8-30-2013

The Parthenon, August 30, 2013

Rebecca Stephens
Parthenon@marshall.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon

Recommended Citation
http://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon/239
Football Edition 2013

Playing for the Front

269030
GLENNS SPORTING GOODS
FRONT PAGE STRIP PAR
6 x 3.0
The Ohio Bobcats

- Location: Athens, Ohio
- Mascot: Bobcats
- 2012 record: 6-6, 2-5 in MAC
- Key players: Dwayne Nam给别人

The Gardner-Webb Bulldogs

- Location: Boiling Springs, S.C.
- Mascot: Bulldogs
- 2012 record: 3-8, 1-4 in Big South
- Key players: Seth Council (TS), Tanner Burch (LB)

The Southern Miss Golden Eagles

- Location: Hattiesburg, Miss.
- Mascot: Golden Eagles
- 2012 season record: 12-1-0, 6-0 in C-USA
- Key players: Rahkon Nance-Rockers (T), Donovan Wilson (LB)

The University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers

- Location: Birmingham, Ala.
- Mascot: Blazers
- 2012 record: 3-8, 3-5 in C-USA
- Key players: Harris Means (QB), Austin Brown (QB)

The Florida International Golden Panthers

- Location: Miami, Fla.
- Mascot: Golden Panthers
- 2012 season record: 5-7, 2-3 in C-USA
- Key players: Kejuan Carico (RB), Thomas Rice (WR)

The East Carolina Pirates

- Location: Greenville, N.C.
- Mascot: Pirates
- 2012-13 season record: 8-4, 4-4 in C-USA
- Key players: Brandon Crum (QB), Devonte Johnson (LB)

The Florida Atlantic Owls

- Location: Boca Raton, Fla.
- Mascot: Owls
- 2012 season record: 5-7, 2-4 in C-USA
- Key players: Vachon Nunez (QB), Devonte Johnson (LB)

The Miami (OH) Red Hawks

- Location: Miami, Ohio
- Mascot: Red Hawks
- 2012 season record: 6-6, 3-5 in MAC
- Key players: Dwayne Nam给别人

The Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders

- Location: Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- Mascot: Blue Raiders
- 2012 record: 5-2, 2-1 in C-USA
- Key players: Rakeem Nunez-Roches (T), Deron Wilson (CB)

The Virginia Tech Hokies

- Location: Blacksburg, Va.
- Mascot: Hokies
- 2012 season record: 9-4, 4-4 in ACC
- Key players: Keyarris Garrett (WR), Demarco Nelson (S)

The UT-San Antonio Roadrunners

- Location: San Antonio, Texas
- Mascot: Roadrunners
- 2012 season record: 8-6, 2-3 in WAC
- Key players: Steven Harris (QB), Shaw Harris (LB)

The Florida International Golden Panthers

- Location: Miami, Fla.
- Mascot: Golden Panthers
- 2012 season record: 5-7, 2-3 in C-USA
- Key players: Kejuan Carico (RB), Thomas Rice (WR)

The Florida Atlantic Owls

- Location: Boca Raton, Fla.
- Mascot: Owls
- 2012 season record: 5-7, 2-4 in C-USA
- Key players: Vachon Nunez (QB), Devonte Johnson (LB)
Cato, Marshall offense continues to improve

By BRAXTON CRISP

THE PARTHENON

When comparing pictures from three years ago to now, the physical changes are plain for Rainbow Cato, but there aren’t the only changes for the new junior quarterback for the Thundering Herd. He’s also evolved into being a smarter quarterback as well.

“Those are times when he’d check to something [change the play at the line of scrimmage] and I’m sitting there thinking ‘That’s exactly what I wanted him to do,’” offensive coordinator Bill Legg said of Cato’s understanding of the offense.

Stories of that nature are a far cry from the stories of Cato’s freshman season, which featured the fumbling fumbling of the phone up to the coach’s box in frustration during the monsoon-like game against UCF in Orlando. That move got Cato benched for three games until midway through the Tulsa game in 2011, when his replacement, Al Grisam, was injured.

