failed two point conversion against the Citadel last year that proved to be the margin of victory (21-19).

His reputation probably has not escaped the attention of Southern Conference defensive coordinators as Cunningham suspects teams will probably not throw in his direction.

"I think some teams will try to throw away from me because I've been around for a few years," Cunningham said. "I know whoever lines up on the other side will get the job done."

Teams can't avoid me the entire game, so I will just have to do all of the little things to help the team win."

However, playing without the cornerback who lined up on the opposite side of the field for the past couple of seasons, Jayson Grayson, is somthing he is going to have to get used to.

"I'm going to miss Jayson a lot. He is someone who I depended on a lot. If I was having a bad series or just one bad play, I could look over and Jayson would pick me back up. The bond we had was special both on and off the field."

Cunningham said he has several goals for the season but most of them are shared by his other teammates.

"I want to help this team go 15-0, win the Southern Conference, win all of our home games and win the national championship."

Seems like a tall order of goals but Cunningham said those goals have become mandatory every year for the

He said Herd fans shouldn't expect anything less.

"It all boils down to hard work, staying focused and being prepared. I know this team will stay focused, be prepared and work hard. The seniors on the team won't let the rest of the team get sidetracked. We have a job to do."

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1996 Marshall two-deep roster

Offense

Quarterback: Eric Kresser, 6-2, 209, Sr.; Chad Pennington, 6-3, 190, So. or Mark Zban, 6-5, 213, Jr.

Tailback: Erik Thomas, 6-0,

Wide Receiver: Randy Moss, 6-5, 210, Fr.; La Vorn Colclough, 6-4,

Wide receiver: Jerrald Long, 6-1, 189, So.; Mark Wicks, 5-10,

178, Jr.
Slot receiver: Tim Martin, 5-9, Ferguson 176, Sr.; Damone Williams, 5-8, 151, So. Tight end: John White, 6-5, 246, So., Jason

Wellman, 6-5, 265, Sr. Center: John Wade, 6-5, 257, Jr.; Jason

Starkey, 6-4, 233, Fr. Right Guard: Brian Reed, 6-2, 255, Jr.; Bert

Scarbrough, 6-5, 279, So. Left Guard: Aaron Ferguson, 6-3, 280, Sr.,

Buck Manning, 6-6, 360, Sr.

Right Tackle: Jamie Wilson, 6-7, 283, Sr.; Irv

Dotson 6-5, 307, Fr. Left Tackle: Mike Webb, 6-5, 270, Sr.; Mike

Guilliams, 6-5, 296, Fr.

Defense

Defensive tackle: Billy Lyon, 6-5, 290, Sr.; Dewayne Lewis, 6-3, 260, Fr.

Nose Guard: Ricky Hall, 6-2, 250, So.; Joe

Zeglowitsch, 6-3, 253, So.
Left End: John Duncan, 6-3, 235, Sr.; Paul Totten, 6-0, 237, So.

Right End: B.J. Cohen, 6-3, 240, Jr.; Mike Williams, 6-3, 240, Sp.

Linebacker: Jermaine Swafford, 5-11, 221, Sr.; Haman Allen, 6-2, 218, So.

Linebacker: Larry McCloud, 6-4, 230, Jr.; Andre O'Neal, 6-2, 225,

Linebacker: Jerome Embry, 6-0, 216, Sr.; John Grace, 5-10, 185,

Cohen Cornerback: Melvin Cunningham, 5-10, 180, Sr.; B.J. Summers, 5-9, 180, Jr. Cornerback: Larry Moore, 5-9, 165, Jr.; or

Andre Goines, 5-11, 180, Sr. Free Safety: Scott Smythe, 6-1, 195, Sr.; Rogers Beckett, 6-2, 187, Fr.

Rover: Thomas Maxwell, 5-8, 173, Jr.; Jeremy Eastwood, 6-0, 170, or Andre Goines, 5-11, 180, Sr.

Special Teams



Chris Hanson, punter, getting his kicks.

Kicker: Tim Openlander, 5-10,

Punter: Chris Hanson, 6-2, 192,

Snapper: Josh Seamster, 6-2,

Holder: Mark Zban, 6-5, 213, Jr. Returner: Tim Martin, 5-9, 176, Sr.



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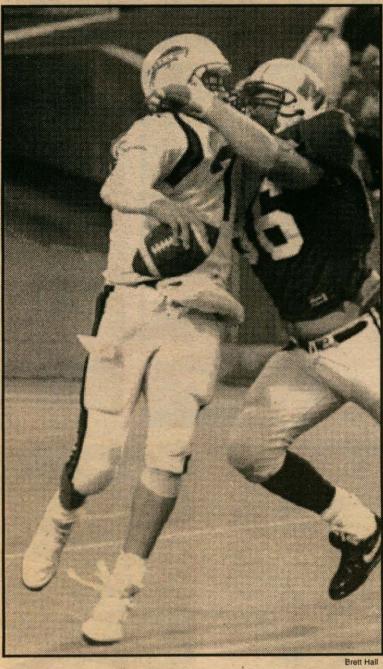
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Lyon not taking anything for granted



Billy Lyon (86) had a team high 46 pressures last season.

by CHRIS JOHNSON sports editor

With everything that happened to the football team in the off-season, Billy Lyon is glad that it's time to get back on the field.

The 6' 5" 292 pound senior from Erlanger, Ky, is considered the best defender on

what is considered the best defensive front four in the Southern Conference and the country.

But Lyon takes all of that attention in stride and doesn't get caught up in personal achievements. This defensive tackle is only concerned with helping the team any way he can and getting back to the national championship. The

Herd lost to Montana 22-20, last year in the championship game

"I was there in 1992 but I didn't get to play," Lyon said, "It's important for us seniors to win it while we are on the field and anything less than the national championship will be unacceptable."

Lyon made comparisons between this year's team and the 1992 Herd team which won the national championship after a disappointing championship game loss the year before. Lyon said the 1992 team and this year's team are senior oriented which is a big reason for the desire to win the champi-

"It's not really pressure, it's just realizing that this is the last chance we have to do it," Lyon said. "We feel like we can win the Southern Conference and the national championship but I'm sure there are other teams out there that will have something to say about that."

Lyon is coming off an All-American season in which he had 91 tackles, 20 of which were for losses, and 10 sacks.

