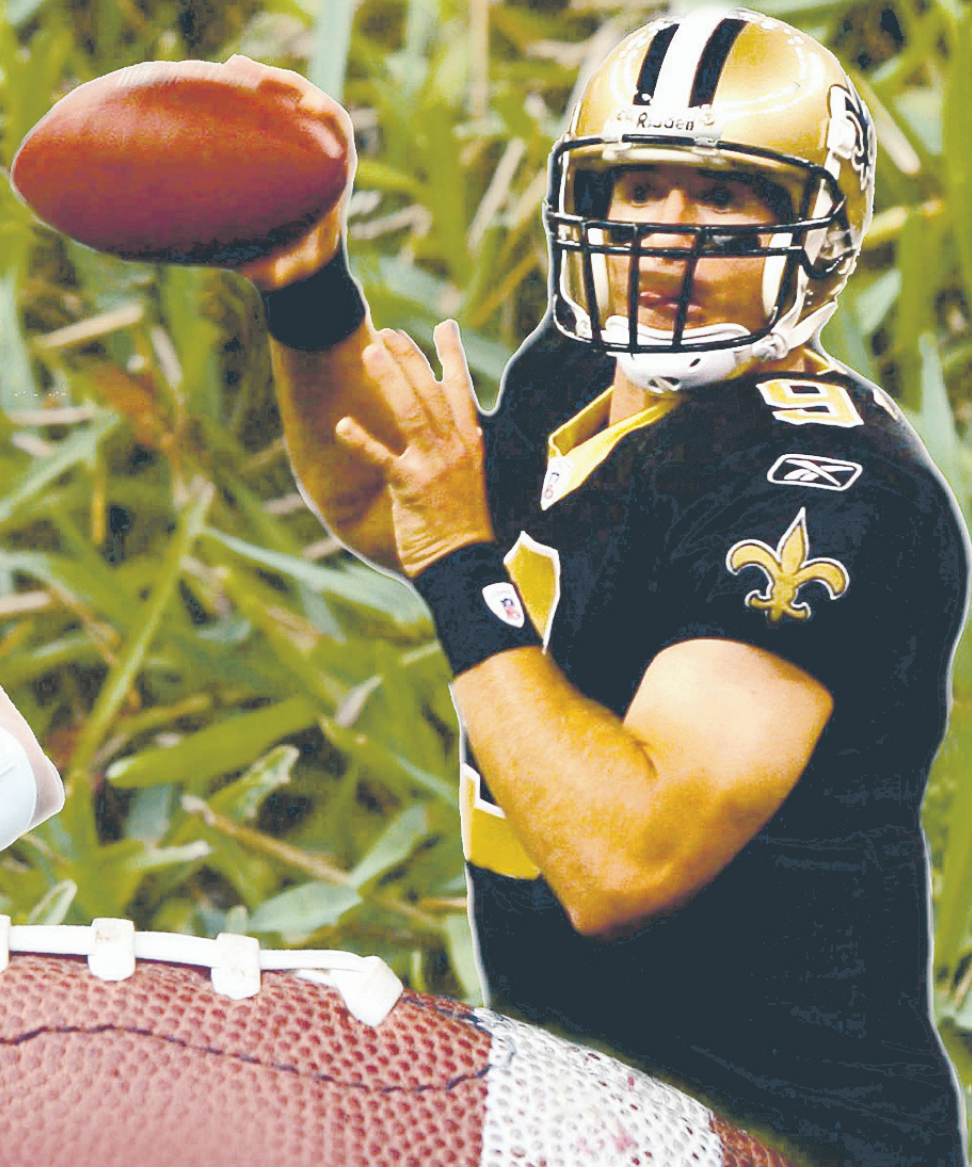


SunHerald

2009 FOOTBALL

PREVIEW

Slinging it around



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Cover: Designed by Tim Isbell; St. Stanislaus' Dylan Favre, Ole Miss' Jevan Snead, New Orleans Saints' Drew Brees

Offenses open things up

By JIM MASHEK
jwmashek@sunherald.com

Thirty years ago, it was considered almost blasphemy for football traditionalists.

Twenty years ago, it was viewed as more of a gimmick offense, something only a handful of teams would run, usually with mixed results.

In the last decade or so, it's gone through different phases. Unusual. Innovative. Trendy. And now, commonplace.

The mere thought of it might have Woody Hayes spinning in his grave, but the spread offense seems to be here to stay. There are different variations of it, to be sure, but the basic tenets remain the same:

Wide formations. Lots of receivers. A quarterback and a single back in the backfield. Timing patterns. Quick decisions. And lastly, plenty of imagination.

Dan Mullen, Mississippi State's first-year coach, is pictured on billboards telling everyone that the Bulldogs plan to "spread the fun." But he's a little hard to pin down on exactly what the spread offense is. Larry Fedora, the second-year coach at Southern Miss, can relate. He's been using a spread concept since his days at Middle Tennessee State in the late '90s. Fedora will tell you the spread is in the eyes of the beholder.

The beholder can think what they want.

"The spread, it's kind of the en vogue label that's going around these days," Fedora said. "I really don't know what the spread is. There's so many variations of it. Spread, run spread, spread option. I would say it's a one-back offense and spread the field with receivers.



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD

Dexter McCluster provided more than enough wild for Ole Miss' 'Wild Rebel' last season.

"That's really the major difference (from more conventional attacks)."

Differences aside, it's gone mainstream in college football. The high school game, too. The NFL is a different story, but more pro teams are adopting the Wildcat offense as a change of pace. That was one of Houston Nutt's major innovations last year at Ole Miss, where Dexter McCluster ran wild out of the "Wild Rebel" formation.

The bottom line? When in doubt, spread it out. And take your chances.

"The main thing," Mullen said, "is creating mismatches."

And that can be done in a variety of ways.

The mainstream

Which is why nearly half of the teams in major college football run some form of the spread at least 75 percent of the time. Many teams will adapt in short-yardage and goal-line formations. But more and more of them are applying its principles all the time.

"It puts a lot of stress on the

defense," Fedora said.

And one size doesn't fit all, either.

Mullen called the shots on Florida's spread option offense from the press box last season, when Tim Tebow led the Gators to the BCS national championship. He moves down to the sideline this year at Mississippi State, where the Bulldogs will try to transform what was a feeble offense under former coach Sylvester Croom into something entirely different. Just don't try to pin Mullen

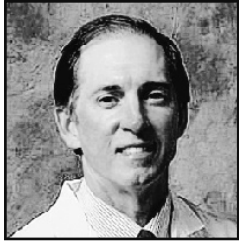
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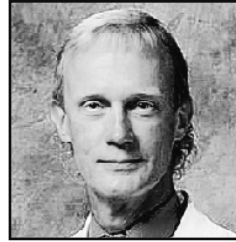
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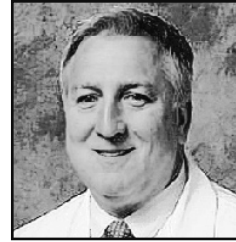
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Joint Replacement Surgery
General Orthopaedics



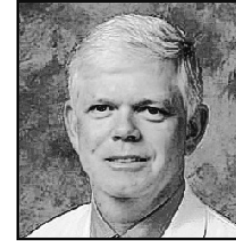
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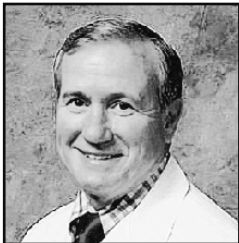
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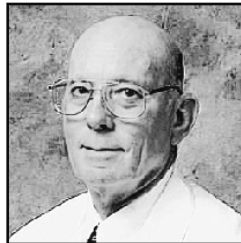
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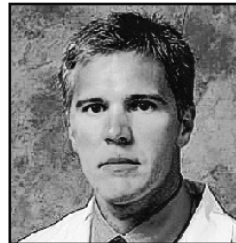
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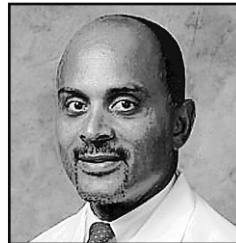
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SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES

Fletcher grateful for second chance after gun charge

By Al Jones
afjones@sunherald.com

HATTIESBURG — It was nearly six months ago that Damion Fletcher's life changed.

Hattiesburg Police arrested the Biloxi native Feb. 16 for discharging a firearm at his off-campus apartment.

Suddenly, the leading rusher in Southern Miss history was facing the biggest obstacle of his career.

Fast forward six months, and today Fletcher is a humble man trying to rebound from an incident that could have sent his athletic career crashing down.

"At first, I wondered if I would play football again," Fletcher said. "I am thankful for another chance."

What happened from that point forward, however, proved the old saying "that everyone makes mistakes, but it's what someone does after the mistakes that defines that person."

Fletcher, after serving a six-month suspension set down by coach Larry Fedora, is back with the Golden Eagles and looking forward to his senior season.

Fletcher, on the other hand, is embarrassed by the incident, but not afraid to talk about what he calls the biggest mistake of his young life.

"I know it was my biggest mistake," Fletcher said. "I let myself down. I let my family down and I let Golden Eagle fans down. I also let kids down."

"That's why I enjoyed (court-ordered community service) going to different schools and talking to the kids that what I did was not right. I also spoke to the kids about life in general. I was worried about my future in football, too."

After successfully complet-

ing his community service and the in-house discipline, Fedora reinstated Fletcher in July.

"He was a lot more excited than in our meeting the day after it happened," Fedora said. "I was proud in the way he handled himself. He admitted he made a mistake and was anxious to get back in good standing. Not just with me, but the rest of the coaching staff, his teammates and the fans."

"Damion's done a tremendous job up to this point. He's very well liked by Southern Miss fans all over the country. We don't necessarily talk about the discipline that we do when we handle a player. But I assure you, Damion has paid the price."

DeAndre Brown, a standout wide receiver from Ocean Springs, said Fletcher wanted to handle things on his own.

"He knew he was in the wrong and took it in his own hands," Brown said. "We are good friends, and I left the situation the way it was. I looked at it, as a friend and being around him, like it didn't happen."

"I think he handled it really well. He went about it as a professional. And we are happy to have him back."

With the incident in the rear view mirror, Fletcher hopes to build on his career rushing totals of 4,286.

If he tacks on another season like last year when he rushed for 1,347 yards, he'd be in the top five all-time in the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) rankings.

That would put him ahead of such luminaries as Herschel Walker, Archie Griffin and LaDarian Tomlinson.

"It will be a big relief once I get back out there with my



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD

Southern Miss running back Damion Fletcher has gained 4,286 yards in three seasons.

teammates," he said. "I did my punishment and it feels good to get back to work with those guys again. I can look forward

to a great season now and help the team to a championship. We've moved on and hopefully, we will have a great year.

"I want to come out and be the player that I have been the past three years and win some football games."

COLLEGE 2009

THE SPREAD

Spread

Continued from Page 2

down on what that is.

"I don't know if we're a spread option, spread passing, spread running or just a spread," Mullen said. "To me, we're a multiple spread team. I want to make sure the defense has to defend the entire field, sideline to sideline."

Personnel counts

Fedora believes the strength of the spread is how it can be tailored to a team's strengths. The Golden Eagles had to break in a new quarterback, Austin Davis, into the scheme last season, in addition to the change of the coaching staff. At one point, USM was 2-6 on the season.

The Golden Eagles would win their next five games, including their 30-27 overtime victory over

Troy in the New Orleans Bowl. Davis passed for 3,128 yards and 23 touchdowns, and Biloxi's Damion Fletcher smashed the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the third consecutive season.

They'll be back this season, and Fedora is optimistic wide receiver extraordinaire DeAndre Brown, a sophomore from Ocean Springs, will be joining them. Brown sustained a horrific leg injury in the New Orleans Bowl and is trying to get back on the field.

"It's a very easy offense to mold around the talent you have," Fedora said.

Mullen will be doing the same with a former junior college quarterback, the undersized but tough Tyson Lee, until true freshman Tyler Russell is deemed ready to take the reins.

"We really need Tyson Lee to step up for us, to be a senior, to give us that leadership," Mullen said. "We might rotate the

other guys and play more than one quarterback, but we do need (Lee) as a senior to be a steady leader and a winner for us out there on the field, to get our program going in the right direction."

A new direction

Houston Nutt was able to get Ole Miss in the right direction in his first season in Oxford, but only after a 3-4 start and some tough losses, like the Rebels' 24-20 setback at the hands of Alabama at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Ole Miss, however, didn't lose another game, finishing 9-4 with a six-game winning streak and impressive victory over Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl.

Jevan Snead, the Rebels' quarterback, operates out of a more traditional offensive attack. Ole Miss will run plays out of multiple sets, including the old-school I formation, but

oftentimes Snead will trot out of the huddle to the flanks, leaving McCluster or Brandon Bolden to take direct snaps from center in shotgun formation.

What happens next is left to the imagination, in this case that of Kent Austin, the Rebels' offensive coordinator. But the "Wild Rebel" formation was such a success that McCluster, who weighs 165 pounds soaking wet, actually led Ole Miss with 655 yards rushing last season.

"That gives us a chance to throw a little knuckleball in there," Nutt said. "Try to slow down good defenses, get them to thinking maybe just a step slower . . . We're very multiple."

Mix it up

Fedora values balance and wants the Golden Eagles to run the ball as effectively as they throw it out of the spread formation. He estimates that he

put Davis in shotgun formation about 70 percent of the time, and most teams have adopted a similar formula.

But mixing it up can keep defenses off balance.

And one way to do it is by utilizing the no-huddle approach, or the quick-huddle approach, or a combination of both.

"The next phase for us would be 'multi-tempo,'" Fedora said. "A lot of it is discovering what your team can do. The best spread offenses are the ones that can run and throw."

Mullen wants to be able to run the ball, too. Senior running back Anthony Dixon has rushed for 2,788 yards and 30 touchdowns in his MSU career, so he might be the Bulldogs' best bet most of the time.

That's why Mullen plans to be flexible.

"It's a tough offense to teach," he said, "but it's very user-friendly. We'll do it any way we can."

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OLE MISS REBELS

Snead is trigger man for what could be big season

By JIM MASHEK
jwmashek@sunherald.com

Things started falling into place for the Ole Miss offense in mid-October last year.

It was no coincidence that this was when Jevan Snead became more comfortable as the Rebels' quarterback. Ole Miss would win its last six games, including a 47-34 victory over then-No. 8 Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl. And before it was over, it was clear that Snead had arrived.

The transfer from Texas begins the 2009 season as one of the nation's premier quarterbacks, along with his former UT teammate, Colt McCoy, and the last two Heisman Trophy winners, Florida's Tim Tebow and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford. The 6-foot-3, 215-pound Snead could find himself in the Heisman discussion, if the Rebels can live up to their advance billing.

"I feel like we have an opportunity this year to do some great things," Snead said.

Snead guided the Rebels to a 31-30 upset of Florida last season, the Gators' only loss on their way to a BCS national championship. He may have played his best game at LSU, when Snead completed 16 of 25 passes for 274 yards and two touchdowns. The Rebels won that game 31-13.

"You could see," Ole Miss coach Houston Nutt said, "the

last half of the year, how much better Jevan got for us."

CBS Sportsline analyst Pete Prisco has already made Snead his No. 1 pick in next year's NFL Draft, in the event Snead decides to leave after his junior season. Snead is careful not to get too far ahead of himself, however, and is hopeful the Rebels can make the first appearance in the SEC championship game in school history.

"That's definitely one of our goals," Snead said.

Snead has some of his best receivers returning, including wideout Shay Hodge (44 catches, 725 yards, eight TDs in '08), multi-purpose star Dexter McCluster and Lionel Breaux, but he'll be working behind a revamped offensive line after the departure of left tackle Michael Oher, the first-round pick of the Baltimore Ravens.