Cato has grown mightily from that 2011 season as well. He stepped on campus at around 160 pounds, and now through his second summer of strength and conditioning, he’s grown into a 188-pound player with much improved arm strength.

That arm strength and improved football IQ fueled Cato with having a second summer of strength and conditioning, he has grown into a 188-pound player with much improved arm strength.

“I think the coaches actually got that idea from us. We didn’t talk about taking our names off, we were just focused on being the Herd and whatever the Huntington community as a whole,” junior wide receiver Tommy Shuler said. “We don’t care who you are, we know our team is strong enough. If we go out there and we’re on the same page everything will be great for us.”

Senior defensive ends Jeremiah Taylor and Alex Bazzie took the idea of something to prove yourself and ran with it.

They said the team needs to prove itself to the world – to themselves – and to the community.

“We know if we stick together, nobody can beat us,” junior wide receiver Tommy Shuler said. “We don’t care who you are, we know our team is strong enough. If we go out there and we’re on the same page everything will be great for us.”

Senior defensive ends Jeremiah Taylor and Alex Bazzie took the idea of something to prove yourself and ran with it.

“You always felt like if you didn’t like where you are, you have to change something” Holliday said. “Number one you seek extremely hard to become a great football team. There’s a lot of teams out there that are talented teams, as far as athleticism and personnel go, but in order to win you have to have a great team. So we really wanted to emphasize that.”

You might think the Marshall players were upset with not having their names on their jerseys, but they actually welcomed it with open arms because they knew there is still something to prove.

“Playing for the front is a testament to how well Cato and Legg work together. During the 2013 season, the quarterback position was in flux with Cato starting some games, then Graham, then back to Cato. That made it a little difficult for Legg to grow accustomed to the habits and abilities of the quarterback he was calling plays for. Now with Cato being starter all of 2012, Legg and Cato are on the same page with no confusion. That bond is growing even stronger in preparation for the 2013 season because Legg is now the quarterbacks coach in addition to being the offensive coordinator and play caller.

“There are times when he turns and he’s about to give a signal to the box, and I’ve already called it,” Legg said. “With Cato and Legg being on the same page and having the kind of working chemistry they do, that allows Legg to be more aggressive in his play calling because he knows what Cato is capable of.”

Flash back to 2011 once again, and Herd fans remember that the most memorable play of that season came late in the season once Legg and Cato had built a rapport. “The Catch” by departed receiver Aaron Dobson against East Carolina comes to mind on that list of memorable plays, along with long receptions by Dobson and Jermaine Johnson in the Beef ‘n’ Brady’s Bowl.

In 2012, Tommy Shuler and Gator Hoskins were prime targets for Cato for those key receptions. Now in 2013, everyone, including Cato and Legg, will have to see what the next evolution in the quarterback from Cato for these key receptions. Now in 2013, everyone, including Cato and Legg, will have to see what the next evolution in the quarterback from...
By ADAM ROGERS

The Parthenon

When Marshall dukes it out with former Mid-American Conference rival Miami (Ohio) on Saturday, one Thursday during Herd play will be walking out on the field with a scholarship in hand after last season’s award-worthy performance.

Sophomore punter Tyler Furrey will be the first Marshall walk-on to earn a scholarship in the history of the program.

Furrey joined the Herd in April of 2012 and has been the starting punter for the last two seasons. During his junior season, Furrey averaged 45.2 yards per punt, which is good enough for second place in the Mid-American Conference and fifth in the nation.

“I don’t have a problem playing the role of walking-on, the name. I think this is the best thing to do to build up the guys on the team and teach them that the most important thing is the name on the front, not the back,” said Furrey.

The new marketing has been adjusted to this new angle, noting the slogan ‘We play for the green.’

“It’s a good theme for the season,” Scroggins said. “I might not like not knowing who some of them are, but I think it’s a good thing.”

As just the players have been through intense preseason workouts, the Marshall faithful have been preparing for Saturday at 7 p.m. Judes has been cooking and preparing food all week for herrels.

