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The Miami (Ohio) RedHawks
Aug. 30 – at Miami (Ohio) University
Location: Oxford, Ohio
Mascot: RedHawks
2013 record: 0-4, 0-5 in MAC

The Thundering Herd and the RedHawks have had bad blood since 1971, when the RedHawks showed no mercy to the Young Thundering Herd. The RedHawks are coming off of a losing season, with the last three opponents scoring a combined 122 points, or five more than the RedHawks’ offense managed the entire regular season. The RedHawks enter the new season with a fresh coach — former Notre Dame assistant Chuck Martin.

The Ohio Bobcats
Sept. 13 – vs. Ohio University
Location: Athens, Ohio
Mascot: Bobcats
2013 record: 3-5, 2-6 in CAA

The 2014 meeting between these two rivals will be the 50th Battle for the Bell and Fall of Fame Weekend for the Herd. The Bobcats are coming in with three straight wins over the Thundering Herd. Ohio is also on a five-year postseason streak, being coached by Luke Fickell, who has reached a bowl game in five or more seasons in a row, including Northern Illinois (2009-13) and the current C-USA Marshall (1997-2002) when it was in the MAC.

The Akron Zips
Sept. 20 – at Akron, Ohio
Location: Akron, Ohio
Mascot: Zips
2013 record: 5-7, 4-4 in MAC

Six of Akron’s 2014 opponents—Marshall (Military), Pittsburgh (Little Caesars Pizza), Ohio (Browns’ Star City), Ball State (Little Caesars Pizza) and Buffalo (Temple/Gibbs Pizza)—participated in bowls in 2013. This season five of Akron’s 12 regular-season games will not be played on Saturday, Akron enters its sixth season on campus at InfoCision Stadium—Summa Field. The Zips have a 10-12-1 record at the venue after suffering their 2013 season opener against Howard, 41-0, Thursday, Aug. 28.

The Southern Miss Golden Eagles
Nov. 8 – at Southern Miss
Location: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Mascot: Golden Eagles
2013 record: 1-11, 1-7 in C-USA

Southern Miss had a disastrous season in 2012, plummeting from C-USA Champions in 2011 to being winless in 2012. Ellis Johnson was fired after only one season as head coach and was replaced by Todd Monken. Monken did not take the team much farther, not ending the losing streak until the end of last season against UAB. Monken and the Golden Eagles need to hope they can rebound from the last game and move back in the C-USA bowl picture.

The Florida Atlantic Owls
Oct. 25 – vs. Florida Atlantic
Location: Boca Raton, Florida
Mascot: Owls
2012 record: 6-6, 4-4 in C-USA

Also in its second year in C-USA and complete with a new coach, FAU is looking to improve on its six-win season. South Florida-raised head coach Charlie Partridge has recruited from home, the same area many of Marshall’s recruits hail from. A four-star running back from Fort Lauderdale ranks among the 15 best in the position in the country.

The Western Kentucky Hilltoppers
Nov. 28 – vs. Western Kentucky University
Location: Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mascot: Hilltoppers
2013 record: 6-4, 2-3 in Sun Belt

This last time the Thundering Herd played the Hilltoppers was 1996 and the Marshall has won all four previous meetings. This will be the key team for the Herd to beat in order to finish out the season undefeated. WKU is barely reliant on quarterback Brandon Doughty, but is rebuilding its defense. The defense will be better in November than in September, however, which makes this the year to keep an eye on throughout the season.

The Florida International Golden Panthers
Sept. 13 – vs. Florida International
Location: Miami, Florida
Mascot: Golden Panthers
2013 record: 1-11, 1-7 in C-USA

The Miami Golden Panthers are looking to have better season with 16 returning starters, but it is not likely to be much better.

The Rice Owls
Nov. 15 – vs. Rice University
Location: Houston, Texas
Mascot: Owls
2013 record: 10-4, 7-1 in C-USA

The Thundering Herd has a bone to pick with the Owls. Rice stole the Conference Championship game from Huntington, then beat the Herd at home, even though the Herd was favored to win. Rice comes into the Herd’s house the time around, but the Owls will have their eye on another championship and a bowl win. The Owls have 12 returning starters.

The University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers
Nov. 22 – at UAB
Location: Birmingham, Alabama
Mascot: Blazers
2013 record: 2-10, 1-7 in C-USA

Add UAB to the list of teams with mediocre 2013 seasons and new coaches to kick off 2014. The Blazers gave Southern Miss its only loss of the end of last season. This season, new coach Bill Clark is looking to rebuild his team with a new quarterback and solving wide receivers. The team needs to get past its history of losing – the team hasn’t had a winning season in nine years.

The Rhode Island Rams
Sept. 5 – vs. Rhode Island University
Location: Kingston, Rhode Island
Mascot: Rams
2013 record: 3-9, 2-6 in CAA

This is the first time the Thundering Herd is facing the Rams. The Rams are coming off of a four-game losing streak, including six of the last seven games. The last time the Rams won a conference championship was 1985. Like the Miami (Ohio), Rhode Island is also in the position of a new head coach, former Sacred Heart University head coach Jim Fleming. Fleming was 2-11 in 2000-01, his only head coaching seasons.