"It's a great feeling, to finally get some respect for our program," Snead said, "and getting our name out there. I couldn't be in a better position than I am in right now."

No less an authority than Florida coach Urban Meyer, who has become the highest-paid coach in the SEC, can speak to what Jevan Snead brings to the table.

"He's a tremendous player," Meyer said. "Great release. One of the best releases in college football."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ole Miss' signature win in Jevan Snead's first season with the Rebels came when they handed eventual-national champ Florida its only loss of the season in late September.

More about the Rebels, page 10

SEC overview, page 15

Complete college schedules, pages 20-22

MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

A new coach brings enthusiasm to Starkville

By JIM MASHEK
jvmashek@sunherald.com

Dan Mullen has become the face of Mississippi State's football program.

You see him on billboards, on the cover of the school's media guide, almost everywhere. He'll coach his first game Sept. 5 against Jackson State in Starkville, and he wants everyone to be fired up.

"Obviously you take the first time a Southeastern Conference school is playing a SWAC school," Mullen said last month at SEC Media Days. "We're excited to be involved in such a historical game. I know I'll probably be a little bit nervous.

"I hear Jackson State has a heckuva band (the Sonic Boom), so I put the pressure on our band director already. That (game) will be on us before we know it."

Mullen, 37, brings the spread offense he helped mold in his four seasons as Florida's offensive coordinator as well as a sense of enthusiasm that has been missing at Mississippi State for most of the decade. The Bulldogs have made just one bowl appearance since the 2000 season, finishing 8-5 and winning the Liberty Bowl two years ago.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mississippi State fans hope new coach Dan Mullen lives up to the T-shirt given to him by athletic director Greg Byrne, left.

State won just four games last season, however, and Sylvester Croom resigned one day after the Bulldogs were blown out 45-0 by Ole Miss in Oxford.

"Coach Mullen is a good people person," Mississippi State linebacker K.J. Wright said. "The fans love him. He is always

smiling. Everyone is excited to see what we are going to do this year."

Mullen spent 10 years with Meyer, first at Bowling Green and later at Utah and then Florida, and is a head coach for the first time in his career. He grew up in Manchester, N.H.,

and played college football at Ursinus, a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania.

Mullen clearly embraces the passion of SEC football and barnstormed across Mississippi in the spring to generate interest in the Bulldogs' program.

"I'm real excited to be here,"

Mullen said. "One thing that makes this league great is the excitement, the passion, the importance. You know you're going to have a sold-out stadium wherever you show up in this league, with fans that are nuts.

"I couldn't be happier with this opportunity."

More about the Bulldogs, page 11

SEC overview, page 15

Complete college schedules, pages 20-22

SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES

Massey finally feels at home in Hattiesburg

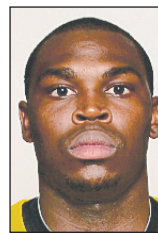
By Al Jones
ajones@sunherald.com

HATTIESBURG — Former Ga-tier standout Jonathan Massey is back at home and a changed man.

After a brief stint at Vanderbilt and a year of football at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Massey has a new outlook on life and sports — at Southern Miss.

In fact, the 6-foot-3, 250-pound tight end, says Southern Miss is a perfect fit and his goal is to lead the Golden Eagles to a Conference USA title.

But things were not so promising two years ago after his playing days at Gautier ended with a spot on the All-South Mississippi team and a scholarship offer to Vanderbilt.



Massey

"Coming out of high school, my choices were Vanderbilt and Southern Miss," he said. "At that time, I chose Vanderbilt based on its academics. I'm not going to second guess my decision, but after a while, it wasn't the best place for me. Things didn't work

out for me at Vanderbilt, and I let some people influence me, but I am now more mature."

While at Co-Lin, Massey committed to Southern Miss where he's listed as a junior this season.

Since he qualified out of high school, he was allowed to stay one year on the community college ranks before transferring to Southern Miss.

Fast forward two years, Massey admits he's finally a Golden Eagle.

More importantly, he's happy.

"I love it here," he said. "This is home to me. I am from South Mississippi and I am

happy. I feel like I have been given another chance."

On the field, Massey will be called on to replace Shawn Nelson, a four-year contributor at tight end.

Serving as a backup last year in the Golden Eagles one-tight end offense, Massey only caught four passes, but two were for touchdowns.

"Everything is great," Massey said. "I had a chance to sit back and learn from Shawn Nelson, I was also coached last year by (volunteer assistant) Kris Mangum, who played in the Super Bowl. That was a great learning experience for me.

Now, I am ready to apply what I've learned.

"This offense is pass happy and tight end friendly. You have to love that."

With talent like Damion Fletcher of Biloxi at running back, DeAndre Brown of Ocean Springs at wide out and Austin Davis at quarterback, Massey is an added fixture to a stout offense.

"It's great playing with Damion and DeAndre," he said. "I played against Damion in high school and Katrina canceled our game with DeAndre. Being around the Coast guys makes me feel more at home, too."

BULLDOG FOOTBALL 2009



| Day | Date | Opponent | Home/Away | Time |
|----------|----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Thursday | Aug. 27 | Northwest | Home | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 3 | Itawamba | Home | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 10 | Southwest | Away | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 17 | East Mississippi | Away | 7 p.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 24 | Pearl River | Home | 7 p.m. |
| Saturday | Oct. 3 | Co-Lin (Homecoming) | Home | 3:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | Oct. 8 | East Central | Away | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | Oct. 15 | Hinds | Home | 7 p.m. |
| Saturday | Oct. 24 | Jones | Away | 2 p.m. |

Head Coach:..... Steve Campbell
Assistant Coaches:..... Steve Davis,
Chad Huff, Stevon Moore
Coaching Assistants... Matthew Mock,
Pete Bennett, Dorsett Davis

Athletic Trainer:..... Danny Anderson
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SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES

USM brings offensive punch this season

By Al Jones
afjones@sunherald.com

HATTIESBURG — Southern Miss enters the second year of the Larry Fedora Era in a similar situation the 2007 team faced.

With arguably the best 1-2-3 punch on offense in Conference USA and perhaps the best secondary in nearly two decades, the Golden Eagles are picked to challenge East Carolina in the East.

If the Golden Eagles win the East, they would advance to the C-USA Championship Game for the first time since 2006.

Granted, expectations are high, but Fedora has to guard against a collapse like the 2007 team that used a late-season rally to post a winning record before losing to Cincinnati in the PapaJohns.com Bowl in Birmingham.

That's after the Golden Eagles were tabbed the favorites to win the C-USA title.

Southern Miss enters the 2009 season riding a five-game winning streak and returns 18 starters off a squad that turned a 2-6 start into a 7-6 season that included a 30-27 win against Troy in the New Orleans Bowl.

"The one thing that you do is talk about the expectations from the beginning," Fedora said. "And we did that from the winter meetings all the way through. Not so much what the expectations are outside the family, but within the Southern Miss family.

"The other expectations do not matter. Our expectations are higher than anybody's and we are going to continue to foster those expectations. But at the same time the players know what it will take to reach our goals and achieve those goals



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD

Southern Miss Coach Larry Fedora has big expectations for the 2009 season.

one step at a time."

On offense, senior running back Damion Fletcher is back for his senior season. Already the school's leading rusher with 4,286 yards, Fletcher could become the eighth runner in NCAA history to rush for 1,000 yards in four consecutive seasons.

Last season, Fletcher rushed for 1,347 yards with 10 touchdowns and added 246 receiving yards and one score.

"It's gotten easier over the years, just getting more experience and playing in more games," Fletcher said. "I am looking forward to helping the team win and being more of a team leader on the field and help our team get to the championship game."

The offense also returns soph-

omore quarterback Austin Davis. In his first season, Davis completed 261-of-454 for 3,128 yards to go with 23 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Year Two, according to Fedora, will see an improved Davis.

"Last season you saw (Davis) just try to grasp the offense," Fedora said. "This off-season, he has really worked on improving his game as far as managing his game.

"He has improved his arm strength."

The big question mark will be the health of sophomore wide receiver DeAndre Brown of Ocean Springs. Brown, who broke his leg in the New Orleans Bowl win against Troy, caught 67 passes for 1,117 yards and 12 touchdowns.

If Brown can return, Southern

Miss could see its 2008 average of 6.9 yards per attempt increase.

"We need DeAndre to be back 100 percent," Fletcher said. "With him in the lineup, we have a three-headed monster that's hard to stop."

Along the offensive line, Cameron Zipp is back at center and Micah Brown returns at one of the guard positions for a unit that produced 398 points, 2,502 rushing yards and 5,636 total yards.

Defensively, the Golden Eagles are solid in the secondary with C.J. Bailey of Moss Point and Eddie Hicks.

Up front, defensive lineman Anthony Gray is back. As a team, Southern Miss yielded 17 touchdown passes
Please see USM, Page 15

PROFILE

Conference: Conference USA
2008 record: 7-6 (4-4 conference)
Postseason: New Orleans Bowl
Key losses: TE Shawn Nelson, OL Ryan McKee, WR Ed Morgan, LB Gerald McRath, LB Tokumbo Abanikanda, P Britt Barefoot

STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB Austin Davis
TB Damion Fletcher
WR DeAndre Brown
WR Gerald Baptiste
WR Johndrick Morris
TE Jonathan Massey
LT Kyle Burkhart
LG Micah Brown
C Cameron Zipp
RG Ryan Hebert
RT Brennan Houston, Ben Schoenberger

DEFENSE

LE Dedrick Jones
DT Anthony Gray
DT Rolando Barragan
RE Rasaad Byrd
LB Ronnie Thornton
LB Korey Williams
LB Martez Smith
CB Andre Watson
CB C.J. Bailey
SS Chico Hunter
FS Eddie Hicks

SCHEDULE

Sept. 5 vs. Alcorn State
Sept. 12 vs. UCF
Sept. 19 vs. Virginia
Sept. 26 at Kansas
Oct. 1 at UAB
Oct. 10 at Louisville
Oct. 17 vs. Memphis
Oct. 24 vs. Tulane
Oct. 31 at Houston
Nov. 14 at Marshall
Nov. 21 vs. Tulsa
Nov. 28 at East Carolina

OLE MISS REBELS

As the Rebels see it, the future is now

By JIM MASHEK
jwmmashek@sunherald.com

Ole Miss defensive back Kendrick Lewis, for one, has had enough of the preseason hype for the Rebels.

The way Lewis sees it, the Rebels need to concentrate on the future instead of basking in the past.

Two seasons ago, after all, Ole Miss failed to win an SEC game. So last year's 9-4 finish doesn't guarantee anything.

"We're going to get the publicity," Lewis said. "We can't buy into it."

The Rebels have generated some serious ink since their 47-34 victory over Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl. They return 18 starters from last year's squad, including the best quarterback in the SEC who doesn't go by the name of Tim Tebow, junior Jevan Snead. They've got plenty of capable skill position players. They're loaded on defense, particularly up front.

Second-year coach Houston Nutt has to balance his team's great expectations with the kind of edge that allowed the Rebs to win at Florida and LSU last season. He has to replace two All-America linemen, left offensive tackle Michael Oher and defensive tackle Peria Jerry. He has to strike while the Rebels' iron is hot.

"There's going to be some attention," Nutt said. "Now you've got to embrace it. You've got to handle it."

Snead's emergence coincided with the Rebels' run to prominence last year. He had to sit out one season after transferring from Texas and needed some time to familiarize himself with Nutt's offense. He'd finish
Please see Ole Miss, Page 22



COURTESY OLE MISS

PROFILE

Conference: SEC West
2008 record: 9-4 (5-3 conference)
Postseason: Cotton Bowl
Key losses: OT Michael Oher, DT Peria Jerry, WR Mike Wallace
Key returnees: QB Jevan Snead, RB Cordera Eason, WR Dexter McCluster, OT John Jerry, DE Greg Hardy, CB Mashay Green

STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR Dexter McCluster
WR Shay Hodge
QB Jevan Snead
RB Cordera Eason
FB Andy Hartmann
TE Gerald Harris
RT John Jerry
RG Reid Neely
C Daverin Gerald
LG Rishaw Johnson
LT Bradley Sowell

DEFENSE

LE Marcus Tillman
LT Ted Laurent
RT Lawon Scott
RE Greg Hardy
OLB Allen Walker
MLB Jonathan Cornell
OLB Patrick Trahan
LCB Marshay Green
SS Johnny Brown
FS Kendrick Lewis
RCB Cassius Vaughn

SCHEDULE

Sept. 6 at Memphis
Sept. 19 vs. Southeastern La.
Sept. 24 at South Carolina
Oct. 3 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 10 vs. Alabama
Oct. 17 vs. UAB
Oct. 24 vs. Arkansas
Oct. 31 at Auburn
Nov. 7 vs. Northern Arizona
Nov. 14 vs. Tennessee
Nov. 21 vs. LSU
Nov. 28 at Mississippi State

Ole Miss defensive back Kendrick Lewis doesn't want to live life in the rearview mirror.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

Mullen instills a new mindset at MSU

By JIM MASHEK
jvmashek@sunherald.com

Derek Sherrod went through the trials and tribulations at Mississippi State last season.

All the problems scoring points. The 3-2 loss to Auburn. Blowouts at the hands of Tennessee, Alabama and Ole Miss. Sylvester Croom's departure one day after Ole Miss hammered the Bulldogs 45-0.

The junior offensive tackle has seen Dan Mullen's approach up close and personal. Mississippi State hired the former Florida offensive coordinator, who brings the spread offense, enthusiasm and the dawn of a new era in Starkville.

Sherrod likes what he sees. "Coach Mullen is a great coach," Sherrod said. "We're expecting a lot out of him, and he's expecting a lot out of us."

Mullen understands he's inheriting a 4-8 team that averaged just 15.2 points per game. The Bulldogs are going to rely on a former junior college transfer, 5-foot-11 Tyson Lee, to handle the quarterback duties until prized freshman Tyler Russell is ready to play. They've played in just one bowl game since the 2001 season. Change was inevitable.

Mullen represents that change. "We're in the best shape we've ever been as a football team," Sherrod said.

That's because Mullen will have the Bulldogs throwing the ball around the field, turning to the no-huddle scheme when the time is right and counting on senior tailback Anthony Dixon (2,603 yards rushing, 30 TDs in his MSU career) to pound out the tough yardage between the tackles.

Please see MSU, Page 22



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROFILE

Conference: SEC West
2008 record: 4-8 (2-6 conference)
Postseason: None
Key losses: WR Jamayel Smith, FS Derek Pegues CB Jasper O'Quinn, LB Dominic Douglas.
Key returnees: RB Anthony Dixon, QB Tyson Lee, LT Derek Sherrod, LB Jamar Chaney

STARTERS

OFFENSE

WR O'Neal Wilder
WR Brandon McRae
QB Tyson Lee
FB Patrick Hanrahan
RB Anthony Dixon
TE Kendrick Cook
LT Derek Sherrod
LG Tobias Smith
C J.C. Brignone
RG Quentin Saulsberry
RT Addison Lawrence

DEFENSE

DE Brandon Cooper
DT Charles Burns
DT Pernel McPhee
DE Sean Ferguson
OLB K.J. Wright
MLB Jamar Chaney
OLB Chris White
CB Damein Anderson
CB Marcus Washington
SS Zach Smith
FS Charles Mitchell

SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Sept. 5 | vs. Jackson State |
| Sept. 12 | at Auburn |
| Sept. 18 | at Vanderbilt |
| Sept. 26 | vs. LSU |
| Oct. 3 | vs. Georgia Tech |
| Oct. 10 | vs. Houston |
| Oct. 17 | at MTSU |
| Oct. 24 | vs. Florida |
| Oct. 31 | at Kentucky |
| Nov. 14 | vs. Alabama |
| Nov. 21 | at Arkansas (L.Rock.) |
| Nov. 28 | vs. Ole Miss |

Mississippi State offensive lineman Derek Sherrod hopes for a big turnaround from 2008.