Lyon and his fellow defensive linemen John Duncan, Will Edwards and B.J. Cohen will be playing their third season alongside one another. Lyon said the cohesivness that they share and the experience they bring is a big reason for their success.

"The four of us have been here for a while and we know what to expect of each other," Lyon said. "We know teams can't double team any of us. They have to try and block us one-on-one. They can't stop all of us."

Lyon also had nothing but praise for the rest of the defense. "With the linebackers and secondary we have, the guys up front don't have to worry about someone getting past them."

But Lyon also says the Herd

defense, as impressive as it is, has room for improvement. "We had a number of big

plays busted against us last year. So we'd like to cut down on the number of big plays against us. We aren't taking anything for granted. So we will work just as hard or harder than we did last year."

Lyon said he was shocked to find out during Christmas that Jim Donnan had taken the head coaching job at the University of Georgia, but has gotten along great with new head coach Bobby Pruett and the staff. "Coach Pruett is one of those guys who is always in the huddle with you and jumping around. He is real enthusiastic and he makes everyone around him enthusiastic."

Lyon also said that the addition of players like Eric Kresser and Randy Moss were a bit of a shock. "We kept hearing rumors about all of these players coming, but we didn't know for sure until we got here and saw the names on the roster."

Despite all of the changes in personnel, Lyon said the team has what it takes to do something special this season. "We keep hearing this is the best team Marshall has ever had and we should go 15-0 and win the national championship. The ability is there, we just have to take one game at a time."

the Parthenon

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Friday, Sept. 6, 1996

Moss wants to put past behind him

Freshman receiver ready to play at a higher level

by DAN LONDEREE staff writer

Randy Moss, Marshall's newest addition to its wide receiver corps, arrived on the scene last month under different circumstances than most players.

Some were returning from last year's team, while others were true freshmen, recruited straight from high school. Their arrival was expected, but the arrival of Randy Moss Moss was a very different story,

"Somebody from Marshall, I don't know who, but somebody called and expressed interest in me," Moss said. "I really wanted to play right away, and I knew I had a chance here."

Moss's story is one that has been written about many times. Recruited by Notre Dame, Moss was touted as one of the finest athletes ever to come out of West Virginia. Playing both football and basketball, he helped the DuPont Panthers to state championship games during his high school years. However, something happened during his senior

year. Charges were filed against him when he became involved in a fight at school. Notre Dame then turned its back.

Next, Florida State called and Moss headed south for Coach Bobby Bowden's nationally-ranked Division I program. However, once again circumstances dictated his departure.

Then, Moss found Huntington.

"I saw that Marshall was ranked number one in I-AA football," Moss said. "I knew I could play here, and it seemed like the place to be.'

Coach Bobby Pruett said Moss walked on the team in August. "Randy is a really good kid, and he's a Division I player. He just wants a chance to play, and he'll be starting Saturday."

Moss said things were a little rough when he joined the team.

"As soon as I got here, there was a sense of jealousy. I was perceived as a thug. After coming out here and playing, it died down a little."

Now, he and the other receivers work well together. "It's tough when you've got a couple of transfers who haven't really played together."

Jerald Long, a transfer from WVU, will team with Moss and Tim Martin as starters.

ff Randy is a really good kid. He just wants a chance to play." — Coach Bobby Pruett

Moss was recruited as a Division I player, and he says he is glad Marshall is moving to Division I

"The competition level is going to step up a notch in the 1997 season," Moss said. "I don't think this school has ever really been to a bowl game, at least not in recent years. I think a bowl game would give this program a real boost.'

Moss said he is still looking toward the professional ranks, no matter what school he calls home.

He doesn't talk much about the past, because the future is what matters to him. Right now, his future is Division I-AA Marshall University football and the next level is waiting.



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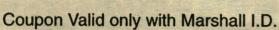
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Thundering

staff writer

Thundering Herd Network, which broadcasts Marshall games over radio and television, named two new staff members in August.

Athletic Director Lance West named Steve Cotton as director of media relations for THN. Cotton succeeds Stan Cotten, who left for a position at Wake Forest University. Cotton will take over the play-by-play for radio broadcasts of Marshall football and basketball games. He will also direct network relations and work extensively in advertising and marketing or promotions.

"Steve has been a part of the Marshall program long enough for us to recognize that he is an excellent fit for this position," said West. "He brings a solid background of both broadcasting skills and marketing techniques to the table."

Keith Morehouse was named as Cotton's counterpart in television broadcasts. He will serve as play-by-play announcer for televised football and basketball games, and will host the Marshall coaches' shows.

Morehouse has worked at WOWK-TV since his graduation from Marshall in 1983, and covered Marshall sports extensively. His father, Gene, was sports information director at Marshall from 1968-

Morehouse said his affiliation with Marshall has come full circle.

"It's not often you get to realize a lifelong dream. To have a chance to work with Marshall University in this capacity is a tremendous opportunity. I can't wait for the chance to sit behind the mike and work for Marshall.'

Opponents in the Sou

The Citadel



Mascot: Bulldogs Location: Charleston, S.C. **Head Coach:** Don Powers **Key Returners:** TE George Hampton, T Derek Beres, G Kaivon Madani, C Shawn Lyons, SE Derek Green, QB Stanley Myers,

HB Garrick Haltiwanger, HB Antonio Smith, DE Dary Myricks, DE Eric Capers, LB Lorenzo Jackson, LB Scott Belcher, CB Reggie Moore, CB Corey Harris, SS Anguan Fist, FS Omar Wilson, K Justin Skinner, P Mike

Key Losses: G E.J. O'Neill, T Michael Wilkerson, FB Jason Pryor, T Lenny Clark, T Brad Keeney, LB Bernard

Outlook: The Bulldogs were winless within the Southern Conference last season, but many of these losses were

by less than a touchdown Experience is on their side as 18 starters and 38 lettermen return for 1996. Look for the Bulldogs to improve this season



Scott Belcher

Appalachian State



Mascot: Mountaineers Location: Boone, N.C. **Head Coach:** Jerry Moore Key Returners: TE Jeff Vollmer, T Chad

Groover, G Shawn Clark, C Scott Kadlub, G Kenny Barbee, T Dave Pastusic, FL Kevin Burton, SE Otis Smith, TB Damon Scott, T Jackie Avery, LB Dexter Coakley, LB Joe DiBernardo, LB Marvin Hodge, K Jay Sutton, P Allen Guinn

Key Losses: QB Scott Satterfield, FB Aldwin Lance, E Shawn Elliott, E Chip Miller, NT Mark Ivey, CB Matt Stevens, CB Jamie Coleman, SS Tony Perry, FS Clarence Sutton

Outlook: Appy compiled a 12-1 record last season, with its only loss coming against Stephen F. Austin in the

Division I-AA playoffs. With 15 starters and 54 lettermen returning, the Mountaineers will present a challenge to SC opponents.