“Absolutely low games at the Jones,” Judes said. “The atmosphere is impossible to describe with words. Everything from tailgating to the stadium, it’s an amazing experience to be a part of.”

With anticipation, some hype, some hope, some might think that Marshall may be getting overhyped and moaning too much pressure; but Scroggins and Judes do not share that concern.

“I’d like to think we aren’t getting over-hyped,” Judes said. “As a longtime fan, I think we are going to be as good as we ever been and get ready to go down when the season starts. But I think this year will be different.”

“The hype is well deserved for this team, and I hope to see them live up to it!” Judes said.

Scroggins and Judes, like so many other Marshall fans, will get their answers Saturday. If not, maybe a little more hype wouldn’t hurt.

Calister Smith can be contacted at smith1650@marshall.edu.

The hyped-up atmosphere is impossible to describe with words. Everything from tailgating to the stadium, it’s an amazing experience to be a part of. “I’d like to think we aren’t getting over-hyped,” Judes said. “As a longtime fan, I think we are going to be as good as we ever been and get ready to go down when the season starts. But I think this year will be different.”

“The hype is well deserved for this team, and I hope to see them live up to it!” Judes said.

Scroggins and Judes, like so many other Marshall fans, will get their answers Saturday. If not, maybe a little more hype wouldn’t hurt.

Calister Smith can be contacted at smith1650@marshall.edu.

Williams: walk-on to semi-finalist

By ADAM ROGERS

The Parthenon

With his freshman year behind him, Marshall wide receiver Tommy Schuler became a prime target for head coach Doc Holliday.

Holliday, he envisions 12 or 13 different receivers had touch catching the ball this season.

So far this season, Schuler returns as the team’s lead wide receiver. He is expected to see an increased number of playing time this season. Schuler said he is motivated to get back on the field.

“I love that,” Scroggins said. “It’s the first time since Punter Ryan Furrer isp gets the fresher wind and the wind really steps up. That’s what I’m hoping, anyway. Finally, you can play in cold weather.”

Schuler, unlike Furrey, was not a walk-on in high school. He inherited a talented staff at Miami (Ohio) and was able to sell his services to several Division I colleges before deciding to join the Marshall Football program.

“I don’t have a problem with that,” Schuler said. “I think this is the best thing to do to build up the guys on the team and teach them that the most important thing is the name on the front, not the back.”

The new marketing has been adjusted to this new angle, noting the slogan ‘We play for the green.’

“It’s a good theme for the season,” Scroggins said. “I might not like not knowing who some of them are, but I think it’s a good thing.”

As just the players have been through intense preseason workouts, the Marshall faithful have been preparing for Saturday at 7 p.m. Judes has been cooking and preparing food all week for herrels.

“Absolutely low games at the Jones,” Judes said. “The atmosphere is impossible to describe with words. Everything from tailgating to the stadium, it’s an amazing experience to be a part of.”

With anticipation, some hype, some hope, some might think that Marshall may be getting overhyped and moaning too much pressure; but Scroggins and Judes do not share that concern.

“I’d like to think we aren’t getting over-hyped,” Judes said. “As a longtime fan, I think we are going to be as good as we ever been and get ready to go down when the season starts. But I think this year will be different.”

“The hype is well deserved for this team, and I hope to see them live up to it!” Judes said.

Scroggins and Judes, like so many other Marshall fans, will get their answers Saturday. If not, maybe a little more hype wouldn’t hurt.

Calister Smith can be contacted at smith1650@marshall.edu.

The hype is well deserved for this team, and I hope to see them live up to it!” Judes said.

Scroggins and Judes, like so many other Marshall fans, will get their answers Saturday. If not, maybe a little more hype wouldn’t hurt.