COLLEGE 2009 LSU TIGERS

Dickson could put name atop career lists

By JAMES JONES
jjones@sunherald.com

Tight end Richard Dickson is in position to have a record-breaking senior season at LSU.

The former Ocean Springs standout has a shot at becoming the Tigers' all-time leading tight end.

Dickson enters the season with 69 receptions for 795 yards and a record-tying 10 touchdowns in a career.

He needs only 19 receptions to break the mark of 87 set by Mitch Andrews between 1982 and 1985. He shares the career-scoring reception mark with Brad Boyd, who played at LSU from 1972 to 1975.

"Holding the tight end records would be a great accomplishment," Dickson said. "David LeFleur was a first-round pick. Robert Royals is playing in the NFL. I learned a lot from Keith Zinger. He was a great blocker and leader.

"LSU had so many great tight ends. It's just unbelievable. I want to be the guy the team can rely on."

Dickson landed two huge preseason honors. He was named to the All-SEC coaches' team and placed on the Mackey Award watch list. Dickson was a second-team All-SEC pick last year.

"It's just awesome to know that I have earned respect from the SEC coaches," Dickson said. "My hard work has paid off."

LSU coach Les Miles said at SEC Media Days last month that "Dickson is primed to have a big year."

Dickson, who had 31 receptions for 324 yards and three TDs last year, realizes the

Please see LSU, Page 22



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROFILE

Conference: SEC
2008 record: 8-5 (4-4)
Postseason: Beat Georgia Tech 35-3 in Chick-Fila Bowl
Key losses: WR Demetrius Byrd, OL Will Arnold, DL Tyson Jackson.
Key returnees: WR Brandon LaFell, TE Richard Dickson, QB Jordan Jefferson, RB Charles Scott

STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB Jordan Jefferson (6-4, 210, so.)
WR Terrance Toliver (6-4, 194, jr.)
WR Brandon LaFell (6-3, 209, sr.)
TE Richard Dickson (6-3, 255, sr.)
RB Charles Scott (5-11, 233, sr.)
FB Stevan Ridley (5-11, 222, so.)
OT Ciron Black (6-5, 325, sr.)
OG Josh Dworaczyk (6-6, 285 so.)
C T-Bob Hebert (6-3, 282, so.)
OT Joseph Barksdale (6-5, 315, jr.)
OG Lyle Hitt (6-2, 290, sr.)

DEFENSE

DE Lazarius Levingston (6-4 270jr)
DT Charles Alexander (6-3 310, sr.)
DT Al Woods (6-4, 325, sr.)
DE Rahim Alem (6-3, 255, sr.)
LB Perry Riley (6-1, 240, sr.)
LB Jacob Cutera (6-4, 235, sr.)
LB Kelvin Shepherd (6-3, 235, jr.)
CB Chris Hawkins (6-1, 185, sr.)
CB Patrick Peterson (6-1, 205 so.)
SS Danny McCray (6-1, 212, sr.)
FS Chad Jones (6-3, 214, jr.)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 5: at Washington, 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 12: Vanderbilt, 7 p.m.
Sept. 19: UL-Lafayette, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: at Miss. State, TBA
Oct. 3: at Georgia, TBA
Oct. 10: Florida, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24: Auburn, 7 p.m.
Oct. 31: Tulane, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7: at Alabama, TBA
Nov. 14: Louisiana Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21: at Ole Miss, TBA
Nov. 28: Arkansas, 7 p.m.

Richard Dickson needs 19 catches to break an LSU record for tight ends.



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CONFERENCE USA/TULANE GREEN WAVE

Wide-open offenses highlight wide-open C-USA

By Al Jones
afjones@sunherald.com

If predictions hold true, Houston and defending champ East Carolina will play for the Conference USA championship in early December.

But there's nothing written in concrete within the crazy world of C-USA football where offensive fireworks can be heard across the region on a given Saturday.

"I think you have to go with Houston and East Carolina," Tulane coach Bob Toledo said. "The reason is they both have experience at quarterback. That is what you start with in this wide-open, big-play show. I think they do have the inside track, but there are a lot of good football teams in this confer-



ence."

The Cougars return Case Keenum, the 2008 C-USA Offensive Player of the Year and the preseason pick for this season as well as a member of the Davey O'Brien Watch List.

Keenum led the nation in total offense last season with 5,241 yards and finished second in passing yards at 5,020 to go with 33 touchdown passes.

In all, Keenum averaged 403.2 yards as the Cougars rolled up 569.9 yards of offense.

East Carolina, which beat Tulsa 27-23 in the C-USA championship game last year, will be anchored by senior Pat Pinkney, who threw for 2,675 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Other top quarterbacks will be Austin Davis at Southern Miss, Joe Webb of Alabama-Birmingham and UTEP's Trevor Vittatoe.

Last season, Webb threw for 2,367 yards and rushed for 1,021 yards with 21 touchdowns.

Vittatoe threw 33 touchdown passes in 2008 and added

nearly eight yards per rush to give the Miners a double threat.

In the East, Southern Miss is expected to challenge East Carolina for the berth on the championship game based on the return of running back Damion Fletcher, wide receiver DeAndre Brown and Davis.

"I will be disappointed if we don't win the championship," Fletcher said. "We came on strong last year after we were 2-6. We have worked hard and we will carry the momentum over. If we are healthy, we can't

be stopped on offense."

The East title could come down to the season finale in late November when the Golden Eagles visit East Carolina.

"We expect to win every game this year," Southern Miss coach Larry Fedora said. "It begins with defense, but you need a solid quarterback, too. I think Austin Davis is going to have a good year. I have to admit, he came in last year and picked things up better than I expected.

"The thing about Austin is he has gotten better in the way he manages the game and that's where we needed him to improve."

East Carolina senior DL C.J. Wilson was named the preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

Tulane knows getting off to a good start is vital

By Al Jones
afjones@sunherald.com

The 2008 season started on a promising note for Tulane at 2-2.

The losses came in the first two games, a 20-6 decision at then No. 13 Alabama and a 28-24 setback to No. 14 East Carolina.

Tulane evened its record before the wheels fell off.

From a 44-13 loss to Army on Oct. 4 to a season-ending 45-6 loss to Memphis, the Green Wave would not taste victory.

In fact, the Wave were outscored 101-to-13 in the final two games and only once

during the long losing streak, a 24-21 loss to UTEP, was the final margin of victory 10 points or less.

"We have a new attitude this year," Toledo said. "We have a fresh start and if we stay healthy, we can become competitive."



Toledo

Toledo, now in his third season, points to a rash of injuries for the main reason the Green Wave tumbled to an eight-game losing streak.

"The thing that will help us this year is we played 12 true freshmen and 10 redshirt freshmen because of injuries," Toledo said. "We had 17 season-ending injuries last season.

"I am not making any excuses,

but that hurt. It will also help us this year, especially with depth down the road."

Tulane, which plays in Conference USA's West Division, returns 16 starters, eight on offense and eight on defense.

Defensively, the Green Wave will be led by tackle Reggie Scott (6-3, 260), who recorded 28 tackles last season with two sacks, 6.5 tackles for loss and one interception.

Scott, who has 16.5 career tackles for loss, was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA.

As far as the overall defense, Toledo expects more in 2009 from a unit that yielded 56 touchdowns and saw opponents convert 47 percent on its third down conversions.

Offensively, look for Joe Kemp to replace Kevin Moore at quarterback.

Moore, the starter in 2008, threw for 2,194 yards and eight touchdowns and completed 56 percent on his passes.

Kemp, in limited action, completed 56.5 percent of his passes for 344 yards and two scores.

"I don't like to play two quarterbacks," Toledo said. "Joe Kemp is going to be the quarterback. I do not want him looking over his shoulder.

"He is a talented sophomore with a strong arm and very accurate. All he needs is playing time. I feel he is the right guy to lead us."

As a unit, the 2008 offense was held to 16.7 points and 339.7 total yards per game.

Getting off to a good start is a major concern for Toledo. Last season saw opponents outscore the Green Wave 104-48 in the first quarter and 110-69 in the second.

"I gave the players a shirt last year that said 'finish'," Toledo said. "We need a shirt that says 'start' this year.

The year before we didn't finish. We were inconsistent.

"What happened last year was we had too many injuries. The players understand they were in a shell the last couple of weeks. I believe the injuries caught up to us."



SEC OVERVIEW

No surprise: Florida an overwhelming SEC favorite

By JIM MASHEK
jvmashek@sunherald.com

There might not be an easier gig than handicapping the SEC race in 2009.

By virtually everyone's account, it's Florida's world, and the rest of the SEC is just living in it.

Florida has won two of the last three SEC and BCS national championships (LSU breaking through for both titles in '07), and the Gators return 20 starters, including their entire defense, from last year's 13-1 squad.

Oh, and there's this Tebow fellow you might have heard something about.

"There is no man like Tim Tebow," Florida linebacker Ryan Stamper said.

Tebow, a left-handed quarterback with a fullback's mentality, won the Heisman Trophy in 2007. He finished third in the Heisman balloting last year, but took the bigger prize, the national championship. He's become a mythic figure in college football, and he's a big reason Florida is such an overwhelming SEC favorite.

Probably the biggest reason.

"Our goals are always the same," Florida coach Urban Meyer said. "We want to do everything we can to get to Atlanta (for the SEC title game)."

The inference, of course, being the SEC champion should be a player for the BCS national title game. LSU made it there two years ago, even with two



losses. Florida lost just one game last year, a 31-30 decision to Ole Miss at The Swamp, and an impassioned Tebow said the Gators would use that defeat to fuel the rest of their season.

Florida outscored its next eight opponents by an average of 38 points per game. Then the Gators came back from a fourth-quarter deficit to zap Alabama 31-20 in the SEC championship game. They beat Oklahoma 24-14 for their second BCS national title in three years.

"I think our team has improved over the past year," Tebow said. "We have had time to get better, mentally, by watching film. Physically, in the weight room. Our chemistry has grown."

The SEC West figures to be a three-team race between Alabama, Ole Miss and LSU. Of the three, only Ole Miss has an established quarterback in Jevan Snead. Jordan Jefferson will try to pick up where he left off in LSU's bowl game, a 38-3 rout of Georgia Tech in Atlanta, but he made only a handful of starts last season. Greg McElroy takes over for John Parker

However, the final four games saw the defense record 10 interceptions, giving up six scoring passes.

"Whoever plays the best defense is going to win the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prognosticators expect more celebrating from Urban Meyer and his Florida Gators this season.

Wilson at Alabama, and the Crimson Tide has to replace running back Glen Coffee, too.

"I think our team is on the rise," Ole Miss coach Houston Nutt said. "But I wouldn't say, 'OK, (we get to) Atlanta or it's really a downer.' I don't believe that."

league," Fedora said. "Everybody has proved they can score some points. I was very impressed with how our defense finished, especially with our youth.

Alabama was the nation's No. 1-ranked team when it took the field against Florida for the SEC championship in December, but the Crimson Tide lost that game before getting blown out by Utah in the Sugar Bowl.

"We won 12 games," Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain

"They (players) kept believing in what we were trying to do. They stayed together and they got the job done in the long run."

So what's Fedora take on 2009? A C-USA championship,

PREDICTIONS

Media members made Florida the unanimous picks to win the Eastern Division:

Eastern Division

1. Florida
2. Georgia
3. South Carolina
4. Tennessee
5. Vanderbilt
6. Kentucky

Western Division

1. Alabama
2. LSU
3. Ole Miss
4. Arkansas
5. Auburn
6. Mississippi State

said, "but we didn't finish how we wanted. We were disappointed, but this year will be different. Coach (Nick) Saban is preaching to us, 'Finish, finish,' and that's what we're working on doing."

Georgia, the SEC favorite last season, is the consensus pick to finish second to Florida in the SEC East. But the Bulldogs have to replace quarterback Matthew Stafford and running back Knowshon Moreno, and they've beaten Florida just three times over the last 19 years.

"We're always motivated to win the East, period," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "You know, I don't know if it matters who's preseason No. 1. We absolutely just have to focus on ourselves and what we need to do to prepare."

of course.

"Don't get me wrong, there's still a lot of work to be done," Fedora said. "But I expect to win every game. If we stay healthy, we will have a chance to win."

USM

Continued from S-9

in a five-game run last season with three interceptions.

SWAC/LITTLE SEVEN

Expect a battle of Tigers in Birmingham showdown

By JAMES JONES
jjones@sunherald.com

For the third straight year, the SWAC championship will come down between a pair of Tiger mascots.

Jackson State and Grambling are heavily favored to three-peat as the East and West division champions.

The 11th Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game will be played Dec. 12 at Legion Field in Birmingham.

Grambling (10-2) thrashed Jackson State 41-9 in last year's league title game en route to capturing the black college national championship.

With quarterback Greg Dillon and defensive end Christian Anthony returning, Grambling is considered a favorite to repeat as SWAC champions. Anthony was SWAC title game's Defensive MVP.

Offense will be the theme at Jackson State, which has tremendous depth at running back. Darius Bolela and Luther Edwards lead a crowded



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback Greg Dillon returns for defending Southwestern Athletic Conference champion Grambling.

Jackson State backfield battling for carries.

An early SWAC title game preview takes place Sept. 19 at Mississippi Veterans Memo-

rial Stadium. Grambling won at home last year and completed the sweep in the SWAC title game.

Alabama A&M expects to

provide Jackson State (8-4) its toughest challenge in the East. The Bulldogs host Jackson State on Nov. 14, when the East title may be at stake.

Alcorn State and Mississippi Valley State are rebuilding, but came close to upsetting Jackson State last season. Jackson State invades Rice-Totten Stadium on Sept. 26 and faces the Braves in the Soul Bowl at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium on Nov. 21.

Quarterback Paul Roberts of Gulfport returns for his senior year to lead the Delta Devils (2-9).

First-year coach Earnest Collins hopes to continue rebuilding the Braves into a competitive squad.

Southern and Prairie View are both considered Grambling's biggest obstacle in the Western Division.

Southern is always dangerous because of the Jaguars' rivalry with Grambling. Their season-ending battle in the Bayou Classic on Nov. 28 at the Superdome could decide the West.

If Grambling falters, the Panthers may find themselves in the SWAC title game. Prairie View has a stout defense.

Postseason planning for some Little Seven schools

The Little Seven enjoyed its best postseason campaign in years last season.

Three small college teams made the playoffs in 2008: Jackson State, Delta State and Millsaps.

The Tigers (7-5) won the East Division, but were spanked by Grambling in the SWAC championship game.

Delta State (11-2) advanced to the NCAA Division II quarterfinals before losing at North Alabama.

Millsaps (11-1) set a school

record for wins in a season before reaching the Division III second round.

At least two teams are projected to extend their seasons past Thanksgiving: Jackson State and Delta State.

Jackson State expects to win a third consecutive division crown and face Grambling on Dec. 12



By James Jones

Sun Herald

at Birmingham's Legion Field.

The Tigers should have no problems getting past Alabama A&M and Alabama State in a weakened East Division.

Whether or not Jackson State can dethrone black college national champion Grambling is entirely another matter.

The Tigers' hopes likely depend on consistent play from quarterback Trae Rutland and a retooled offensive line.

Delta State, ranked fourth nationally, has a chance at winning its third straight Gulf South

Conference title.