Dexter Coakley

Georgia Southern



Mascot: Eagles Location: Statesboro, Ga. Head Coach: Frank Ellwood Key Returners: C Robert

Moore, G Jamie Glover, T Grant Chestnut, SE Andra Rogers, SE Maurice Bing, QB Kenny Robinson, DE Edward Thomas, DE Derrick-Reeves, T Lee Brooks, WLB D.T. Tanner, MLB Larry Rogers, SLB Chad Nighbert, FS Eric Thigpen, P Ken

Key Losses: T Stacy Moses, G Robert Hadley, FB Chad Holmes, SB Dexter Dawson, SB Marlow Warthen, T Hughie Hunt, CB Marco Bradham, CB Brancis Williams, SS Rob Stockton, K Eric Meng

Outlook: The Eagles compiled a 9-4 record last season, and it posted 1 playoff win before losing to national champion Montana. However, GSU lost 10 starters from

that team



Jamie Clover

East Tennessee State



Mascot: Buccaneers Location: Johnson City, Tenn. Head Coach: Mike Cavan Key Returners: T Wes

Jones, G Sam Haynie, C Justin Calhoun, WR B.J. Adigun, WR Marcus Satterfield, QB Greg Ryan, TB Edward Swint, DE Mark Collins, DE James Russell, T Curtis Eason, T T.J. Weston, LB Mario Hankerson, LB Derek Fudge, SS Mike Scott, PK Jerry Chapman Key Losses: T Mike Pittman, G Mike Fredenberg, FB Kent Hampton, LB Craig Wasik, CB Donnie Abraham, FS Jeff Horton, CB Brandon Rogers, K

Cory Collins Outlook: Although the Citadel is the only SC team ETSU posts a winning all-time record against, they may improve on last year's 4-4 mark



James Russell

Regrettably, all sections are full this semester for Remedial Thermodynamics

Mascot: Location Head Co Key Ret Gadd, C TB Tyro LB Stefa wire, CB Anderso Alligood **Key Los** Quonta' Terrell C Marrio (Randy G LB Carlo Outlook: The Moc gave Ma shall a s last seas

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LB

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Southern Conference

University of Tennessee – Chattanooga

Mascot: Moccasins Location: Chattanooga, Tenn. Head Coach: Buddy Green Key Returners: T Tom Bourne, G Jeff Gadd, C Matt Green, QB Jeff Peters, TB Tyrone Coleman, T Keith Blanks, LB Stefan Alston, LB Antone Goldwire, CB Quasey Vinson, CB Marcelle Anderson, FS Ron Faugue, SS Clint

Key Losses: TE Rusty Wright, T Quonta Vance, G Andy Norman, WR Terrell Owens, FL Derek Hall, FB Marrio Grier, E Corey Wright, E Randy Groover, T Nicara Callaway, LB Carlos Pruitt, P/K Josh Siefken

Outlook: The Mocs gave Marshall a scare last season, losing by only three points. But a 4-7 1995 record and 11 starters lost means an uncertain 1996 season.



Jeff Peters

Virginia Military Institute



Mascot: Keydets Location: Lexington, Head Coach: Bill Stewart Key Returners:

TE Greg Harris, T Eddie Werntz, G Cale Christensen, C Jack Smith, QB Al Lester, TB Thomas Haskins, FB Darrell Summerville, DE Matt Coley, DE Terry Minor, DT Keith Braxton, DT Billy Thomas, LB Kelly Cook, LB Mike Edwards (now at FS), LB Mike Rogers, CB Ron Hill, FS Andre Thornton, SS Cornell Lewis, K Mike Harris, P Howie Lowden

Key Losses: T Mike Tutor, SE Marlon Anderson, SE Jeff Hubbard, FL Tim Williams

Outlook: The Keydets were 4-7 last season. They lost only 4 starters, and are returning 19. Record setting tailback Thomas Haskins returns for his senior season



Thomas Haskins

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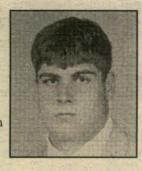
Catamounts Location: Cullowhee, **Head Coach:** Steve Hodgin Key Returners:

TE Kawasak Penn, T Jimmy Butler, G Alex Sprinkle, WR Jerome Lardy, T Dan Best, NG Brian Roseboro, LB Elton Clawson, LB Ben Richardson, CB Donnell Brinson, CB Reggie Chavis, P/PK Ken Hinsley Key Losses: T Trade Elkins G Scott

Stinson, C Wes Greenwell, WR David Patten, FB Michael Stewart, TB Mark Howell, QB Chad Greene, T Derek Summerour, LB William Crocker, LB James Rogers, SS Jeff Rodgers, FS Robert Tucker, DS Brook King Outlook: The Catamounts compiled three wins last year, with their only

two conference wins coming against

The Citadel and VMI. WCU has fewer starters returning than those lost. Coach Steve Hodgin goes into his seventh season with a 27-38 career record



Jimmy Butler

Furman



Mascot: Paladins Location: Greenville, S.C. Head Coach: Bobby Johnson Key Returners: TE Luther Broughton, T Lee Drake, T Brian Nutter, G Greg Sander, FL Josh Cole, QB Braniff Bonaventure, TB Mark Moore, RUE Brian Dailer, T Michale Brown, T Phil Warren, NG Reggie Williams, LB Orlando Ruff, LB Jay Tier, OLB Bernard Scott, CB Kevin Jackson, CB Michael McNeil, FS Jeremy Osburne, SS Seth Ramaley, P Jody Wade Key Losses: G Brian Fisher, C Tommy Jones, SE Adrick Harrison, FB Leonardo McClarty, K Jim Richter Outlook: The Paladins posted a 6-5

record last year, and with 19 of 24 starters returning, Furman will be a team to watch in 1996. Head coach Bobby Johnson guid ed the Paladins to their best



Braniff Bonaventure record in three years last year.