Calister Smith can be contacted at smith1650@marshall.edu.
THUNDERING HERD STATS (2012 SEASON) and PROJECTED STARTERS

POUNDS PER GAME

MU 40.9
OPP 43.1

OFFENSIVE PRODUCTION

RUSHING

K. Groves (737 yards)
S. Butler (500 yards)
R. Watson (380 yards)

RECEIVING

T. Shuler (1,138 yards)
A. Dobson* (679 yards)
A. Wilson* (741 yards)

STATISTICS AND ROSTER INFORMATION COURTESY OF HERDZONE

RUSHING

MU 2030 yards 31.7%
OPP 1653 yards 31.7%

TACKLES PER GAME

MU 1073
OPP 1090

DEFENSIVE PRODUCTION

TACKLES

O. Legrande* (122)
O. Okaroha* (108)
D. Hunter (107)

SACKS

J. Taylor (5.5)
B. Sparrow (5)
M. Aiken* (2)

*no longer on roster

1st     2nd     3rd    4th    OT   TOTAL

MU

PASS

68.3%

4381 yards

RUSH

31.7%

2030 yards

S. Butler (500 yards)
A. Dobson* (679 yards)
A. Wilson* (741 yards)

PASS

68.3%

4381 yards

RUSH

31.7%

2030 yards

S. Butler (500 yards)
A. Dobson* (679 yards)
A. Wilson* (741 yards)

OFFENSIVE PRODUCTION

RUSHING

K. Groves (737 yards)
S. Butler (500 yards)
R. Watson (380 yards)

RECEIVING

T. Shuler (1,138 yards)
A. Dobson* (679 yards)
A. Wilson* (741 yards)

STATISTICS AND ROSTER INFORMATION COURTESY OF HERDZONE

RUSHING

MU 2030 yards 31.7%
OPP 1653 yards 31.7%

TACKLES PER GAME

MU 1073
OPP 1090

DEFENSIVE PRODUCTION

TACKLES

O. Legrande* (122)
O. Okaroha* (108)
D. Hunter (107)

SACKS

J. Taylor (5.5)
B. Sparrow (5)
M. Aiken* (2)

*no longer on roster

1st     2nd     3rd    4th    OT   TOTAL

MU

PASS

68.3%

4381 yards

RUSH

31.7%

2030 yards

S. Butler (500 yards)
A. Dobson* (679 yards)
A. Wilson* (741 yards)

PASS

68.3%

4381 yards

RUSH

31.7%

2030 yards

S. Butler (500 yards)
A. Dobson* (679 yards)
A. Wilson* (741 yards)
If asked to give a single word description of Marshall University football's defense during the 2012 season, a common response would be nonexistent. While the Herd had one of the best offensive teams in the nation, it also had one of the worst defenses. Last season, Marshall’s defense simply could not get off the field on third and fourth downs. Marshall’s opponents converted on third down 45 percent of the time, but more importantly, Marshall failed to present a fourth down conversion on 19 of 25 attempts.

Within a season full of high expectations, the Herd watched its bowl chances slip away in the fourth quarter of its test. East Carolina converted a fourth and one on its own 24-yard line leading to a game-tying touchdown with four seconds left on the clock to force overtime. East Carolina’s 45-59 double-overtime victory sent Marshall home with a 5-7 record and ended any chances of going back to a bowl game since the 2011 Beef ‘O’Brady’s Bowl.

With so many painful memories of defensive letdowns last season, week one co-captains Alex Bazzie and Jeremiah Taylor said that motivation from Chuck Heater, defensive coordinator, provide the defensive line whose job is to get a push up front. Of course, every Herd fan remembers a blown-blitz assignment.

Attitude is one of the biggest wins in the new defense. Taylor said a change in attitude was first noticed when Brandon Sparrow was picked off then-East Carolina quarterback Dominique Davis in overtime on 4th and 12 to seal a 34-27 victory for the Thundering Herd.

“Knowing that I couldn’t help my team when they were in need. We had limited corners and at one point last season I thought about coming back just to help those guys. It really hurt me bad just to know I couldn’t help these guys out.”

At the same time, Roberts said he knows watching the game from a close distance will make him hangrier for the game. Roberts said, “(It) increases your knowledge for the game and for a whole year you get stronger, physically and mentally.”

Things have changed defensively for the Thundering Herd since the last time Swagg D was in uniform and Roberts said a lot of that has to do with new defensive coordinator Chuck Heater.