"We're pleased to be picked as the favorite to win the GSC championship, but it's just the preseason, and there is a lot of work left to be done," Delta State coach Ron Roberts said. "The only poll that matters is the one at the end."

My guess: the Fighting Okra will hold off North Alabama and Valdosta State to make another deep playoff run.

Delta State will reach the Division II semifinals and fall to eventual national champion

Grand Rapid State.

Mississippi College was picked by Sporting News as a sleeper in Division III because quarterback Adam Shaffer returns. The All-American Southwest Conference performer missed last year because of a knee injury.

As for individual honors, Mississippi Valley State quarterback Paul Roberts of Gulfport will make one of the All-SWAC teams. The former St. John standout is primed to have a big season.

LITTLE SEVEN

JACKSON STATE TIGERS



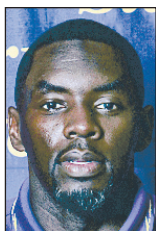
Comegy

Conference: SWAC
2008 record: 8-4, 6-2 (East Division champions)
Postseason: Lost in SWAC Title game
Coach: Rick Comegy
Players to watch: QB Trae Rutland, DL Sam Washington

SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 5 | at Mississippi State | 2:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 12 | at Tennessee State | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | GRAMBLING | 3:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 | SOUTHERN | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 | ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 17 | TEXAS SOUTHERN | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | at Miss. Valley St. | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 7 | ALABAMA STATE | 4 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | at Alabama A&M | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 21 | Alcorn State | 1 p.m. |

ALCORN STATE BRAVES



Collins

Conference: SWAC
2008 record: 2-10, 2-7
Coach: Earnest Collins
Players to watch: DL Malcolm Taylor

SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 5 | at Southern Miss | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | at Central Michigan | 3:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 26 | at Southern University | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 1 | at Arkansas Pine Bluff | TBA |
| Oct. 10 | MISS. VALLEY ST. | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 17 | ALABAMA A&M | 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | at Alabama State | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | at Texas Southern | 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | PRAIRIE VIEW A&M | 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 21 | at Jackson State | 1 p.m. |

MISS. VALLEY DELTA DEVILS



Totten

Conference: SWAC
2008 record: 3-8, 2-7
Coach: Willie Totten
Players to watch: QB Paul Roberts, WR Brandon Stargell

SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 5 | at Arkansas St. | 6:05 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF | 5 p.m. |
| Sept. 26 | ALABAMA STATE (Chicago) | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 | TEXAS COLLEGE | 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 | at Alcorn State | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 17 | at Prairie View A&M | 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | JACKSON STATE | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | at Grambling State | 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 7 | TEXAS SOUTHERN | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | LINCOLN (MO.) | 3 p.m. |
| Nov. 21 | at Alabama A&M | 1 p.m. |

DELTA STATE STATESMEN



Roberts

Conference: Gulf South Conference
2008 record: 11-2, 7-0 (GSC champions)
Postseason: Reached NCAA Division II quarterfinals
Coach: Ron Roberts
Players to watch: RB Trevar Deed, LB Lardester Green-Hicks

SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|--------|
| Aug. 29 | at Texas A&M-Kingsville | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 12 | at Arkansas-Monticello | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | HARDING | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 26 | at Ouachita Baptist | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 1 | VALDOSTA STATE | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 | at West Alabama | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 15 | at North Alabama | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | SOUTHERN ARKANSAS | 3 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | at Arkansas Tech | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 7 | WEST GEORGIA | 4 p.m. |

MISS. COLLEGE CHOCTAWS



Joseph

Conference: American Southwest
2008 record: 5-5, 5-2
Coach: Norman Joseph
Players to watch: QB Adam Shafer, RB Desmond Mays

SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 5 | MILLSAPS | 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 12 | CUMBERLAND (ky.) | 1:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | at McMurry | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 26 | HARDIN-SIMMONS | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 | at Louisiana College | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 17 | MARY-HARDIN BAYLOR | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | at East Texas Baptist | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | HOWARD PAYNE | 4 p.m. |
| Nov. 7 | at Sul Ross State | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | TEXAS LUTHERAN | 1 p.m. |

MILLSAPS MAJORS



Dubose

Conference: Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference
2008 record: 11-1, 7-0 (SCAC Champions)
Postseason: Second-round of Division III playoffs
Coach: Mike Dubose
Players to watch: OL John Shivers, RB Shane Bowsern

SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 5 | at Mississippi College | 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 12 | BELHAVEN | 1 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | at Austin College | 1 p.m. |
| Sept. 26 | TRINITY | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 | at DePauw | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 | at Huntingdon College | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 17 | RHODES | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | CENTRE COLLEGE | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | at Sewanee University | 1:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN | 1 p.m. |

BELHAVEN BLAZERS



Thrasher

Conference: NAIA (Mid-South Division)
2008 record: 2-9
Coach: Joseph Thrasher
Players to watch: RB Ricardo Bolton, WR Shaun Ector

SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Aug. 27 | WEST ALABAMA | 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 12 | MILLSAPS | 1 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN | 1:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 26 | BETHEL COLLEGE | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 | at Faulkner University | 1:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 10 | at West Virginia-IT | 1:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 17 | SHORTER COLLEGE | 1:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | at Cumberland University | 1:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | at Lambuth University | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 7 | CAMPBELLSVILLE | 1:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | UNION COLLEGE | 1:30 p.m. |

GULF COAST BULLDOGS

MGCCC enters 2009 ranked No. 2

Bulldogs have speed, solid defense

By DOUG BARBER
dmbarber@sunherald.com

Second-ranked Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College begins defense of its state title with a surplus of skill players and an excellent corps of defenders.

The offensive line is an area where the Bulldogs are rebuilding, according to coach Steve Campbell.

"I'm very excited about the season," Campbell said. "I feel we are competing in a great league. Everyone is gunning for us. We have won the state championship two times in a row and we've finished in the Top 10 nationally the last four years."

MGCCC went 10-2 last year after winning the national championship in 2007. The Bulldogs beat Georgia Military in the inaugural Mississippi Bowl.

The Bulldog running attack features a pair of ex-Pascagoula Panthers: Vick Ballard and Jonathan Deflanders. Starting quarterback Greg Jenkins returns along with backup quarterback Corey Danner, a Forrest County alum.

"We have a lot of skill players back," Campbell said. "Wide receiver Kelvin Bolden from Ocean Springs came on and had some big plays for us last year. Brett Moncrief is back at wide receiver."

The lone returning offensive lineman is center Eric Hollis from Pascagoula.



SUN HERALD

Running back Vick Ballard returns for Gulf Coast, which hopes to live up to its No. 2-ranking nationally. The Bulldogs went 10-2 last year and won the inaugural Mississippi Bowl.

"We will be rebuilding the line," Campbell said. "There will be new faces. But we do have some size."

Defensively, end Wayne Dorsey (6-8, 245) is a pre-season second-team NJCAA All-American.

"Most of the SEC is recruiting him," Campbell said.

Joining Dorsey up front are nose guard James Carmen and Aaron Nelson of Ocean Springs.

Damien Jackson is back in the secondary after picking off

eight passes from his free safety position. Bradley Jacobs is the strong safety.

"Our strength is up the middle on defense," Campbell said.

The schedule, as usual, is challenging.

Gulf Coast hosts 19th-ranked Northwest Mississippi in its season opener Thursday, Aug. 27.

The Bulldogs also visit sixth-ranked East Mississippi and quarterback Randall Mackey on Sept. 17, then hosts 11th-ranked rival Pearl River the next

week. The regular-season finale is at 14th-ranked Jones County Junior College.

A.L. May Stadium will also feature a new look — artificial turf.

The Mississippi state champion plays in the Mississippi Bowl in Biloxi on Dec. 6 but Campbell prefers to leave that contemplation to the fans.

"Right now we just want to find a way to beat Northwest," Campbell said. "The long journey doesn't begin until you take the first step."

PROFILE

Conference: MACJC South Division

2008 record: 10-2

Postseason: defeated Georgia Military 41-7 in Mississippi Bowl in Biloxi; finished fourth in the nation

Key losses: K Sean Brauchle (signed with Miss. State), LB Chris White (signed with Miss. State), OL P.K. Keys, DB Demond Washington

Key returnees: QB Greg Jenkins (14 TD passes, 3 rushing TDs in 2008), Vick Ballard (555 rushing yards, 12 TDS in 2008), WR Kelvin Bolden (4 TDs in 2008, timed at 4.30 seconds in the 40-yard dash), WR Brett Moncrief (2 TDs), S Damien Jackson (7 interceptions, tied for second nationally in NJCAA), DL Wayne Dorsey (10 sacks in 2008)

STARTERS

Returning starters: 6 on offense, 6 on defense

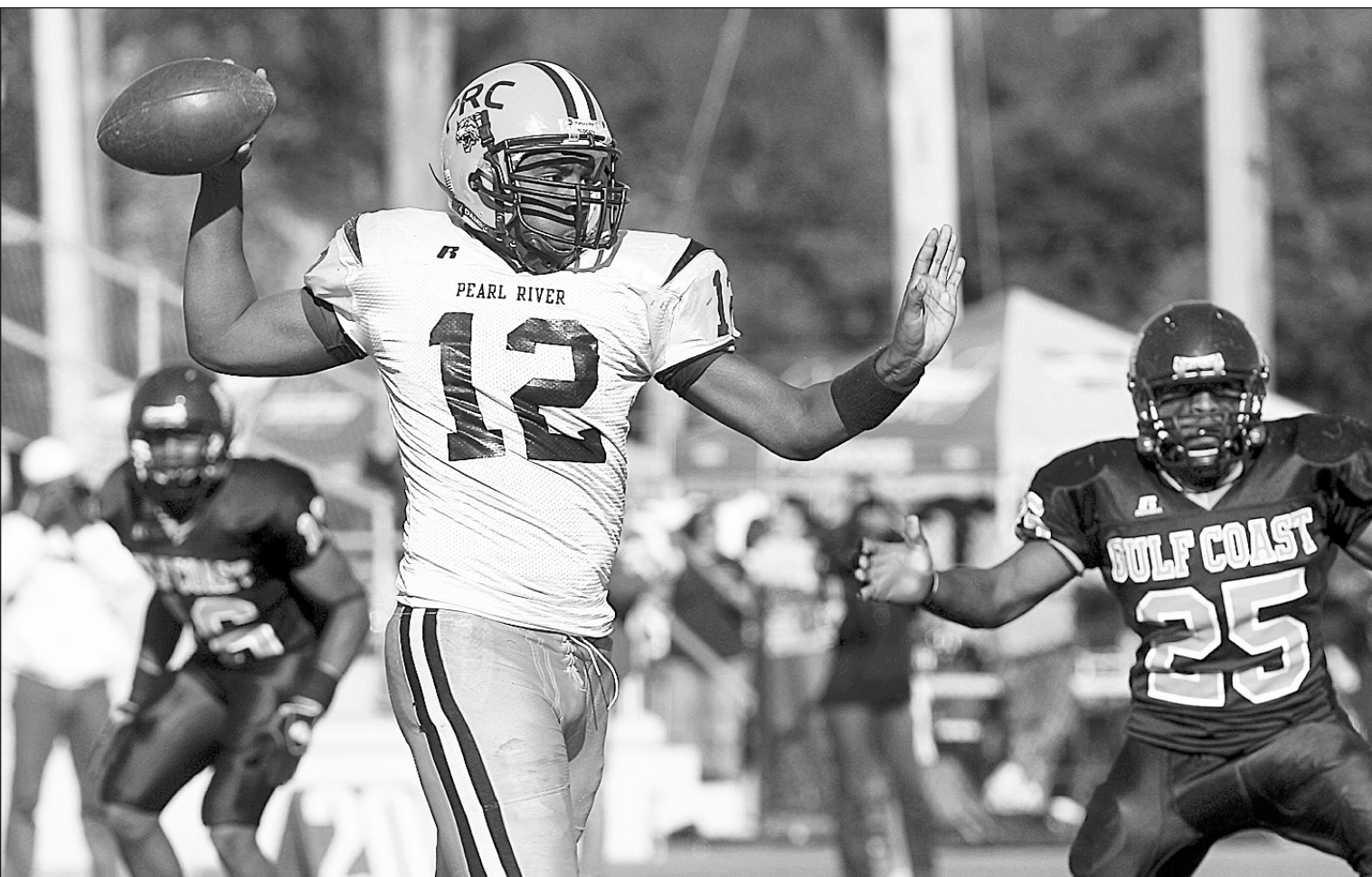
Accomplishments: MGCCC ranked second in preseason nationally MGCCC is 41-11 in six seasons under Coach Steve Campbell and has a 2007 NJCAA co-national championship, two MACJC state titles, three MACJC South Division titles, and has gone to 3 bowls

SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Aug. 27 | NORTHWEST, 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 3 | ITAWAMBA, 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 10 | at Southwest, 6:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 17 | at East Mississippi, 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 24 | PEARL RIVER, 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 3 | COPIAH-LINCOLN, 3:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 8 | at East Central, 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 15 | HINDS, 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 24 | at Jones, 2 p.m. |

PEARL RIVER WILDCATS

Pearl River wants another title



SUN HERALD FILE

Quarterback Emil Jones is the key to Pearl River's hopes of winning an MACJC State Championship.

Jones, Henry back for Wildcats

By JAMES JONES
jkjones@sunherald.com

POPLARVILLE — Pearl River is ready to end its state championship drought.

The 11th-ranked Wildcats (8-3) haven't won an MACJC state championship since 2006. Pearl River had won four straight titles.

Pearl River coach Tim Hatten sees another difficult journey to regain the state title. The Wildcats travel to second-ranked Gulf Coast on Sept. 24 at A.L. May Stadium. No. 14 Jones

County invades Dobie-Holden Stadium in mid-October for another key game.

"Everybody we face on our schedule is a challenge," Hatten said. "Five MACJC teams in the preseason poll goes to show you the strength of our conference."

Inconsistent quarterback play is the main reason for the Wildcats' two-year title drought.

Anthony Johnson, Larry Freeman, Jimmy Oliver, Carlton Hill, and Mike Greco all started under center during the Wildcats' title run.

Pearl River also won the NJ-CAA national title in 2004.

Emil Jones has the potential to boost the Wildcats' title hopes. He showed promise as a fresh-

man last year, helping Pearl River reach the state title game. He led the Wildcats on a game-winning drive at Jones County.

Jones, who has attracted interest from Memphis and Marshall, threw for 2,501 yards and 18 touchdowns.

"He's a tremendous football player that's only going to get better and better," Hatten said.

Jones will have plenty of offensive weapons at his disposal with the return of running back Rashod Henry.

Henry, who has made a verbal commitment to Mississippi State, also saw time at wide receiver and returned punts and kickoffs.

He ran for 545 yards and seven touchdowns on just 75

carries. He caught five passes for 159 yards.

The speedy Henry arrived via the Atlanta Braves' farm system and into the Wildcats' roster.

"My goal is to get in better shape," the Lumberton native said. "I came straight from baseball last year, so I wasn't really in the shape I needed to be. The better shape I am in, the more yards I can get."

Sophomore wide receivers Desmond Ratliff and Darnell Jackson are both back for the Wildcats.

Pearl River figures to have another strong defensive squad, led by preseason All-American Charles Deas.

PROFILE

Conference: MACJC

2008 record: 8-3 (4-2 South)

Postseason: Lost to Gulf Coast

52-7 in MACJC Title Game.

Key losses: LB Hendrick Leverette,

DL Darius Hart, DB Marcus Ball.

Key returnees: QB Emil Jones, RB

Rashod Henry, LB Justin Flowers.

STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB — Emil Jones (soph.)

RB — Rashod Henry (soph.)

WR — Desmond Ratliff (soph.)

WR — Sam Robinson (soph.)

WR — Darnell Jackson

WR — Willie Downs (soph.)

OL — Brent Benvenuti (soph.)

OL — Matt Matranga (soph.)

OL — Collin Johnson (soph.)

OL — Jason Seo (fr.)

OL — Alex Dantzler (Fr.)

DEFENSE

DE — Scardino Daniels (soph.)

DT — Charles Deas (soph.)

DT — Brandon Keys (soph.)

DE — Eric Ervin (soph.)

LB — Justin Flowers (soph.)

LB — Mitch Kennedy (soph.)

LB — Jeremy Smith (soph.)

DB — Jonnie Dixon (soph.)

DB — Jamison Hughes (fr.)

DB — Willie Mickel (fr.)

DB — Otho Foster (fr.)

SCHEDULE

Aug. 27 at Holmes 7 p.m.

Sept. 3 NORTHEAST 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 10 at Northwest 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 17 HINDS 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 24 at Gulf Coast 7 p.m.

Oct. 1 JONES CO. 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 10 at Co-Lin 5 p.m.

Oct. 17 SOUTHWEST 3 p.m.

Oct. 22 at East Central 6:30 p.m.

COLLEGE 2009 SCHEDULES

AIR FORCE

Sep. 5 Nicholls St., 1 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at New Mexico, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 San Diego St., 1 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Navy, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 TCU, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 Wyoming, 1 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Utah, 3 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Colorado St., 3 p.m.
Nov. 7 Army, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 14 UNLV, 5 p.m.
Nov. 21 at BYU, 2:30 p.m.

AKRON

Sep. 5 at Penn St., 11 a.m.
Sep. 12 Morgan St., 1 p.m.
Sep. 19 Indiana, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Cent. Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 Ohio, 5 p.m.
Oct. 17 at Buffalo, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Syracuse, TBA
Oct. 31 at N. Illinois, 11 a.m.
Nov. 7 Kent St., 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 13 Temple, 7 p.m.
Nov. 20 at Bowling Green, 4:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 E. Michigan, TBA

ALABAMA

Sep. 5 at Virginia Tech, 7 p.m.
Sep. 12 Fla. International, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 North Texas, 11:20 a.m.
Sep. 26 Arkansas, TBA
Oct. 3 at Kentucky, TBA
Oct. 10 at Mississippi, TBA
Oct. 17 South Carolina, TBA
Oct. 24 Tennessee, TBA
Nov. 7 LSU, TBA
Nov. 14 at Mississippi St., TBA
Nov. 21 Chattanooga, TBA
Nov. 27 at Auburn, 1:30 p.m.

ARIZONA

Sep. 5 Cent. Michigan, 9 p.m.
Sep. 12 N. Arizona, 9 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Iowa, 2:35 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Oregon St., TBA
Oct. 10 at Washington, TBA
Oct. 17 Stanford, 6 p.m.
Oct. 24 UCLA, 6 p.m.
Nov. 7 Washington St., 5 p.m.
Nov. 14 at California, TBA
Nov. 21 Oregon, TBA
Nov. 28 at Arizona St., TBA
Dec. 5 at Southern Cal, 2:30 p.m.

ARIZONA ST.

Sep. 5 Idaho St., 9 p.m.
Sep. 19 Louisiana-Monroe, 9 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Georgia, TBA
Oct. 3 Oregon St., TBA
Oct. 10 at Washington St., TBA
Oct. 17 Washington, 9 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Stanford, 9:15 p.m.
Oct. 31 California, TBA
Nov. 7 Southern Cal, 7 p.m.
Nov. 14 at Oregon, TBA
Nov. 21 at UCLA, TBA
Nov. 28 Arizona, TBA

ARKANSAS

Sep. 5 Missouri St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 Georgia, 6:45 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Alabama, TBA
Oct. 3 at Texas A&M, TBA
Oct. 10 Auburn, TBA
Oct. 17 at Florida, TBA
Oct. 24 at Mississippi, TBA
Oct. 31 E. Michigan, TBA
Nov. 7 South Carolina, TBA
Nov. 14 Troy, TBA
Nov. 21 Mississippi St., TBA
Nov. 28 at LSU, 7 p.m.

ARKANSAS ST.

Sep. 5 MVSU, 6:05 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Nebraska, 1 p.m.
Sep. 26 Troy, TBA
Oct. 3 at Iowa, TBA
Oct. 13 at Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24 Fla. International, TBA
Oct. 31 at Louisville, TBA
Nov. 7 Louisiana-Lafayette, TBA
Nov. 14 at Florida Atlantic, 3 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Middle Tennessee, TBA
Nov. 28 North Texas, TBA
Dec. 3 at W. Kentucky, TBA

ARMY

Sep. 5 at E. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 Duke, TBA
Sep. 19 Ball St., 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 at Iowa St., TBA
Oct. 3 Tulane, TBA
Oct. 10 Vanderbilt, TBA
Oct. 17 at Temple, noon
Oct. 23 Rutgers, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Air Force, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 14 VMI, TBA
Nov. 21 at North Texas, 3 p.m.
Dec. 12 at Navy, 1:30 p.m.

AUBURN

Sep. 5 Louisiana Tech, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 Mississippi St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 West Virginia, 7:45 p.m.
Sep. 26 Ball St., TBA
Oct. 3 at Tennessee, TBA
Oct. 10 at Arkansas, TBA
Oct. 17 Kentucky, TBA

Oct. 24 at LSU, 7 p.m.
Oct. 31 Mississippi, TBA
Nov. 7 Furman, TBA
Nov. 14 at Georgia, TBA
Nov. 27 Alabama, 1:30 p.m.

BYU

Sep. 5 at Oklahoma, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Tulane, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Florida St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 Colorado St., 5 p.m.
Oct. 2 Utah St., 8 p.m.
Oct. 10 at UNLV, 9 p.m.
Oct. 17 at San Diego St., 5 p.m.
Oct. 24 TCU, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Wyoming, 1 p.m.
Nov. 14 at New Mexico, 1 p.m.
Nov. 21 Air Force, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 Utah, 4 p.m.

BALL ST.

Sep. 3 North Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 12 New Hampshire, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Army, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 at Auburn, TBA
Oct. 3 Toledo, 11 a.m.
Oct. 10 at Temple, noon
Oct. 17 Bowling Green, 11 a.m.
Oct. 24 at E. Michigan, noon
Oct. 31 Ohio, 11 a.m.
Nov. 12 at N. Illinois, TBA
Nov. 18 Cent. Michigan, TBA
Nov. 24 at W. Michigan, 6 p.m.

BAYLOR

Sep. 5 at Wake Forest, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Connecticut, 4 p.m.
Sep. 26 Northwestern St., 6 p.m.
Oct. 3 Kent St., 6 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Oklahoma, TBA
Oct. 17 at Iowa St., TBA
Oct. 24 Oklahoma St., TBA
Oct. 31 Nebraska, TBA
Nov. 7 at Missouri, TBA
Nov. 14 Texas, TBA
Nov. 21 at Texas A&M, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 Texas Tech, TBA

BOISE ST.

Sep. 3 Oregon, 9:15 p.m.
Sep. 12 Miami (Ohio), 7 p.m.
Sep. 18 at Fresno St., 8 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Bowling Green, 6 p.m.
Oct. 3 UC Davis, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14 at Tulsa, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Hawaii, 11:05 a.m.
Oct. 31 San Jose St., 2 p.m.
Nov. 6 at Louisiana Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 14 Idaho, 2 p.m.
Nov. 20 at Utah St., 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 Nevada, TBA
Dec. 5 New Mexico St., 2 p.m.

BOSTON COLLEGE

Sep. 5 Northeastern, 1 p.m.
Sep. 12 Kent St., 1 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Clemson, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 Wake Forest, TBA
Oct. 3 Florida St., TBA
Oct. 10 at Virginia Tech, TBA
Oct. 17 N.C. State, TBA
Oct. 24 at Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 31 Cent. Michigan, TBA
Nov. 14 at Virginia, TBA
Nov. 21 North Carolina, TBA
Nov. 28 at Maryland, TBA

BOWLING GREEN

Sep. 3 Troy, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Missouri, TBA
Sep. 19 at Marshall, 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 Boise St., 6 p.m.
Oct. 3 Ohio, 3 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Kent St., 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 at Ball St., 11 a.m.
Oct. 24 Cent. Michigan, 11 a.m.
Nov. 3 at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Nov. 12 at Miami (Ohio), 5 p.m.
Nov. 20 Akron, 4:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 Toledo, TBA

BUFFALO

Sep. 5 at UTEP, 8 p.m.
Sep. 12 Pittsburgh, 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 at UCF, TBA
Sep. 26 at Temple, 11 a.m.
Oct. 3 Cent. Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 Gardner-Webb, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 Akron, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 at W. Michigan, 1 p.m.
Nov. 3 Bowling Green, 6 p.m.
Nov. 10 Ohio, 6 p.m.
Nov. 18 at Miami (Ohio), TBA
Nov. 27 at Kent St., 1 p.m.

CALIFORNIA

Sep. 5 Maryland, 9 p.m.
Sep. 12 E. Washington, 4:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Minnesota, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 at Oregon, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 Southern Cal, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17 at UCLA, TBA
Oct. 24 Washington St., TBA
Oct. 31 at Arizona St., TBA
Nov. 7 Oregon St., TBA
Nov. 14 Arizona, TBA
Nov. 21 at Stanford, TBA
Dec. 5 at Washington, 5:30 p.m.

CENT. MICHIGAN

Sep. 5 at Arizona, 9 p.m.

Sep. 12 at Michigan St., 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 Alcorn St., 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 Akron, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Buffalo, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 E. Michigan, 11 a.m.
Oct. 17 at W. Michigan, TBA
Oct. 24 at Bowling Green, 11 a.m.
Oct. 31 at Boston College, TBA
Nov. 11 Toledo, 7 p.m.
Nov. 18 at Ball St., TBA
Nov. 27 N. Illinois, TBA

CINCINNATI

Sep. 7 at Rutgers, 3 p.m.
Sep. 12 SE Missouri, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Oregon St., 5:45 p.m.
Sep. 26 Fresno St., 11 a.m.
Oct. 3 at Miami (Ohio), noon
Oct. 15 at South Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 Louisville, TBA
Oct. 31 at Syracuse, TBA
Nov. 7 Connecticut, TBA
Nov. 13 West Virginia, 7 p.m.
Nov. 27 Illinois, TBA
Dec. 5 at Pittsburgh, TBA

CLEMSON

Sep. 5 Middle Tennessee, 5 p.m.
Sep. 10 at Georgia Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Boston College, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 TCU, TBA
Oct. 3 at Maryland, TBA
Oct. 17 Wake Forest, TBA
Oct. 24 at Miami, TBA
Oct. 31 Coastal Carolina, TBA
Nov. 7 Florida St., TBA
Nov. 14 at N.C. State, TBA
Nov. 21 Virginia, TBA
Nov. 28 at South Carolina, TBA

COLORADO

Sep. 6 Colorado St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 11 at Toledo, 8 p.m.
Sep. 19 Wyoming, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 1 at West Virginia, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Texas, TBA
Oct. 17 Kansas, TBA
Oct. 24 at Kansas St., TBA
Oct. 31 Missouri, TBA
Nov. 7 Texas A&M, TBA
Nov. 14 at Iowa St., TBA
Nov. 19 at Oklahoma St., 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 Nebraska, 2:30 p.m.

COLORADO ST.

Sep. 6 at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 Weber St., 4 p.m.
Sep. 19 Nevada, 4 p.m.
Sep. 26 at BYU, 5 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Idaho, 4 p.m.
Oct. 10 Utah, 5 p.m.
Oct. 17 at TCU, 3 p.m.
Oct. 24 San Diego St., 3 p.m.
Oct. 31 Air Force, 3 p.m.
Nov. 7 at UNLV, 9 p.m.
Nov. 21 at New Mexico, 5 p.m.
Nov. 27 Wyoming, 1 p.m.

CONNECTICUT

Sep. 5 at Ohio, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 North Carolina, 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 at Baylor, 4 p.m.
Sep. 26 Rhode Island, 11 a.m.
Oct. 10 at Pittsburgh, TBA
Oct. 17 Louisville, 11 a.m.
Oct. 24 at West Virginia, TBA
Oct. 31 Rutgers, TBA
Nov. 7 at Cincinnati, TBA
Nov. 21 at Notre Dame, 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 Syracuse, 11 a.m.
Dec. 5 South Florida, TBA

DUKE

Sep. 5 Richmond, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Army, TBA
Sep. 19 at Kansas, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 N.C. Central, 6 p.m.
Oct. 3 Virginia Tech, TBA
Oct. 10 at N.C. State, TBA
Oct. 24 Maryland, TBA
Oct. 31 at Virginia, TBA
Nov. 7 at North Carolina, TBA
Nov. 14 Georgia Tech, TBA
Nov. 21 at Miami, TBA
Nov. 28 Wake Forest, TBA

E. MICHIGAN

Sep. 5 Army, 7 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Northwestern, 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 at Michigan, 11 a.m.
Oct. 3 Temple, noon
Oct. 10 at Cent. Michigan, 11 a.m.
Oct. 17 Kent St., 3 p.m.
Oct. 24 Ball St., noon
Oct. 31 at Arkansas, TBA
Nov. 5 at N. Illinois, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 14 W. Michigan, noon
Nov. 20 at Toledo, 6 p.m.
Nov. 27 at Akron, TBA

EAST CAROLINA

Sep. 5 Appalachian St., 11 a.m.
Sep. 12 at Washington, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at North Carolina, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 UCF, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Marshall, 11 a.m.
Oct. 10 at SMU, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17 Rice, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 27 at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5 Virginia Tech, 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 15 at Tulsa, 7:15 p.m.
Nov. 21 UAB, 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 Southern Miss., noon

FLA. INTERNATIONAL

Sep. 12 at Alabama, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Rutgers, TBA
Sep. 26 Toledo, 6 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Louisiana-Monroe, TBA
Oct. 10 at W. Kentucky, TBA
Oct. 17 Troy, 6 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Arkansas St., TBA
Oct. 31 Louisiana-Lafayette, 11 a.m.
Nov. 7 at Middle Tennessee, TBA
Nov. 14 North Texas, 6 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Florida, TBA
Dec. 5 Florida Atlantic, 6 p.m.

FLORIDA

Sep. 5 Charleston Southern, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 Troy, 11:20 a.m.
Sep. 19 Tennessee, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Kentucky, TBA
Oct. 10 at LSU, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17 Arkansas, TBA
Oct. 24 at Mississippi St., TBA
Oct. 31 Georgia, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 Vanderbilt, TBA
Nov. 14 at South Carolina, TBA
Nov. 21 Fla. International, TBA
Nov. 28 Florida St., TBA

FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Sep. 5 at Nebraska, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at South Carolina, 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 Louisiana-Monroe, 3 p.m.
Oct. 3 Wyoming, 3 p.m.
Oct. 17 at North Texas, 6 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Louisiana-Lafayette, 4 p.m.
Oct. 31 Middle Tennessee, 3 p.m.
Nov. 7 at UAB, 1 p.m.
Nov. 14 Arkansas St., 3 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Troy, TBA
Nov. 28 W. Kentucky, 3 p.m.
Dec. 5 at Fla. International, 6 p.m.

FLORIDA ST.