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Martin, Moss, Long combine talents

by DAN LONDEREE staff writer

This week's starting wide receivers reflect offseason changes that have brought new faces to Herd football.

Transfer Jerrald Long, who hails from West Virginia University, will be taking passes from Eric Kresser Saturday night. Long said he parted from WVU to come to Marshall because he liked what was going on in Huntington.

"I like coach [Bobby] Pruett a lot," Long said. "He recruited me out of high school when he was at Tulane University. If they had had a winning program down there back then, I would've played for him."

WVU and Long simply didn't go together, he said.

"I mainly just wasn't happy playing football at WVU," Long said. "Football down here is a lot more fun, and the fans are more enthusiastic."

Long said he knows he will have his share of catches, but he said there are many good receivers on the squad.

"You catch as many as you can, but there are a lot of talented receivers on this team," Long said. "I know the passes will be spread around."

Eric Kresser will be the field general spreading those passes around. Kresser, a transfer from the University of Florida, would have been a backup for Heisman Trophy candidate Danny Wuerffel. Many

ootball down
here is a lot more fun,
and the fans are more
enthusiastic."

— Jerrald Long, Marshall receiver, WVU transfer

critics say Kresser has a shot at playing professional football, and he came to Marshall to display his talents on the field.

Tim Martin, a senior wide receiver who has caught passes from Todd Donnan and Chad Pennigton, said Kresser has a strong arm.

"Kresser throws a good ball," Martin said. "Everything's working just fine so far."

Martin said he looks forward to the national championship, but he thinks a change of venue is in order.

"It's nice to have the game here, but I think it would be good to get away," Martin said. "We play all the playoff games here, and then we go right from exams to the championship game."

"It would be good to go somewhere else for the championship game, like they did in 1991," Martin said. "It would be a bowl-type atmosphere." Jim Donnan guided the Herd to four championship games, but Martin said he has no reason to compare Donnan to Marshall's new coach..

"I don't really get into comparing Donnan to Pruett," Martin said. "It doesn't really matter who the coach is when you've got as many seniors as we have. They're both good coaches and great people."

Freshman receiver Randy Moss, a starter who walked onto the team in August, said he gets along well with Pruett.

"I like Coach Pruett a lot," Moss said. "He likes to joke around with the players, but he is just as serious as anyone else when it comes down to taking care of business."

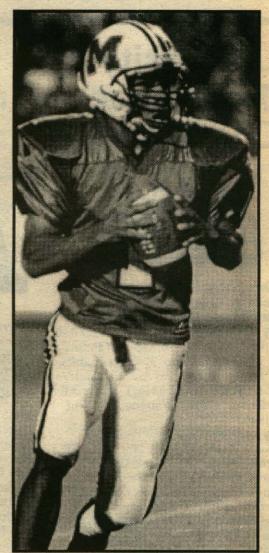
Moss said he doesn't have any expectations for this season.

"I'm just going to go out and execute the plays," Moss said.
"Everything else will take care of itself.

Martin is the only starting wide receiver with experience at Marshall. Long and Moss will play their first game in Herd uniforms this Saturday.

"Saturday night is going to be like playing under the lights in high school again," Long said. "I love playing under the lights. I think we'll put on a show."

Saturday night, Marshall Stadium will welcome new faces along with old as another season begins. Kickoff is 7 p.m., and the lights will be warming up.



Brett Hall

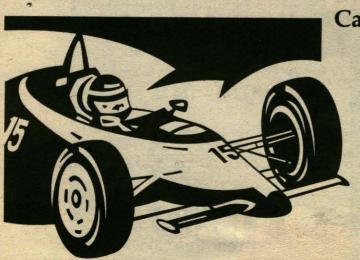
Tim Martin is the only starting receiver who played for the Herd last year.

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Can anybody stop the Herd this season?

A new era of Marshall football is set to begin. There's a new coach, new quarterback, new receivers, new offense and a new attitude.

The only thing that hasn't changed is the team's goals: Win the Southern Conference and win the NCAA I-AA national championship. Every team in the country has similar goals, but in Huntington it has come to be expected that the Thundering Herd is playing for the championship — anything else is a let down.

Just because one of the winningst coaches in the country decided to take a job elsewhere doesn't mean Herd fans should expect anything less than a national championship.

In fact, it would probably be a good idea to start making plans for the Dec. 21 national championship at Marshall Stadium and count on the Herd being there and leaving the SC and I-AA in the dust and entering the Mid-American Conference as national champions.

Bobby Pruett has big shoes to fill by replacing Jim Donnan, but Pruett has enough talent coming back and has brought in enough transfers to give Marshall perhaps the best football team it has ever had.

There will be no Chris
Parker to left following
Jermaine Wiggins in motion.
Parker has graduated and
Wiggins followed Donnan to
Georgia. But we wouldn't see
that this year anyway. If you
plan on attending MU football
games, you had better like the
passing game.

Eric Kresser has come up from Florida, where he grew tired of sitting behind Heisman hopeful Danny Wuerfful. Some may think that's a snotty attitude to have, but NFL scouts say he is one of the top three quarterbacks in the country.

So why did Kresser decide to come to Marshall? Who cares? Let's enjoy him why he's here. Nothing against Chad Pennington or Mark Zban, but Kresser is a different breed of quarterback.

The Herd receiving corps is the best in the country.

Tim Martin was the best receiver in the conference at the end of last season. Now he will fight for playing time as the Herd brought in Randy Moss, a former West Virginia high school superstar who ran into some bad luck at Florida State, and Jerrald Long, who decided he didn't care much for the school up there in Morgantown.



chris **Johnson** Sports editor

Throw in Lavorn Colclough, Damone Williams and Mark Wicks, as well as Erik Thomas out of the backfield, and Pruett himself could play quarterback.

Thomas could have started for any other team in the league last year other than VMI (the Keydets' Thomas Haskins will probably break every record which Parker set for the Herd) and now will be the Herd's feature running back.

Thomas was set to split time with Olandis Gary in the backfield this year, but Gary also followed Donnan to Georgia.