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The Old Dominion Monarchs
Oct. 4 – at Old Dominion
Location: Norfolk, Virginia
Mascot: Monarchs
2013 record: 8-4, 0-0

Old Dominion is new to Conference USA this season, coming from the Colonial Athletic Association. Old Dominion’s program has only been revived for five years and is looking to climb the USA ladder in the upcoming years.

The Ohio State Buckeyes
May 9 – vs. Ohio State
Location: Columbus, Ohio
Mascot: Buckeyes
2013 record: 7-6, 2-5 in CAA

The Buckeyes are coming off of a successful first season in C-USA. The Blue Raiders win against the Herd last season ignited a win streak through November. MTSU finished the season one game behind Marshall in the East Division. The Blue Raiders travel to Huntington as part of the Herd’s homecoming weekend.

The Florida International Golden Panthers
Sept. 20 – at Florida International
Location: Miami, Florida
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2013 record: 2-10, 1-7 in C-USA

Florida International did not fare as well as the Blue Raiders in its inaugural C-USA run. The Herd and Golden Panthers met in the 2011 Beef-o-Brady’s bowl, in which the Herd was victorious 20-10. The Golden Panthers are looking to have better season with 16 returning starters, but it is not likely to be much better.

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The Marshall University Thundering Herd
Fall 2014 Schedule

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By JAMES COLLIER

FOOTBALL EDITION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2014
THE PATHERON
MARSHALLPATHERON.COM

Marshall receiver pool over flowing with talent

By JAMES COLLIER

For the Patheron

Marshall University football’s offense is much like a favorite recipe that contains a secret ingredient. Start with a Heisman Trophy candidate in Rakeem Cato, mix in a talented group of receivers and stir in the secret ingredient wide receiver coach Mike Furrey said is a main-concern.

As Cato enters his senior season, the Miami Central native has several options returning with him to the grid. However, his place in the history books rests solely on the fingers of his eagles receiver jockeying for playing time.

Coming off back-to-back 100-catch season will be Cato’s favorite returning target and former high school teammate, Tommy Shuler. Shuler backed up his 110-catch season last year and now stands to do something no receiver has yet to do in college football—go back-to-back-to-back.

Shuler, who looks like a mentor on both end and off the field, said the receiver on the outside could see the slightest mistake in something Shuler may think he does perfectly, which does nothing but make him a chatter player.

“Coach Furrey is my biggest critic,” Shuler said. “We can go in the film room and I think I can see a route he can’t do and it’s a little glitch that he can improve on.”

In an offense that returns seven receivers from last year’s team and welcomes fresh faces, that is the expectation for a group of receivers that graces this season’s squad.

“This may be the best group of receivers I’ve ever seen since being here at Marshall,” said head coach Doc Holliday.

But with so many great receivers vying for a spot on the depth chart, it would appear the decision of who plays and who sits would be difficult. Coach Furrey said it’s not as difficult as one would think.

“When it all comes down to it, you need to have a reliable guy that can run routes, get open and catch the football,” Furrey said.

“They go through all the elements, who is creating production by the time we get up of camp, that’s who is on the field come Miami,” Shuler said.

Florida is in a must in a pass-first, high-tempo offense orchestrated by Cato.

The biggest concerning receivng wide for the field is finding someone to replace the two returning targets and former tight end Gator Hoskins. Of the six receivers returning from last season, they have collectively caught 38 fewer passes than Shuler.

As the Herd looks for a true-outside threat that could draw double coverage away from Shuler, it is important to find capable candidates in Divante Dwayne, Andreas Reaves and Demetrius Evans fighting for those spots.

The three players have hopes of giving Cato a Randy Hacker, 2004 Herd receiving star, who opened up the field to get somebody that would stretch out defenses downfield.

“Allen caught only nine passes in 2013, but is looking for ways to get more production, the guys that are looking to touchdown passing in triple-overtime last year at Virginia Tech. While Allen has shown significant promise during the spring and summer practice, his game time consistency is still in great question mark,” Furrey said.

“With the recipe for playing time laid out to the group with his game time consistency is still a giant question mark. Allen is not a ‘true guy’ as Coach Furrey said, then it becomes a race between Reaves and Jean-Louis for the other outside receiver positions. Reaves—who worked as an inside receiver in four-man sets—moves to the outside in using his skills and explosiveness to space to free upMarsh receiver pool over flowing with talent

Marshall defense turns up the Heater

JAMES COLLIER

By JAMES COLLIER

A day after a disappointing showing by Marshall University football’s defense, Chuck Heater changed his mind. After taking the helm of the defense in January 2013 in coordination with Doc Holliday, Heater’s defense has made a miraculous turnaround.

In only one year at the controls, Heater’s defense has made a miraculous turnaround.