Sep. 7 Miami, 7 p.m.
Sep. 12 Jacksonville St., 5 p.m.
Sep. 19 at BYU, 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 South Florida, TBA
Oct. 3 at Boston College, TBA
Oct. 10 Georgia Tech, TBA
Oct. 22 at North Carolina, TBA
Oct. 31 N.C. State, TBA
Nov. 7 at Clemson, TBA
Nov. 14 at Wake Forest, TBA
Nov. 21 Maryland, TBA
Nov. 28 at Florida, TBA

FRESNO ST.

Sep. 5 UC Davis, 9 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Wisconsin, 11 a.m.
Sep. 18 Boise St., 8 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Cincinnati, 11 a.m.
Oct. 10 at Hawaii, 11:05 p.m.
Oct. 17 San Jose St., 9 p.m.
Oct. 24 at New Mexico St., 7 p.m.
Oct. 31 Utah St., 4 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Idaho, 4 p.m.
Nov. 14 at Nevada, 3:05 p.m.
Nov. 21 Louisiana Tech, 4 p.m.
Dec. 5 at Illinois, 11:30 p.m.

GEORGIA

Sep. 5 at Oklahoma St., 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 12 South Carolina, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Arkansas, 6:45 p.m.
Sep. 26 Arizona St., TBA
Oct. 3 LSU, TBA
Oct. 10 at Tennessee, TBA
Oct. 17 at Vanderbilt, TBA
Oct. 31 at Florida, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 Tennessee Tech, noon
Nov. 14 Auburn, TBA
Nov. 21 Kentucky, TBA
Nov. 28 at Georgia Tech, TBA

GEORGIA TECH

Sep. 5 Jacksonville St., noon
Sep. 10 Clemson, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 17 at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 North Carolina, TBA
Oct. 3 at Mississippi St., TBA
Oct. 10 at Florida St., TBA
Oct. 17 Virginia Tech, TBA
Oct. 24 at Virginia, TBA
Oct. 31 at Vanderbilt, TBA
Nov. 7 Wake Forest, TBA
Nov. 14 at Duke, TBA
Nov. 28 Georgia, TBA

HAWAII

Sep. 4 Cent. Arkansas, 12:05 a.m.
Sep. 12 at Washington St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at UNLV, 8 p.m.
Sep. 30 at Louisiana Tech, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10 Fresno St., 11:05 p.m.
Oct. 17 at Idaho, 4 p.m.
Oct. 24 Boise St., 11:05 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Nevada, 3:05 p.m.
Nov. 7 Utah St., 10:05 p.m.
Nov. 14 New Mexico St., 10:05 p.m.
Nov. 21 at San Jose St., 7 p.m.
Nov. 28 Navy, 10:05 p.m.
Dec. 5 Wisconsin, TBA

HOUSTON

Sep. 5 Northwestern St., 4 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Oklahoma St., 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 Texas Tech, 8:15 p.m.

Oct. 3 at UTEP, 8 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Mississippi St., TBA
Oct. 17 at Tulane, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 SMU, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 31 Southern Miss., noon
Nov. 7 at Tulsa, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 14 at UCF, 11 a.m.
Nov. 21 Memphis, TBA
Nov. 28 Rice, TBA

IDAHO

Sep. 5 at New Mexico St., 7 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Washington, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 San Diego St., 4 p.m.
Sep. 26 at N. Illinois, 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 Colorado St., 4 p.m.
Oct. 10 at San Jose St., 7 p.m.
Oct. 17 Hawaii, 4 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Nevada, 3:05 p.m.
Oct. 31 Louisiana Tech, 4 p.m.
Nov. 7 Fresno St., 4 p.m.
Nov. 14 at Boise St., 2 p.m.
Nov. 28 Utah St., 4 p.m.

ILLINOIS

Sep. 5 Missouri, 2:40 p.m.
Sep. 12 Illinois St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Ohio St., TBA
Oct. 3 Penn St., TBA
Oct. 10 Michigan St., TBA
Oct. 17 at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Purdue, TBA
Oct. 31 Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Minnesota, TBA
Nov. 14 Northwestern, TBA
Nov. 27 at Cincinnati, TBA
Dec. 5 Fresno St., 11:30 a.m.

INDIANA

Sep. 3 E. Kentucky, 7 p.m.
Sep. 12 W. Michigan, 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 at Akron, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Michigan, 11 a.m.
Oct. 3 Ohio St., 6 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Virginia, TBA
Oct. 17 Illinois, 6 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Northwestern, 11 a.m.
Oct. 31 at Iowa, TBA
Nov. 7 Wisconsin, TBA
Nov. 14 at Penn St., TBA
Nov. 21 Purdue, TBA

IOWA

Sep. 5 N. Iowa, 11:05 a.m.
Sep. 12 at Iowa St., 11:05 a.m.
Sep. 19 Arizona, 2:35 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Penn St., 7:05 p.m.
Oct. 3 Arkansas St., TBA
Oct. 10 Michigan, 7:05 p.m.
Oct. 17 at Wisconsin, 11 a.m.
Oct. 24 at Michigan St., 6:05 p.m.
Oct. 31 Indiana, TBA
Nov. 7 Northwestern, TBA
Nov. 14 at Ohio St., TBA
Nov. 21 Minnesota, TBA

IOWA ST.

Sep. 3 N. Dakota St., TBA
Sep. 12 Iowa, 11:05 a.m.
Sep. 19 at Kent St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 Army, TBA
Oct. 3 Kansas St., TBA
Oct. 10 at Kansas, TBA
Oct. 17 Baylor, TBA
Oct. 24 at Nebraska, TBA
Oct. 31 at Texas A&M, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 Oklahoma St., TBA
Nov. 14 Colorado, TBA
Nov. 21 at Missouri, TBA

KANSAS

Sep. 5 N. Colorado, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 at UTEP, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Duke, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 Southern Miss., 11 a.m.
Oct. 10 Iowa St., TBA
Oct. 17 at Colorado, TBA
Oct. 24 Oklahoma, TBA
Oct. 31 at Texas Tech, TBA
Nov. 7 at Kansas St., TBA
Nov. 14 Nebraska, TBA
Nov. 21 at Texas, TBA
Nov. 28 Missouri, TBA

KANSAS ST.

Sep. 5 Massachusetts, 6:10 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Louisiana-Lafayette, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at UCLA, 9:15 p.m.
Sep. 26 Tennessee Tech, 1:10 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Iowa St., TBA
Oct. 10 at Texas Tech, TBA
Oct. 17 Texas A&M, TBA
Oct. 24 Colorado, TBA
Oct. 31 at Oklahoma, TBA
Nov. 7 Kansas, TBA
Nov. 14 Missouri, TBA
Nov. 21 at Nebraska, TBA

KENT ST.

Sep. 3 Coastal Carolina, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Boston College, 1 p.m.
Sep. 19 Iowa St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 Miami (Ohio), 6 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Baylor, 6 p.m.
Oct. 10 Bowling Green, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 at E. Michigan, 3 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Ohio, 1 p.m.
Oct. 31 W. Michigan, 1 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Akron, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Temple, noon

Nov. 27 Buffalo, 1 p.m.

KENTUCKY

Sep. 5 at Miami (Ohio), 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 Louisville, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 Florida, TBA
Oct. 3 Alabama, TBA
Oct. 10 at South Carolina, TBA
Oct. 17 at Auburn, TBA
Oct. 24 Louisiana-Monroe, TBA
Oct. 31 Mississippi St., TBA
Nov. 7 E. Kentucky, TBA
Nov. 14 at Vanderbilt, TBA
Nov. 21 at Georgia, TBA
Nov. 28 Tennessee, TBA

LSU

Sep. 5 at Washington, 9:30 p.m.
Sep. 12 Vanderbilt, 7 p.m.
Sep. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette, 7 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Mississippi St., TBA
Oct. 3 at Georgia, TBA
Oct. 10 Florida, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24 Auburn, 7 p.m.
Oct. 31 Tulane, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Alabama, TBA
Nov. 14 Louisiana Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Mississippi, TBA
Nov. 28 Arkansas, 7 p.m.

LOUISIANA TECH

Sep. 5 at Auburn, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Navy, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Nicholls St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 30 Hawaii, 7 p.m.
Oct. 9 at Nevada, 8 p.m.
Oct. 17 New Mexico St., 3 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Utah St., 2 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Idaho, 4 p.m.
Nov. 6 Boise St., 7 p.m.
Nov. 14 at LSU, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Fresno St., 4 p.m.
Dec. 5 San Jose St., 1 p.m.

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

Sep. 5 Southern U., 6 p.m.
Oct. 17 Kansas St., 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 at LSU, 7 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Nebraska, 6 p.m.
Oct. 10 North Texas, 6 p.m.
Oct. 17 at W. Kentucky, TBA
Oct. 24 Florida Atlantic, 4 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Fla. International, 11 a.m.
Nov. 7 at Arkansas St., TBA
Nov. 14 Middle Tennessee, TBA
Nov. 21 Louisiana-Monroe, 6 p.m.
Nov. 28 Troy, 6 p.m.

LOUISIANA-MONROE

Sep. 5 at Texas, TBA
Sep. 12 Texas Southern, TBA
Sep. 19 at Arizona St., 9 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Florida Atlantic, 3 p.m.
Oct. 3 Fla. International, TBA
Oct. 13 Arkansas St., 7 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Kentucky, TBA
Oct. 31 at Troy, TBA
Nov. 7 at North Texas, 3 p.m.
Nov. 14 W. Kentucky, TBA
Nov. 21 at Louisiana-Lafayette, 6 p.m.
Nov. 28 Middle Tennessee, TBA

LOUISVILLE

Sep. 5 Indiana St., 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Kentucky

COLLEGE 2009 SCHEDULES

Schedules

Continued from Page 20

Sep. 12 at Middle Tennessee, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Tenn.-Martin, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Marshall, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at UCF, TBA
 Oct. 10 UTEP, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Southern Miss., 6 p.m.
 Oct. 27 East Carolina, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at Tennessee, TBA
 Nov. 14 UAB, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 21 at Houston, TBA
 Nov. 28 at Tulsa, noon
MIAMI
 Sep. 7 at Florida St., 7 p.m.
 Sep. 17 Georgia Tech, 6:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Virginia Tech, TBA
 Oct. 3 Oklahoma, TBA
 Oct. 10 Florida A&M, TBA
 Oct. 17 at UCF, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Clemson, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Wake Forest, TBA
 Nov. 7 Virginia, TBA
 Nov. 14 at North Carolina, TBA
 Nov. 21 Duke, TBA
 Nov. 28 at South Florida, TBA
MIAMI (OHIO)
 Sep. 5 Kentucky, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 at Boise St., 7 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at W. Michigan, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Kent St., 6 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Cincinnati, noon
 Oct. 10 at Northwestern, Mid
 Oct. 17 at Ohio, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 24 N. Illinois, noon
 Oct. 31 Toledo, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 5 at Temple, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 12 Bowling Green, 5 p.m.
 Nov. 18 Buffalo, TBA
MICHIGAN
 Sep. 5 W. Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 E. Michigan, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 Indiana, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 3 at Michigan St., TBA
 Oct. 10 at Iowa, 7:05 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Delaware St., TBA
 Oct. 24 Penn St., TBA
 Oct. 31 at Illinois, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Purdue, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Wisconsin, TBA
 Nov. 21 Ohio St., TBA
MICHIGAN ST.
 Sep. 5 Montana St., 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 Cent. Michigan, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 19 at Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Wisconsin, TBA
 Oct. 3 Michigan, TBA
 Oct. 10 at Illinois, TBA
 Oct. 17 Northwestern, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 24 Iowa, 6:05 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 7 W. Michigan, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Purdue, TBA
 Nov. 21 Penn St., TBA
MIDDLE TENNESSEE
 Sep. 5 at Clemson, 5 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Memphis, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Maryland, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at North Texas, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 6 at Troy, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Mississippi St., TBA
 Oct. 24 W. Kentucky, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Florida Atlantic, 3 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Fla. International, TBA
 Nov. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette, TBA
 Nov. 21 Arkansas St., TBA
 Nov. 28 at Louisiana-Monroe, TBA
MINNESOTA
 Sep. 5 at Syracuse, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 Air Force, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 California, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 at Northwestern, TBA
 Oct. 3 Wisconsin, TBA
 Oct. 10 Purdue, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 17 at Penn St., 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Ohio St., 11 a.m.
 Oct. 31 Michigan St., 7 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Illinois, TBA
 Nov. 14 S. Dakota St., TBA
 Nov. 21 at Iowa, TBA
OLE MISS
 Sep. 6 at Memphis, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 SE Louisiana, 6:30 p.m.
 Sep. 24 at South Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Vanderbilt, TBA
 Oct. 10 Alabama, TBA
 Oct. 17 UAB, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Arkansas, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Auburn, TBA
 Nov. 7 N. Arizona, TBA
 Nov. 14 Tennessee, TBA
 Nov. 21 LSU, TBA
 Nov. 28 at Mississippi St., TBA
MISSISSIPPI ST.
 Sep. 5 Jackson St., TBA

Sep. 12 at Auburn, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Vanderbilt, TBA
 Sep. 26 LSU, TBA
 Oct. 3 Georgia Tech, TBA
 Oct. 10 Houston, TBA
 Oct. 17 at Middle Tennessee, TBA
 Oct. 24 Florida, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Kentucky, TBA
 Nov. 14 Alabama, TBA
 Nov. 21 at Arkansas, TBA
 Nov. 28 Ole Miss, TBA
MISSOURI
 Sep. 5 at Illinois, 2:40 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Bowling Green, TBA
 Sep. 19 Furman, TBA
 Sep. 25 at Nevada, 8 p.m.
 Oct. 8 Nebraska, 8 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Oklahoma St., TBA
 Oct. 24 Texas, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Colorado, TBA
 Nov. 7 Baylor, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Kansas St., TBA
 Nov. 21 Iowa St., TBA
 Nov. 28 at Kansas, TBA
N. ILLINOIS
 Sep. 5 at Wisconsin, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 W. Illinois, 6:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Purdue, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 Idaho, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 3 W. Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Toledo, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Miami (Ohio), noon
 Oct. 31 Akron, 11 a.m.
 Nov. 5 E. Michigan, 7:30 p.m.
 Nov. 12 Ball St., TBA
 Nov. 21 at Ohio, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Cent. Michigan, TBA
N.C. STATE
 Sep. 3 South Carolina, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Murray St., 5 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Gardner-Webb, 5 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Pittsburgh, TBA
 Oct. 3 at Wake Forest, TBA
 Oct. 10 Duke, TBA
 Oct. 17 at Boston College, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Florida St., TBA
 Nov. 7 Maryland, TBA
 Nov. 14 Clemson, TBA
 Nov. 21 at Virginia Tech, TBA
 Nov. 28 North Carolina, TBA
NAVY
 Sep. 5 at Ohio St., 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 Louisiana Tech, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m.
 Sep. 26 W. Kentucky, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Air Force, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 10 at Rice, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at SMU, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Wake Forest, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 31 Temple, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at Notre Dame, 1:30 p.m.
 Nov. 14 Delaware, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at Hawaii, 10:05 p.m.
 Dec. 12 Army, 1:30 p.m.
NEBRASKA
 Sep. 5 Florida Atlantic, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Arkansas St., 1 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Virginia Tech, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Louisiana-Lafayette, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 8 at Missouri, 8 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Texas Tech, TBA
 Oct. 24 Iowa St., TBA
 Oct. 31 at Baylor, TBA
 Nov. 7 Oklahoma, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Kansas, TBA
 Nov. 21 Kansas St., TBA
 Nov. 27 at Colorado, 3:30 p.m.
NEVADA
 Sep. 5 at Notre Dame, 3:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Colorado St., 4 p.m.
 Sep. 25 Missouri, 8 p.m.
 Oct. 3 UNLV, 3:05 p.m.
 Oct. 9 Louisiana Tech, 8 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Utah St., 2 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Idaho, 3:05 p.m.
 Oct. 31 Hawaii, 3:05 p.m.
 Nov. 8 at San Jose St., 7:15 p.m.
 Nov. 14 Fresno St., 3:05 p.m.
 Nov. 21 at New Mexico St., 7 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Boise St., TBA
NEW MEXICO
 Sep. 5 at Texas A&M, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Tulsa, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Air Force, 6:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 New Mexico St., 9 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Texas Tech, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 10 at Wyoming, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 24 UNLV, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at San Diego St., 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at Utah, 5 p.m.
 Nov. 14 BYU, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Colorado St., 5 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at TCU, noon
NEW MEXICO ST.
 Sep. 5 Idaho, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Prairie View, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 19 UTEP, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at New Mexico, 9 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at San Diego St., 7 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Utah St., 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Louisiana Tech, 3 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Fresno St., 7 p.m.