“Back then we were more of a zone team,” Roberts said. “Now we have Coach Heater, he’s a good man corner coach. We like to bump and run, get in receiver’s face, get physical and make them make tough throws and catches.”

If coverage style was up to Roberts he would “bump and run” as often as possible.

“Last year it just wasn’t there,” Taylor said. “We as a unit decided that things had to change and a change in attitude was a must.”

Taylor said it is key that everyone bought in to the changes.

“Up to this point, everyone on the team has accepted the changes and are on-board with what we are trying to do here,” Taylor said. “Looking back at camp, I can say this is the best camp I have ever been a part of.”

Attitude is not the only change for the defensive unit as most of the members have added 15 pounds to what was consistently an undersized line last season. Bazzie and Taylor will bookend a defense that is 15-20 pounds stronger.

Senior defensive lineman Brandon Sparrow

WELCOME BACK
MU RESIDENCE SERVICES
6 x 10.5
1
Miami of Ohio: Marshall’s most bitter rival

By WILL VANCE  SPEAKING OF SPORTS

When the Young Thundering Herd dominated theMAC in the wake of the 1970 plane crash, it uplifted a team, a school and a community still coming to terms with a major tragedy. Some people accused us and it can give us an edge, us and it can give us an edge, giving us a feel for what it’s like to be in a pressure-packed situation. You know, when the clock isn’t stopped and you just have to get a score or a win or whatever. We were invincible, and it was like a work of Hollywood because it fit so perfectly. I don’t know if I believe in predestination or other concepts like that, but there has never been a shade of doubt in my mind that I would attend Marshall University. I love this sentiment is shared with other kids growing up in the Greater Huntington area like myself, and I’m sure many can relate. For those on campus just recently experiencing life in and around Huntington, the magnitude of how deep those collective feelings run through the natives may not immediately reveal itself.

Everyone and their brother know about the plane crash and its aftermath. That alone can relate. For those on campus for a moment that feeling immediately reveal itself. We all feel like we were as much a part of the Thundering Herd was a team of superheroes. We treated everyone in the MAC like a punching bag, like dropping-steps-in-a-hurry route to a hole. We practically played like a quarteerback. "We...

FOOTBALL EDITION FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Above: Two Thundering Herd defenders tackle a RedHawks ball carrier during a scrimmage on April 13.

HEATER Continued from Page 6

"Coach (Heater) told us that if we couldn’t rush with four guys, we would cover one," Taylor said. "Healing that as a player is enough to motivate you to do whatever it takes to stay on the field." Banzie says the defensive unit plays reactively through their coach.

"Coach (Heater) has that killer instinct that we all look for in practice." Banzie said. "We are relentless on the field and that is all because of him. We just want to play fast and get outside and have fun. We just want to get out and enjoy the game and see live playing and be, rockstar men, by around, physical and be the aggressor from the first snap.

Banzie and Taylor will be joined by Brandon Sparrow, RaShad Myers, Steve Dil- lon and James Busse on a revamped defensive line. Tay- lor said the depth on the line this season allows the players to step through the entire contingent. "Our depth on the line will especially help us as we confer- ence this season," Taylor said. "We have depth that will be drawn upon, it’s only a matter of time before Catoe connects with his next target—the receiver left uncovered.

James Collier can be contacted at collier41@mar- shall.edu.

Miami of Ohio: Marshall’s most bitter rival

By BISHOP NASH  SPEAKING OF SPORTS

Editor’s letter

I don’t know if I believe in predestination or other con- cepts regarding fate, but there has never been a shade of doubt in my mind that I would attend Marshall University. I love this sentiment is shared with other kids growing up in the Greater Huntington area like myself, and I’m sure many can relate. For those on campus just recently experiencing life in and around Huntington, the magnitude of how deep those collective feelings run through the natives may not immediately reveal itself. Everyone and their brother know about the plane crash and its aftermath. That alone can relate. For those on campus just recently experiencing life in and around Huntington, the magnitude of how deep those collective feelings run through the natives may not immediately reveal itself.

We all feel like we were as much a part of...