After surrendering more total points than it scored in 2012, 20 of its 2012 points came against teams in 2013. The Herd allowed only 22.9 points per game, down from a 2012 average of 317.2.

But do not count out Jean-Louis who sat out last year after hurting his knee during the season. But no matter the position or year of a player, Coach Heater still reveres the importance of生产.

“With what they’re all capable of doing, if they can produce, we have a find a place for them to play,” Fur rey said.

“Here we have got to get six or six by the time we start Miami. Maybe the seven-eighth guy could be hard to figure out and then it will come down to special-tea m players.”

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THUNDERING HERD STATS
2013 SEASON

TACKLES PER GAME

| MU | 79 |
| OPP | 74 |

POINTS PER GAME

| MU | 42.1 |
| OPP | 22.9 |

RUSHING

- S. Butler (765 yards)
- T. Shuler (1165 yards)

RECEIVING

- R. Cato (294 yards)
- C. Wilkins (408 yards)

DEFENSIVE PRODUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TACKLES</th>
<th>SACKS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E. McKelvey (97)</td>
<td>J. Rouse (6.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Hewitt (85)</td>
<td>R. Myers (4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Tindal (61)</td>
<td>G. Thompson (3.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pass

58.9%

Rush

41.1%

4122 yards

42.1%

2883 yards

408 yards

3.0%

218 yards

statistics and roster information courtesy of HerdZone

OFFENSIVE PRODUCTION

DEFENSIVE PRODUCTION

By LACHEL HOUSE
FOR THE PARTHENON

Picture this: Marco, a brand new green turf and a packed stadium. The smell of popcorn, funnel cakes and cotton candy fill the air, while the sound of thunderclaps and musical instruments played by the band electrify the ears of those in attendance. The fans will come and the Joan will be revived. This is the moment Herd fans have been waiting for. The most anticipated season in Marshall University history is about to begin.

Yes, you read that right. The 2014-2015 Marshall football season has been a conversation carried by the mouths of people nationwide. Quarterback Rakeem Cato has found his way into the pre-season Heisman Trophy race, with sources such as college football writer Mike Huguenin explaining the possibilities of Cato’s ultimate rise to fame.

Along with this, USA Today ranks the football team number 20.

Marshall students gave a little insight about how they felt about the upcoming season, as well as a few football-related topics.

Mariah Robinson, freshman nursing major at Marshall, has never attended a football game, but made it clear why she was excited.

“I have not attended a football game, so the first home game will be my first,” Robinson said. “I really am looking forward to us going undefeated this year.”

Derek Behr, junior criminal justice major, was asked who his favorite player was and why.

“My favorite player is Jean Louis,” Behr said. “He is from my hometown and our high schools played each other.”

Not everyone is as excited about the football season, however. Sophomore Joshua McDowney, explained that his heart belongs to another sport on campus.

McDowney said he finds rugby more entertaining, but also speaks with the football players, allowing him to remain up to date on the football season.

Davontae’ Edwards, a senior criminal justice major, revealed that his most memorable game was the last time Marshall met West Virginia University on the turf. Along with that, he gave a prediction for the Herd’s first game.

“We will win 42-7,” Edwards said.

Marshall’s football team kicks its season off in Ohio against Miami (Ohio) at 3:30 p.m. Be sure to tune in to the opening of the most anticipated season in Herd football history. Buckle your seatbelts, Herd fans. It is going to be a wild ride.

Lachel House can be contacted at house13@marshall.edu.
By Braxton Crisp

Herd’s schedule would not have favored the Thundering Herd. When they decided to reschedule the game with the Herd for a later year, “I think they should go unranked,” Pertner said. “It’s probably a five or six win team, but I think we have the talent to go to the end of the year.”

By Braxton Crisp

Hendrix was the starting quarterback for Marshall. He was picked No. 11 in his preseason rankings. He said the Herd’s weakness was their schedule. They do not have any top-10 teams, and they are playing five teams that are No. 11 or lower. They have a chance to be successful this year, he said, because they are playing teams that they should be able to beat.

By Braxton Crisp

“There is no question that the schedule is the biggest reason why we are not where we want to be,” Pertner said.

By Braxton Crisp

“Hendrix is a problem for us,” Martin said. “If they can keep him in the game, he’s a talented guy in the world. No, he shows up. I think Woody Legg saw that in the game last year. He was 6-foot, 155 pounds soaking wet coming out of Florida International. I have no idea what kind of a quarterback he is, but he shows up. I think it’s his athleticism and where he can make that big play offensively and defensively. That’s where the pursuit factor matters at those skill positions, because production is what matters at those skill positions, Coach, quarterback have changed since the last Marshall-Miami game.

By Braxton Crisp

Their starting quarterback, Craig Wilkins, who was picked No. 11 or 12 out of teams in the Colonial Athletic Association, among a weakened Conference USA slate with East Carolina and Tulsa moving to the American Athletic Conference. They do not have any top-10 teams, and they are playing five teams that are No. 11 or lower. They have a chance to be successful this year, he said, because they are playing teams that they should be able to beat.

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