Thomas won't run the ball as much as Parker does, but he will get enough carries to keep teams honest. His biggest asset will be his ability to catch passes out of the backfield — something he probably wants to prove to fans that he can do after his dropped touchdown pass in last year's championship

game against Montana.

As impressive as the offense looks, the defense is still the heart and soul of this team.

Every starter but Jayson Grayson, who graduated, is back for the defense.

There is not a defensive front four as dominant as Marshall's in the country. B.J. Cohen, Billy Lyon, John Duncan and Will Edwards have it all: size, experience, skill and desire. The four combined for 47 sacks last year. That number will increase.

If opposing offenses are lucky enough to get past Lyon and company, they have to deal with a linebacking group led by Larry McCloud, Jerome Embry and Jermaine Swafford that just loves to hit people.

Mr. Excitement is back in the secondary, as Melvin
Cunningham leads the defensive backs who, despite the graduated talents of Grayson, will be fine as Tulane transfer Andre Goines will take over in Grayson's spot.

Cunningham is still the key, because when the Herd needs a big play he will be there.

Scott Smythe may be the most underrated defensive back in the league. Smythe just does his job day in and day out.

Offensive linemen never get any credit but the Herd is talented there as well. All-American William Pannell is gone but Aaron Ferguson and Jamie Wilson are back to anchor the line. Ferguson is one of the top NFL prospects at his position and he proves why every game.

The special teams are even solid as Tim Openlander and Chris Hanson are two of the best kickers in the SC. The only problem is they don't get the opportunity to show their talents very often.

The Herd is simply loaded at every position. The football team is expected to go 15-0.

And that's not far-fetched because the Herd is going to score at will against every team on the schedulle. And no one is going to score that often against MU.

This just might be the best team Marshall has ever had. The Herd definitely will be entertaining.

The games, however, might get a little boring if the team does live up to the expectations.

It's a shame we have to wait until next year to play WVU.



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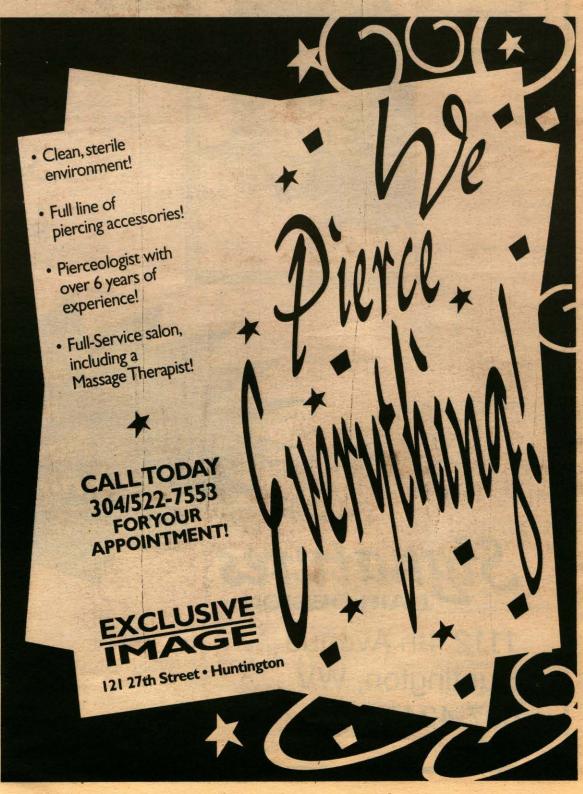
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Roster for 1996 season

No.	Name	Pos.	CI.	Ht.	Wt.	No.	Name	Pos.	CI.	Ht.	Wt.
1	Tim Martin	WR	Sr.	5-9	176	45	Jermaine Swafford	LB	Sr.	5-11	221
2	Mark Wicks	WR	Jr.	5-10	178	46	Eric Pinkerton	LB	Fr.	6-2	215
3	Erik Thomas	RB	Sr.	6-0	180	47	Greg Minor	FB	Fr.	6-2	230
4	John Grace	DB	Fr.	5-10	185	48	Haman Allen	LB	So.	6-2	218
5	B.J. Cohen	DE	Jr.	6-3	240	49	Jason Safford	LB	So.	6-1	222
6	Ricky Hall	DL	So.	6-2	250	50	Antony Beckett	DE	Fr.	6-4	230
7	Mark Zban	QB	Jr.	6-5	213	51	Ray Shupe	OL	Fr.	6-2	268
8	B.J. Summers	DB	Jr.	5-9	185	52	Brian Reed	OL	Sr.	6-2	255
9	Thomas Maxwell	DB	Jr.	5-8	173	53	Josh Seamster	OL	So.	6-2	225
10	Chad Pennington	QB	So.	6-3	190	54	Richard D'Andrea	LB	Fr.	6-0	210
11	Larry Moore	DB	Jr.	5-9	165	55	Andre O'Neal	LB	Fr.	6-2	225
12	Andy Cowen	DB	Fr.	6-1	170	56	Ryan Lipscomb	LB	Sr.	5-11	215
13	Jesse Milner	QB	Fr.	6-6	226	57	Will Edwards	DL	Sr.	5-9	256
14	Damone Williams	WR	So.	5-8	151	58	Paul Totten	DE	So.	6-0	237
15	Eric Kresser	QB	Sr.	6-2	209	59	Aaron Ferguson	OL.	Sr.	6-3	280
16	Jerome Embry	LB	Sr.	6-0	216	60	Jamie Wilson	OL	Sr.	6-7	283
17	Tim Pruett	QB	Fr.	6-1	218	61	Shawn Pratt	OL	Fr.	6-4	285
18	LaVorn Colclough	WB	So.	6-4	205	62	Jason Starkey	OL	Fr.	6-4	233
19	Tim Dempsey	DB	So.	6-0	192	63	Mike Guilliams	OL	Fr.	6-5	296
20	Javonne Darlin	RB	Jr.	5-9	207	64	Dewayne Lewis	DE	Fr.	6-3	260
21	Scott Smyth	DB	Sr.	6-1	195	65	Bert Scarbrough	OL.	Fr.	6-5	279
22	Doug Chapman	RB	Fr.	5-11	195	66	John Wade	OL	Jr.	6-5	257
23	Curtis Sanders	DB	Fr.	5-9	170	67	Shaun Saunders	OL	Fr.	6-2	243
24	Tyrant Davis	DB	Fr.	5-11	180	68	Johny Robinson	DL	Jr.	6-1	275
25	Melvin Cunningham	DB	Sr.	5-10	180	69	Irv Dotson	OL	Fr.	6-5	307
26	Shauncey Wynn	DB	Fr.	5-11	174	72	Jimmy Cabellos	OL	Fr.	6-4	290
27	Ryan Moore	DB	Fr.	5-10	194	73	Shawn Tignor	DE	Fr.	6-5	225
28	Larry McCloud	LB	Jr.	6-4	230	75	Sid Cisco	OL	Fr.	6-6	300
29	Bradley Prather	FB-LB		6-1	240	76	Matt Kay	DE	Fr.	6-4	252
30~	Doug Hodges	RB	Fr.	5-10	190	77	Mike Webb	OL	Sr.	6-4	275
31	Jihad Morris	RB N	Fr.	6-1	200	78	Jason Wellman	OL	Sr.	6-5	265
32	Llow Turner	DB	Fr.	6-0	184	79	Buck Manning	OT	Sr.	6-6	360 155
33	Chris O'Neal	PK	So.	5-5	175	80	Tyson Hagale	WR	Fr.	6-1	261
34	Lamar Martin	DB	Fr.	6-2	185	81	Javon Jenkins	TE	So.	6-4 6-5	182
35	Seth Lyle	WR-DI		6-3	190	82	John Cooper	WR	Fr.	6-2	220
36	Andre Goins	DB	Sr.	5-11	180	83	Glenn Brammer	TE	Fr.	6-5	240
37	Anthony Dixon	DB	Jr.	5-10	190	84	Jarrod Keely	DE DE	So. Fr.	6-7	225
38	Jeremy Eastwood	FS	Jr.	6-0	170	85	Paul Toviessi		Sr.	6-5	290
39	Jason Balwanz	RB	Fr.	5-11	190	86	Billy Lyon	DL TE	So.	6-5	246
40	Tim Openlander	PK	Sr.	5-10	173	87	John White	WR	Fr.	6-5	210
41	Chris Hanson	P-K	So.	6-2	192	88	Randy Moss	WR	So.	6-1	189
42	Rogers Beckett	DB	Fr.	6-2	187	89	Jerrald Long	TE	Fr.	6-3	227
43	Derrick Walker	LB	So.	5-11	192	90	Brad Estes	16		0.0	
44	Albert Barber	LB	Sr.	6-0	225						