Oct. 31 at Ohio St., TBA
 Nov. 14 at Hawaii, 10:05 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Nevada, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at San Jose St., 7 p.m.
 Dec. 5 at Boise St., 2 p.m.
NORTH CAROLINA
 Sep. 5 The Citadel, 5 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at Connecticut, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 19 East Carolina, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 at Georgia Tech, TBA
 Nov. 28 Ole Miss, TBA
 Oct. 3 Virginia, TBA
 Oct. 10 Georgia Southern, TBA
 Oct. 22 Florida St., TBA
 Oct. 29 at Virginia Tech, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Duke, TBA
 Nov. 14 Miami, TBA
 Nov. 21 at Boston College, TBA
 Nov. 28 at N.C. State, TBA
NORTH TEXAS
 Sep. 3 at Ball St., 6:30 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Ohio, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Alabama, 11:20 a.m.
 Sep. 26 Middle Tennessee, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 10 at Louisiana-Lafayette, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Florida Atlantic, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Troy, TBA
 Oct. 31 W. Kentucky, 2 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Louisiana-Monroe, 3 p.m.
 Nov. 14 at Fla. International, 6 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Army, 3 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at Arkansas St., TBA
NORTHWESTERN
 Sep. 5 Towson, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 E. Michigan, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 19 at Syracuse, TBA
 Sep. 26 Minnesota, TBA
 Oct. 3 at Purdue, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 10 Miami (Ohio), 11 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Michigan St., 11 a.m.
 Oct. 24 Indiana, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 31 Penn St., 3:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at Iowa, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Illinois, TBA
 Nov. 21 Wisconsin, TBA
NOTRE DAME
 Sep. 5 Nevada, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Michigan St., 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Purdue, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Washington, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Southern Cal, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Boston College, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 31 Washington St., 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Navy, 1:30 p.m.
 Nov. 14 at Pittsburgh, TBA
 Nov. 21 Connecticut, 1:30 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at Stanford, 7 p.m.
OHIO
 Sep. 5 Connecticut, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at North Texas, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Cal Poly, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Tennessee, TBA
 Oct. 3 at Bowling Green, 3 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Miami (Ohio), 1 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Kent St., 1 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Ball St., 11 a.m.
 Nov. 10 at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
 Nov. 21 N. Illinois, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 27 Temple, 1 p.m.
OHIO ST.
 Sep. 5 Navy, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 Southern Cal, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Toledo, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 Illinois, TBA
 Oct. 3 at Indiana, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Wisconsin, TBA
 Oct. 17 at Purdue, TBA
 Oct. 24 Minnesota, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 31 New Mexico St., TBA
 Nov. 7 at Penn St., TBA
 Nov. 14 Iowa, TBA
 Nov. 21 at Michigan, TBA
OKLAHOMA
 Sep. 5 BYU, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Idaho St., TBA
 Sep. 19 Tulsa, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Miami, TBA
 Oct. 10 Baylor, TBA
 Oct. 17 at Texas, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 24 at Kansas, TBA
 Oct. 31 Kansas St., TBA
 Nov. 7 at Nebraska, TBA
 Nov. 14 Texas A&M, TBA
 Nov. 21 at Texas Tech, TBA
 Nov. 28 Oklahoma St., TBA
OKLAHOMA ST.
 Sep. 5 Georgia, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Houston, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Rice, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Grambling St., 6 p.m.
 Oct. 10 at Texas A&M, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Missouri, TBA
 Oct. 24 at Baylor, TBA
 Oct. 31 Texas, TBA
 Nov. 7 at Iowa St., TBA
 Nov. 14 Texas Tech, TBA
 Nov. 19 Colorado, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at Oklahoma, TBA
OREGON
 Sep. 3 at Boise St., 9:15 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Purdue, 9:15 p.m.

Sep. 19 Utah, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 California, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Washington St., TBA
 Oct. 10 at UCLA, TBA
 Oct. 24 at Washington, TBA
 Oct. 31 Southern Cal, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at Stanford, TBA
 Nov. 14 Arizona St., TBA
 Nov. 21 at Arizona, TBA
 Dec. 3 Oregon St., 8 p.m.
OREGON ST.
 Sep. 5 Portland St., TBA
 Sep. 12 at UNLV, 10 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Cincinnati, 5:45 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Arizona, TBA
 Oct. 3 at Arizona St., TBA
 Oct. 10 Stanford, TBA
 Oct. 24 at Southern Cal, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 31 UCLA, TBA
 Nov. 7 at California, TBA
 Nov. 14 Washington, TBA
 Nov. 21 at Washington St., TBA
 Dec. 3 at Oregon, 8 p.m.
PENN ST.
 Sep. 5 Akron, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 Syracuse, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 19 Temple, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 Iowa, 7:05 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Illinois, TBA
 Oct. 10 E. Illinois, TBA
 Oct. 17 Minnesota, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Michigan, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Northwestern, 3:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Ohio St., TBA
 Nov. 14 Indiana, TBA
 Nov. 21 at Michigan St., TBA
PITTSBURGH
 Sep. 5 Youngstown St., noon
 Sep. 12 at Buffalo, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 19 Navy, 5 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at N.C. State, TBA
 Oct. 2 at Louisville, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Connecticut, TBA
 Oct. 16 at Rutgers, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 24 South Florida, TBA
 Nov. 7 Syracuse, TBA
 Nov. 14 Notre Dame, TBA
 Nov. 27 at Cincinnati, TBA
 Dec. 5 Cincinnati, TBA
PURDUE
 Sep. 5 Toledo, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 at Oregon, 9:15 p.m.
 Sep. 19 N. Illinois, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 Notre Dame, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Northwestern, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 10 at Minnesota, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 17 Ohio St., TBA
 Oct. 24 Illinois, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Wisconsin, TBA
 Nov. 7 at Michigan, TBA
 Nov. 14 Michigan St., TBA
 Nov. 21 at Indiana, TBA
RICE
 Sep. 5 at UAB, 3 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at Texas Tech, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Oklahoma St., 6 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Vanderbilt, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Tulsa, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Navy, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at East Carolina, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 UCF, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at SMU, 2 p.m.
 Nov. 14 Tulane, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 21 UTEP, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at Houston, TBA
RUTGERS
 Sep. 7 Cincinnati, 3 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Howard, TBA
 Sep. 19 Fla. International, TBA
 Sep. 26 at Maryland, TBA
 Oct. 10 Texas Southern, TBA
 Oct. 16 Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 23 at Army, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Connecticut, TBA
 Nov. 12 South Florida, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 21 at Syracuse, TBA
 Nov. 27 at Louisville, TBA
 Dec. 5 West Virginia, TBA
SMU
 Sep. 5 Stephen F. Austin, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at UAB, 3 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Washington St., 4 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at TCU, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 10 East Carolina, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Navy, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Houston, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Tulsa, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Rice, 2 p.m.
 Nov. 14 UTEP, 2 p.m.
 Nov. 21 at Marshall, 3:30 p.m.
 Nov. 28 Tulane, 2 p.m.
SAN DIEGO ST.
 Sep. 5 at UCLA, TBA
 Sep. 12 S. Utah, 7:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Idaho, 4 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Air Force, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 3 New Mexico St., 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 BYU, 5 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Colorado St., 3 p.m.
 Oct. 31 New Mexico, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 TCU, 3 p.m.
 Nov. 14 Wyoming, 9 p.m.

Nov. 21 at Utah, 3 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at UNLV, 8 p.m.
SAN JOSE ST.
 Sep. 5 at Southern Cal, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Utah, 9:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Stanford, 8 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Cal Poly, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Idaho, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Fresno St., 9 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Boise St., 2 p.m.
 Nov. 8 Nevada, 7:15 p.m.
 Nov. 14 at Utah St., 2 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Hawaii, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 28 New Mexico St., 7 p.m.
 Dec. 5 at Louisiana Tech, 1 p.m.
SOUTH CAROLINA
 Sep. 3 at N.C. State, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at Georgia, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Florida Atlantic, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 24 Ole Miss, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 3 S. Carolina St., TBA
 Oct. 10 Kentucky, TBA
 Oct. 17 at Alabama, TBA
 Oct. 24 Vanderbilt, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Tennessee, TBA
 Nov. 7 at Arkansas, TBA
 Nov. 14 Florida, TBA
 Nov. 28 Clemson, TBA
SOUTH FLORIDA
 Sep. 5 Wofford, TBA
 Sep. 12 at W. Kentucky, 6:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Charleston Southern, TBA
 Sep. 26 at Florida St., TBA
 Oct. 3 at Syracuse, Noon
 Oct. 15 Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Pittsburgh, TBA
 Oct. 30 West Virginia, 7 a.m.
 Nov. 12 at Rutgers, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Louisville, TBA
 Nov. 28 Miami, TBA
 Dec. 5 at Connecticut, TBA
SOUTHERN CAL
 Sep. 5 San Jose St., 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at Ohio St., 7 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Washington, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Washington St., TBA
 Oct. 3 at California, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Oregon St., 7 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Oregon, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at Arizona St., 7 p.m.
 Nov. 14 Stanford, TBA
 Nov. 28 UCLA, 9 p.m.
 Dec. 5 Arizona, 2:30 p.m.
SOUTHERN MISS
 Sep. 5 Alcorn St., 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 UCF, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Virginia, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Kansas, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 1 at UAB, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 10 at Louisville, TBA
 Oct. 17 Memphis, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Tulane, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Houston, noon
 Nov. 14 at Marshall, 3:30 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Tulsa, 6 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at East Carolina, noon
STANFORD
 Sep. 5 at Washington St., TBA
 Sep. 12 at Wake Forest, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 19 San Jose St., 8 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Washington, 8 p.m.
 Oct. 3 UCLA, TBA
 Oct. 10 at Oregon St., TBA
 Oct. 17 at Arizona, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Arizona St., 9:15 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Oregon, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Southern Cal, TBA
 Nov. 21 California, TBA
 Nov. 28 Notre Dame, 7 p.m.
SYRACUSE
 Sep. 5 Minnesota, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 12 at Penn St., 11 a.m.
 Sep. 19 Northwestern, TBA
 Sep. 26 Maine, TBA
 Oct. 3 South Florida, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 10 West Virginia, TBA
 Oct. 24 Akron, TBA
 Oct. 31 Cincinnati, TBA
 Nov. 7 at Pittsburgh, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Louisville, 11 a.m.
 Nov. 21 Rutgers, TBA
 Nov. 28 at Connecticut, 11 a.m.
TCU
 Sep. 12 at Virginia, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Texas St., 6 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Clemson, TBA
 Oct. 3 SMU, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 10 at Air Force, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Colorado St., 3 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at BYU, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 31 UNLV, 3 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at San Diego St., 3 p.m.
 Nov. 14 Utah, 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 21 at Wyoming, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 28 New Mexico, noon
TEMPLE
 Sep. 3 Villanova, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Penn St., 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 Buffalo, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 3 at E. Michigan, noon
 Oct. 10 Ball St., noon

Oct. 17 Army, noon
 Oct. 24 at Toledo, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Navy, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 5 Miami (Ohio), 6:30 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at Akron, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Kent St., noon
 Nov. 27 at Ohio, 1 p.m.
TENNESSEE
 Sep. 5 W. Kentucky, TBA
 Sep. 12 UCLA, 3 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Florida, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Ohio, TBA
 Oct. 3 Auburn, TBA
 Oct. 10 Georgia, TBA
 Oct. 24 at Alabama, TBA
 Oct. 31 South Carolina, TBA
 Nov. 7 Memphis, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Ole Miss, TBA
 Nov. 21 Vanderbilt, TBA
 Nov. 28 at Kentucky, TBA
TEXAS
 Sep. 5 Louisiana-Monroe, TBA
 Sep. 12 at Wyoming, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 26 UTEP, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Colorado, TBA
 Oct. 17 Oklahoma, 11 a.m.
 Oct. 24 at Missouri, TBA
 Oct. 31 at Oklahoma St., TBA
 Nov. 7 UCF, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Baylor, TBA
 Nov. 21 Kansas, TBA
 Nov. 26 at Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
TEXAS A&M
 Sep. 5 New Mexico, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Utah St., 6 p.m.
 Sep. 26 UAB, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Arkansas, TBA
 Oct. 10 Oklahoma St., 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Kansas St., TBA
 Oct. 24 at Texas Tech, TBA
 Oct. 31 Iowa St., 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 7 at Colorado, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Oklahoma, TBA
 Nov. 21 Baylor, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 26 Texas, 7 p.m.
TEXAS TECH
 Sep. 5 North Dakota, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 Rice, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Texas, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 26 at Houston, 8:15 p.m.
 Oct. 3 New Mexico, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Kansas St., TBA
 Oct. 17 at Nebraska, TBA
 Oct. 24 Texas A&M, TBA
 Oct. 31 Kansas, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Oklahoma St., TBA
 Nov. 21 Oklahoma, TBA
 Nov. 28 at Baylor, TBA
TOLEDO
 Sep. 5 at Purdue, 11 a.m.
 Sep. 11 Colorado, 8 p.m.
 Sep. 19 Ohio St., 11 a.m.
 Sep. 26 at Fla. International, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Ball St., 11 a.m.
 Oct. 10 W. Michigan, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 17 N. Illinois, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 24 Temple, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Miami (Ohio), 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 11 at Cent. Michigan, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 20 E. Michigan, 6 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Bowling Green, TBA
TROY
 Sep. 3 at Bowling Green, 6 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at Arkansas St., TBA
 Sep. 19 UAB, TBA
 Sep. 26 at Arkansas St., TBA
 Oct. 6 Middle Tennessee, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 17 at Fla. International, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 24 North Texas, TBA
 Oct. 31 Louisiana-Monroe, TBA
 Nov. 7 at W. Kentucky, TBA
 Nov. 14 at Arkansas, TBA
 Nov. 21 Florida Atlantic, TBA
 Nov. 28 at Louisiana-Lafayette, 6 p.m.
TULANE
 Sep. 4 Tulsa, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 12 BYU, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 McNeese St., 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Army, TBA
 Oct. 10 Marshall, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Houston, 2:30 p.m.
 Oct. 24 at Southern Miss., 6 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at LSU, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 7 UTEP, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 14 at Rice, 2:30 p.m.
 Nov. 21 at UCF, TBA
 Nov. 28 at SMU, 2 p.m.
TULSA
 Sep. 4 at Tulane, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 12 at New Mexico, 7 p.m.
 Sep. 19 at Oklahoma, 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 26 Sam Houston St., 6 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Rice, 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 14 Boise St., 7 p.m.
 Oct. 21 at UTEP, 7 p.m.
 Oct. 31 SMU, 1 p.m.