Special teams play big role

by CHRIS JOHNSON sports editor

When a football team scores a lot of points or has a tough defense, the special teams sometimes are forgotten.

Even if that turns out to be the case with the Herd, head coach Bobby Pruett is glad to have the special teams that he has.

"We have some talented players on the special teams," Pruett said. "And that's important because a lot of times games are won or lost by the special teams.

All-conference place kicker Tim Openlander is back for the Herd. Openlander kicked a school record 19 field goals last year.

Openlander said, "People overlook the special teams until the game is on the line and a big kick is needed. It's just the pressure of the position.

Chris Hanson returns as the Herd punter. He averaged 37.3 yards per kick last year.

Tim Martin will once again be the primary kick returner and punt returner.



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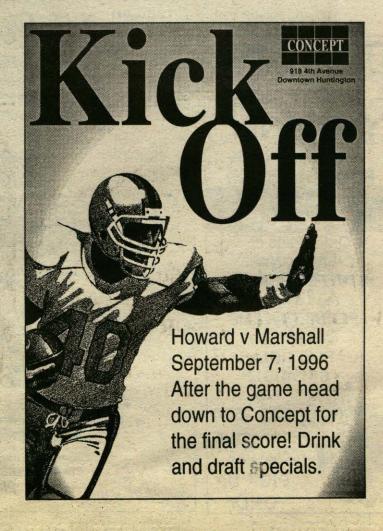
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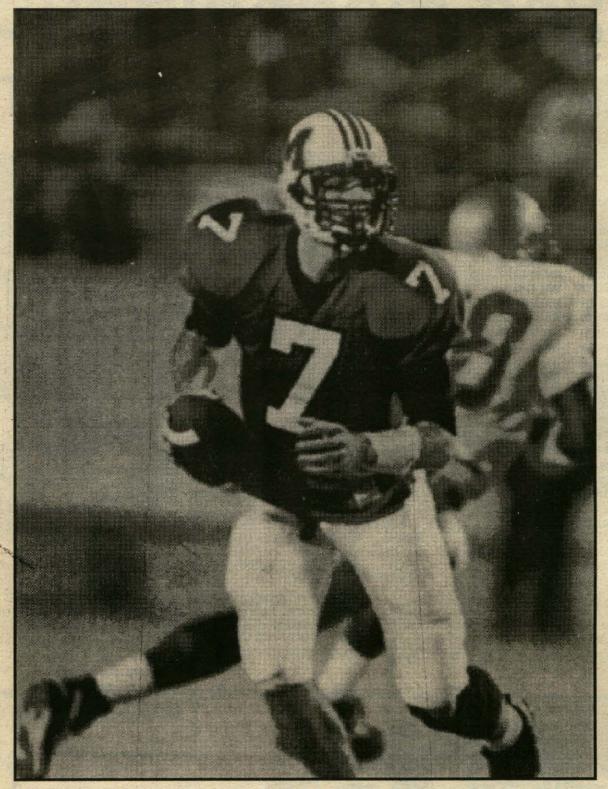
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Cedric Watson	DE	Fr.	6-2	220
Girardie Mercer	DE	Fr.	6-0	192
Mike Williams	DE	So.	6-3	240
Billy Gregory	DT	So.	6-3	258
John Duncan	DE	Sr.	6-3	235
Joe Zeglowitsch	De.	So.	6-3	253
Ron Puggi	DE	Fr.	6-3	225
Dylan Evans	DL	Fr.	6-1	299
	Mike Forbes Cedric Watson Girardie Mercer Mike Williams Billy Gregory John Duncan Joe Zeglowitsch Ron Puggi	Mike Forbes DE Cedric Watson DE Girardie Mercer DE Mike Williams DE Billy Gregory DT John Duncan DE Joe Zeglowitsch De. Ron Puggi DE	Mike Forbes Cedric Watson DE Fr. Cedric Watson DE Fr. Girardie Mercer DE Fr. Mike Williams DE So. Billy Gregory DT So. John Duncan DE Sr. Joe Zeglowitsch De. So. Ron Puggi DE Fr.	Mike Forbes Cedric Watson DE Fr. 6-6 Cedric Watson DE Fr. 6-2 Girardie Mercer DE Fr. 6-0 Mike Williams DE So. 6-3 Billy Gregory DT So. 6-3 John Duncan DE Sr. 6-3 Joe Zeglowitsch De. So. 6-3 Ron Puggi DE Fr. 6-3





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Top, Damone Williams (14), Richmond, Va., sophomore, earned accolades as the most improved receiver in spring ball. (Photo by Brett Hall)

Left, Mark Zban (7), Huntington senior, started the 1995 season as the No. 2 quarterback. He suffered a knee injury in his first start against Georgia Southern last year. (Photo courtesy of Marshall Sports Information)

Above, linebacker Jermaine Swafford (45) Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., senior, and Billy Lyon (86), Erlanger, Ky., senior defensive lineman are two of 10 returning starters from last year's team. (Photo by Brett Hall)



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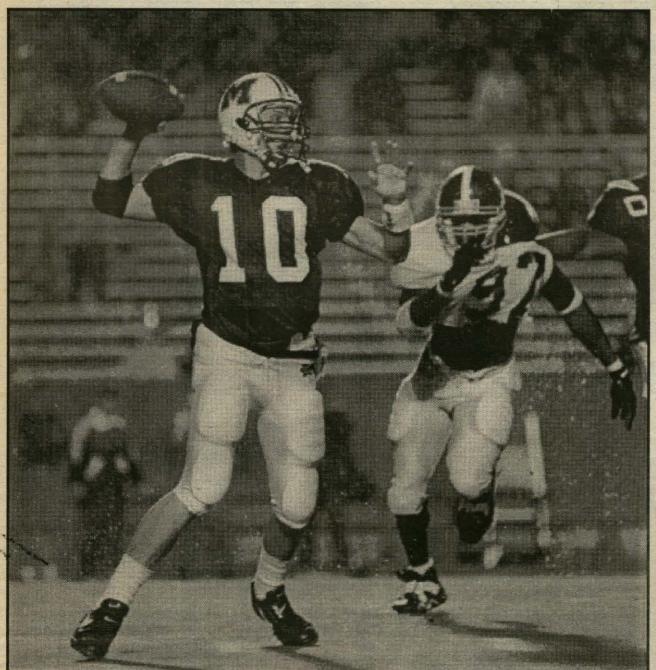
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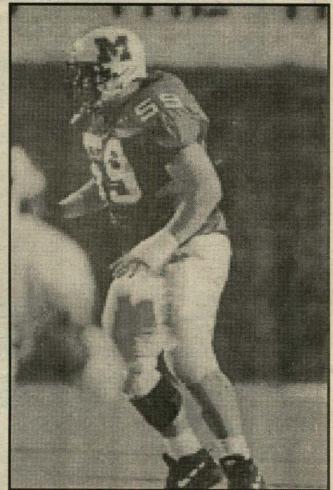
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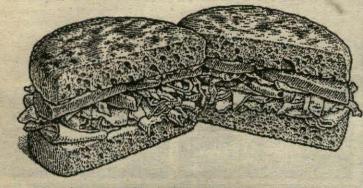
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Left: Chad Pennington (10), Knox-ville, Tenn., sophomore, earned the title of Southern Conference Freshman of the Year in 1995. (Photo by **Brett Hall)**

Parthenon

Upper right: Aaron Ferguson (59), Blountville, Tenn., senior, has started every game (42 in a row) since Sept. 18, 1993. Lower right: Jerome Embry (16), Winchester, Ky., senior, was elect-ed team captain in 1995.



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MU in preseason polls

Street & Smith's

Friday, Sept. 6, 1996

- 1. Marshall
- 2. Montana
- 3. Northern Iowa
- 4. Murray State
- 5. Hofstra
- 6. S.F. Austin
- 7. McNeese State
- 8. Appalachian State
- 9. Liberty
- 10. Southern
- 11. Eastern Kentucky
- 12. S.C. State
- 13. Idaho State
- 14. Jackson State
- 15. Indiana State
- 16. Troy State
- 77. Furman
- 18. Middle Tenn. State
- 19. Florida A&M
- 20. Eastern Illinois

Athlon's

- 1. Marshall
- 2. Delaware
- 3. Murray State
- 4. Montana
- 5. McNeese State
- 6. Appalachian State
- 7. S.F. Austin
- 8. Northern Iowa
- 9. William & Mary
- 10. Rhode Island
- 11. Southern
- 12. Eastern Kentucky
- 13. Youngstown State
- 14. Troy State
- 15. Georgia Southern
- 16. Northern Arizona
- 17. Florida A&M
- 18. Middle Tenn. State
- 19. Grambling
- 20. SW Missouri State

The Sporting News

- 1. Montana
- 2. Appalachian State
- 3. Marshall
- 4. Delaware
- 5. Northern Iowa
- 6. Murray State
- 7. Connecticut
- 8. McNeese State
- 9. Troy State
- 10. Liberty
- 11. Hofstra
- 12. Eastern Kentucky
- 13. S.F. Austin
- 14. Southern
- 15. Rhode Island
- 16. Middle Tenn. State
- 17. Hampton
- 18. Furman
- 19. Idaho State
- 20. Jackson State

Bob Griese's

- 1. Marshall
- 2. S.F. Austin
- 3. McNeese State
- 4. Northern Iowa
- 5. Delaware
- 6. Montana
- 7. Appalachian State
- 8. Hofstra
- 9. Eastern Kentucky
- 10. Southern
- 11. Murray State
- 12. Jackson State
- 13. SW Missouri State
- 14. Weber State
- 15. Middle Tenn. State
- 16. Georgia Southern
- 17. Indiana State
- 18. Connecticut
- 19. Troy State
- 20. Northern Arizona

HERD

from page two

teams aren't going to know what hit them."

Defensively, the Herd returns all but one starter from a defense that allowed only 17 points per game last year.

Lyon said, "We are going to do a lot of the same things on defense that we did last year as far as blitzing and formations. The defense has pretty much stayed the same, only the terminology has changed."

Injury-wise the Herd is in decent shape. Edwards will miss the game but should be ready to go next week. Safety Scott Smythe is recovering from a broken nose but is expected to start.

Back-up defensive back B.J. Summers and tight end Javone Jenkins probably will be kept out of action as both are recovering from knee injuries.

Howard comes into the game as an underdog and White realizes that.

"For us to stay even close to this Marshall team, we have to play mistake free football. They are very talented, probably the best team in I-AA. But we won't back down from them, but they can beat you in a variety aways and beat you soundly."



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PRUETT

from page one

about Marshall is everyone is united to help each other; there are no antiathletic feelings."

Pruett knows Marshall has been ranked No. 1 in several Division I-AA preseason polls.

He leans back in his chair as he thinks about the Herd's final season in this division.

"I think we have a chance to have a big year," he says. "But being ranked No. 1 in December is the most important thing."

With many changes coming over the past year, Pruett says Marshall football will have a new look.

"It's like opening a new business or a new firm," he says. "Everyone's excited, including all the new players and the new staff. But if we have some glitches, we'll have to come back and work on them."

Pruett sees himself as a link in a chain that has grown stronger with each football coach.

"The thing that I think about is the history of football," he says. "Sonny Randle, Stan Parrish, George Chaump, Jim Donnan ... they all

veryone's excited, including all the new players and the new staff. But if we have some glitches, we'll have to come back and work on them."

Parthenon —

— Bob Pruett, head football coach

improved the program with each year. I'm here to take it to the next level; to improve it even more."

Pruett says each year brings with it better players and better recruiting.

"As far as a recruiting base for Division I football, it'll be easier to measure that in December," he says. "Each year we will get better."

One game that has Huntington on its edge is the battle with West Virginia University next season. Pruett seems calm when asked about

"I honestly haven't thought about it that much to this point," he says. "All I know is, it will be a big game."

With the move to I-A and the Mid-American Conference just a year away, Marshall has witnessed a mass exodus from its athletic program. Donnan, Pruett's predecessor, went to Georgia during Christmas break last year. Head basketball coach Billy Donovan left for Florida last spring. Athletic director Lee Moon took a job with the University of Wyoming over the summer. And just last week, sports information director Gary Richter moved to the University of Texas-El Paso.

"I think these moves are a tribute to the Marshall fans and the administration," Pruett says. "Marshall attracts outstanding people, and their departures represent capitalism at its finest."

Pruett says he believes Marshall has been able to improve itself by attracting even better people to fill the open positions.

"This is a plus for Marshall University," he says. "From the television packages to the recruiting budget, it's all a product of Huntington and the support system contained within.'

Pruett looks out the window once more at the field where he soon will stand and pace the sidelines.

"We've got a big challenge coming up this weekend," he says. "Howard is a playoff-caliber team."

Pruett's glance now turns toward his watch. He stands and surveys his surroundings as his day continues. The test is coming.

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staff report

Students who normally park in the Marshall Stadium and 3rd Avenue lots are reminded to move their vehicles on football game days.

Spaces in those lots, which are open to students on weekdays, are sold to spectators on Saturdays the Thundering Herd football team is at home, said Clark Haptonstall, sports information director. The first home game is 7 p.m. Saturday against Howard.

Students should have their cars moved by 7 a.m., Haptonstall said, to give tailgaters ample time to set up.



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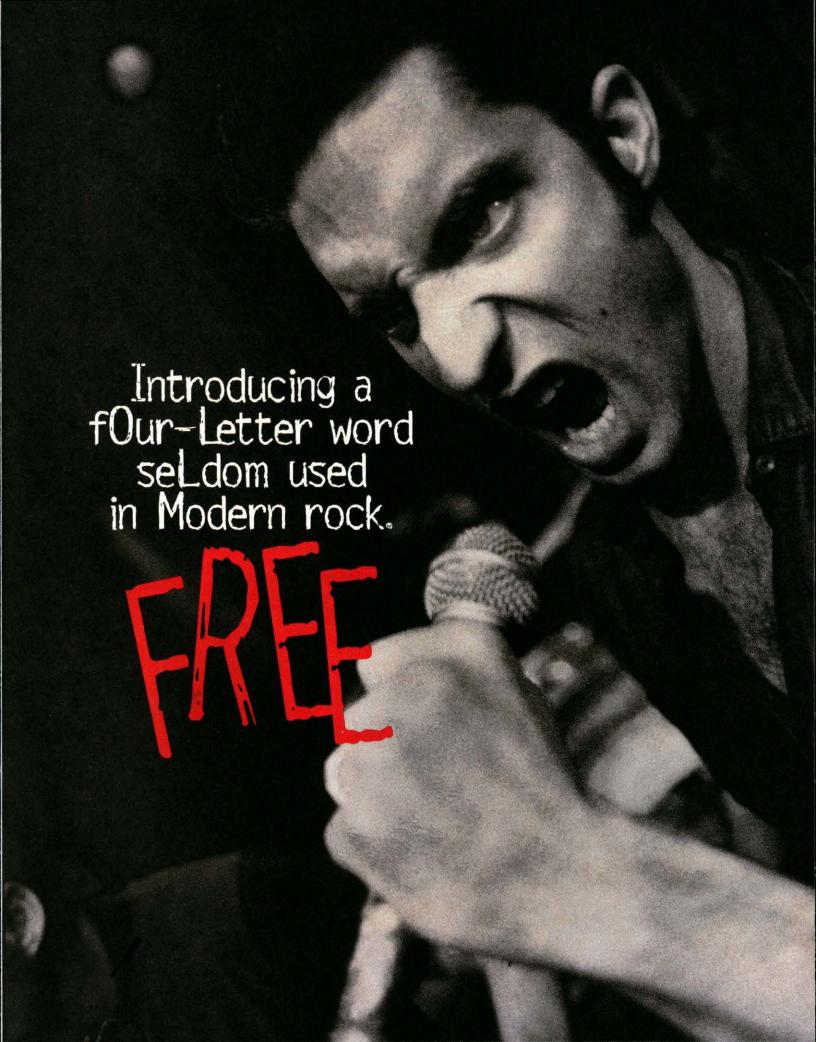
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