Please see Schedules,

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COLLEGE 2009 SCHEDULES

MSU

Continued from S-11

State has some proven defensive players returning, guys like defensive tackle Kyle Love, line-backers Jamar Chaney and K.J. Wright and cornerback Marcus Washington. The Bulldogs have to get some things done with the ball in their hands.

"It's going to be important for us to be successful offensively," Mullen said.

State never quite grasped the West Coast offense Croom brought with him from the NFL. Quarterback play was spotty.

LSU

Continued from S-12

responsibility that comes with the recognition.

"There's a lot of pressure on me," Dickson said. "It's a great honor, but I still have to play the season. I don't want to leave LSU on a bad note."

The NFL's also a possibility for Dickson, a possible mid-round selection in next spring's draft.

"Playing in the NFL has popped

Big-time receivers were playing elsewhere. Points were usually hard to come by.

Mullen orchestrated a Florida offense that averaged 43.6 points per game last season. But he couldn't bring Tim Tebow with him to Starkville. Mullen has to implement a different offensive mindset at State. The Bulldogs seem to be listening.

"I want this team to play with relentless effort," Mullen said. "A passion. They get after it, all 11 guys, for all 60 minutes of the game. Everything else from that point will take care of themselves."

Lee passed sparingly last season. The starter in 2007,

into my head, but I've put it on the back burner," Dickson said.

"I want to focus on the season and becoming the best player I can be."

The 6-foot-3 Dickson loves the position LSU is in. Alabama is picked to win the Western Division, while Ole Miss has received a lot of preseason hype.

"Ole Miss has a great quarterback in Jevan Snead and beat us last year," Dickson said. "They've earned everyone's respect. But talk doesn't mean anything. You

Wesley Carroll, was benched and eventually transferred. Brandon McRae emerged as a capable receiver (51 catches, 518 yards, three touchdowns), but the Bulldogs often found themselves falling quickly behind. Again, with Mullen, it's going to be a mindset. A foundation.

It isn't going to happen overnight.

"We all know we're going to go through some tough times," Sherrod said. "That's where my teammates will help me out. That's where Coach Mullen is going to help us out. He knows how to win, and he's going to do what he has to do to help us win."

still have to come out and play the game."

The Tigers' talent-laden squad includes running back Charles Scott, wide receiver Brandon LaFell and defensive back Chad Jones.

"If we come out and play the way we're capable of, the sky's our limit," Dickson said. "We have a veteran team on offense and defense coming back. I think we're one of the best teams in the country. We're ready to be back on top."

Ole Miss

Continued from S-10

ish the season by passing for 2,762 yards and 26 touchdowns with 13 interceptions. Now he's pictured on covers of preseason college football magazines.

"It's a great feeling, to finally get some respect for our program, and getting our name out there," Snead said. "I couldn't be in a better position than I am right now."

Oher protected Snead's blind side last season. Bradley Sowell, a converted tight end, was the starter at left tackle at the end of spring drills. Right tackle John Jerry, Peria's kid brother, is a beast on the other side of the line. Reed Neely gives the Rebs front-line experience at guard. The Rebels are effective running the ball, particularly out of the "Wild Rebel" formation, when 165-pound receiver Dexter McCluster takes snaps out of something

resembling the old single-wing attack.

Former Southern Miss defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix has molded an aggressive unit that forced 23 turnovers and helped the Rebels produce a winning record against SEC opponents for just the third time since the league expanded to 12 teams in 1992.

Greg Hardy has recorded 21.5 sacks in his three seasons with the Rebels, despite battling injuries and off-the-field issues the last two years. Marshay Green and Cassius Vaughn are an effective tandem at cornerback. Ted Laurent is a rising star at defensive tackle.

But no one has to tell Snead and the rest of the Rebels that Ole Miss is the only SEC West team yet to play in the league's championship game.

"I'm reminded about it a lot more lately," Snead said. "I feel like we need to change that."

Schedules

Continued from Page

21

Nov. 7 Houston, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 15 East Carolina, 7:15 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Southern Miss., 6 p.m.
Nov. 28 Memphis, noon.
UAB
Sep. 5 Rice, 3 p.m.
Sep. 12 SMU, 3 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Troy, TBA
Sep. 26 at Texas A&M, 6 p.m.
Oct. 1 Southern Miss., 7 p.m.
Oct. 17 at Ole Miss, 1 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Marshall, 11 a.m.
Oct. 31 at UTEP, 2 p.m.
Nov. 7 Florida Atlantic, 1 p.m.
Nov. 14 at Memphis, 1 p.m.
Nov. 21 at East Carolina, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 UCF, 12:30 p.m.

UCF
Sep. 5 Samford, 5 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Southern Miss., 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 Buffalo, TBA
Sep. 26 at East Carolina, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 Memphis, TBA
Oct. 17 Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Rice, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 1 Marshall, 7:15 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Texas, TBA
Nov. 14 Houston, 11 a.m.
Nov. 21 Tulane, TBA
Nov. 28 at UAB, 12:30 p.m.
UCLA
Sep. 5 San Diego St., TBA

Sep. 12 at Tennessee, 3 p.m.
Sep. 19 Kansas St., 9:15 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Stanford, TBA
Oct. 10 Oregon, TBA
Oct. 17 California, TBA
Oct. 24 at Arizona, 6 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Oregon St., TBA
Nov. 7 Washington, TBA
Nov. 14 at Washington St., TBA
Nov. 21 Arizona St., TBA
Nov. 28 at Southern Cal, 9 p.m.

UNLV
Sep. 5 Sacramento St., 9 p.m.
Sep. 12 Oregon St., 10 p.m.
Sep. 19 Hawaii, 8 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Wyoming, 3 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Nevada, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 10 BYU, 9 p.m.
Oct. 17 Utah, 9 p.m.
Oct. 24 at New Mexico, 7 p.m.
Oct. 31 at TCU, 3 p.m.
Nov. 7 Colorado St., 9 p.m.
Nov. 14 at Air Force, 5 p.m.
Nov. 28 San Diego St., 8 p.m.

UTEP
Sep. 5 Buffalo, 8 p.m.
Sep. 12 Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at New Mexico St., 7 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Texas, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 Houston, 8 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Oct. 21 Tulsa, 7 p.m.
Oct. 31 UAB, 2 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Tulane, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 14 at SMU, 2 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Rice, 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 Marshall, 2 p.m.
UTAH
Sep. 3 Utah St., 8 p.m.
Sep. 12 at San Jose St., 9:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Oregon, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 Louisville, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 10 at Colorado St., 5 p.m.
Oct. 17 at UNLV, 9 p.m.
Oct. 24 Air Force, 3 p.m.
Oct. 31 Wyoming, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7 New Mexico, 5 p.m.
Nov. 14 at TCU, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 21 San Diego St., 3 p.m.
Nov. 28 at BYU, 4 p.m.

UTAH ST.
Sep. 3 at Utah, 8 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Texas A&M, 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 S. Utah, 7 p.m.
Oct. 2 at BYU, 8 p.m.
Oct. 10 at New Mexico St., 7 p.m.
Oct. 17 Nevada, 2 p.m.
Oct. 24 Louisiana Tech, 2 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Fresno St., 4 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Hawaii, 10:05 p.m.
Nov. 14 San Jose St., 2 p.m.
Nov. 20 Boise St., 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 at Idaho, 4 p.m.

VANDERBILT
Sep. 5 W. Carolina, TBA
Sep. 12 at LSU, 7 p.m.
Sep. 19 Mississippi St., TBA
Sep. 26 at Rice, 7 p.m.
Oct. 3 Ole Miss, TBA
Oct. 10 at Army, TBA
Oct. 17 Georgia, TBA
Oct. 24 at South Carolina, TBA
Oct. 31 Georgia Tech, TBA
Nov. 7 at Florida, TBA
Nov. 14 Kentucky, TBA
Nov. 21 at Tennessee, TBA

VIRGINIA
Sep. 5 William & Mary, 5 p.m.
Sep. 12 TCU, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Southern Miss., 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 at North Carolina, TBA
Oct. 10 Indiana, TBA
Oct. 17 at Maryland, TBA
Oct. 24 Georgia Tech, TBA

Oct. 31 Duke, TBA
Nov. 7 at Miami, TBA
Nov. 14 Boston College, TBA
Nov. 21 at Clemson, TBA
Nov. 28 Virginia Tech, TBA

VIRGINIA TECH
Sep. 5 Alabama, 7 p.m.
Sep. 12 Marshall, 12:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Nebraska, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 Miami, TBA
Oct. 3 at Duke, TBA
Oct. 10 Boston College, TBA
Oct. 17 at Georgia Tech, TBA
Oct. 29 North Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 5 at East Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 14 at Maryland, TBA
Nov. 21 N.C. State, TBA
Nov. 28 at Virginia, TBA

W. KENTUCKY
Sep. 5 at Tennessee, TBA
Sep. 12 South Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Cent. Arkansas, 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Navy, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 Fla. International, TBA
Oct. 17 Louisiana-Lafayette, TBA
Oct. 24 at Middle Tennessee, TBA
Oct. 31 at North Texas, 2 p.m.
Nov. 7 Troy, TBA
Nov. 14 at Louisiana-Monroe, TBA
Nov. 28 at Florida Atlantic, 3 p.m.
Dec. 3 Arkansas St., TBA

W. MICHIGAN
Sep. 5 at Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 12 at Indiana, 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 Miami (Ohio), 6 p.m.
Sep. 26 Hofstra, 6 p.m.
Oct. 3 at N. Illinois, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Toledo, 6 p.m.
Oct. 17 Cent. Michigan, TBA
Oct. 24 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Kent St., 1 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Michigan St., TBA

Nov. 14 at E. Michigan, noon
Nov. 24 Ball St., 6 p.m.
WAKE FOREST
Sep. 5 Baylor, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 12 Stanford, 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 Elon, 5:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Boston College, TBA
Oct. 3 N.C. State, TBA
Oct. 10 Maryland, TBA
Oct. 17 at Clemson, TBA
Oct. 24 at Navy, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 31 Miami, TBA
Nov. 7 at Georgia Tech, TBA
Nov. 14 Florida St., TBA
Nov. 28 at Duke, TBA

WASHINGTON
Sep. 5 LSU, 9:30 p.m.
Sep. 12 Idaho, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 Southern Cal, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Stanford, 8 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Notre Dame, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 Arizona, TBA
Oct. 17 at Arizona St., 9 p.m.
Oct. 24 Oregon, TBA
Nov. 7 at UCLA, TBA
Nov. 14 at Oregon St., TBA
Nov. 28 Washington St., TBA
Dec. 5 California, 5:30 p.m.

WASHINGTON ST.
Sep. 5 Stanford, TBA
Sep. 12 Hawaii, 6 p.m.
Sep. 19 SMU, 4 p.m.
Sep. 26 at Southern Cal, TBA
Oct. 3 at Oregon, TBA
Oct. 10 Arizona St., TBA
Oct. 24 at California, TBA
Oct. 31 at Notre Dame, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Arizona, 5 p.m.
Nov. 14 UCLA, TBA
Nov. 21 Oregon St., TBA
Nov. 28 at Washington, TBA
WEST VIRGINIA

Sep. 5 Liberty, 11 a.m.
Sep. 12 East Carolina, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Auburn, 7:45 p.m.
Oct. 1 Colorado, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 at Syracuse, TBA
Oct. 17 Marshall, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 Connecticut, TBA
Oct. 30 at South Florida, 7 a.m.
Nov. 7 Louisville, TBA
Nov. 13 at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.
Nov. 27 Pittsburgh, TBA
Dec. 5 at Rutgers, TBA

WISCONSIN
Sep. 5 N. Illinois, 6 p.m.
Sep. 12 Fresno St., 11 a.m.
Sep. 19 Wofford, 11 a.m.
Sep. 26 Michigan St., TBA
Oct. 3 at Minnesota, TBA
Oct. 10 at Ohio St., TBA
Oct. 17 Iowa, 11 a.m.
Oct. 31 Purdue, TBA
Nov. 7 at Indiana, TBA
Nov. 14 Michigan, TBA
Nov. 21 at Northwestern, TBA
Dec. 5 at Hawaii, TBA

WYOMING
Sep. 5 Weber St., 2 p.m.
Sep. 12 Texas, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 19 at Colorado, 2:30 p.m.
Sep. 26 UNLV, 2 p.m.
Oct. 3 at Florida Atlantic, 3 p.m.
Oct. 10 New Mexico, 1 p.m.
Oct. 17 at Air Force, 1 p.m.
Oct. 31 at Utah, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7 BYU, 1 p.m.
Nov. 14 at San Diego St., 9 p.m.
Nov. 21 TCU, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 at Colorado St., 1 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL 2009 TOP PLAYERS

Prep stars get to top by two different directions

By JAMES JONES
jjones@sunherald.com

Ocean Springs linebacker J.T. Dickson and St. Stanislaus quarterback Dylan Favre are taking different roads to fame.

Dickson, considered one of the state's top college football prospects, plans to choose a Division I school before the season ends.

Barring injury, Favre will own every state passing record and crack the all-time national list.

"Dylan's a good quarterback," D'Iberville coach Buddy Singleton said. "We played Ocean Springs last spring. I didn't know anything about Dickson. He lined up at defensive tackle, and we couldn't block him."

A family lineage

Dickson, the Coast's top prospect, continues a family tradition of playing college football.

The lineage began with

Richard Dickson Sr., his grandfather, who played at Ole Miss in the 1950s.

His father, Dick Dickson, played at Mississippi State during the 1970s.

Richard Dickson III, his brother, is an All-SEC tight end at LSU. The college senior started on the 2007 BCS title team.

Dickson never ran away from the comparisons to Richard, the Sun Herald's player of the year in 2005. Colleges envision him as an H-back, a role Richard plays at LSU.

"I've showed schools that I'm more than being Richard's brother," Dickson said with a laugh.



SUN HERALD

SSC's Dylan Favre, left, and Ocean Springs' J.T. Dickson are living up to their family names.

The familiarity with LSU automatically puts the Tigers (8-5) into the mix of schools Dickson is considering.

Three other SEC West teams — Ole Miss, Mississippi State and Auburn — made the list, as did Florida State.

The biggest surprise school on Dickson's list of six is Oklahoma. The Sooners made a strong impression on Dickson.

"Oklahoma has a winning program," Dickson said. "They use the tight end a lot in their offense. They're always battling for the Big 12 title."

The 6-foot-3 Dickson considers all six D-I schools even as the season gets under way.

"I can easily go out of state or stay in-state," Dickson said. "I'm the last child, so my parents will have nothing to do but watch me play on Saturdays."

"I plan to make a decision by the middle of the season."

Dickson, who made 74 total tackles and seven sacks last year, has high hopes for the Greyhounds.

"We have the potential to go all the way and win a state championship," Dickson said. "It's up to us."

A passing fancy

Favre continued his assault on the state record book last year. He threw 45 touchdown passes, a new single-season record, en route to earning the Sun Herald's offensive player of the year award.

The state's career passing mark is well within Favre's grasp in SSC's pass-happy offense.

Clifton Davis holds the career passing mark of 9,309 yards and 104 touchdowns set at North Panola (1988-91).

Favre needs only 2,501 yards and 24 TD passes to break those two records. He sits at 6,809 yards and 81 TD strikes after two seasons starting. He's 3,199 yards from becoming the 24th quarterback nationally to pass for over 10,000 career yards.

"I've thought about breaking those all-time records a little bit, but not that much," Favre said.

"My goal is to get us to the state finals in Jackson," Favre said.

"The records will come later."

With D'Iberville and Picayune moving up in 5A, the Rockachaws have a great shot at the Region 8-4A crown.

St. Stanislaus will face former coach Casey Wittmann when the Rockachaws face Region 8-4A rival Pass Christian.

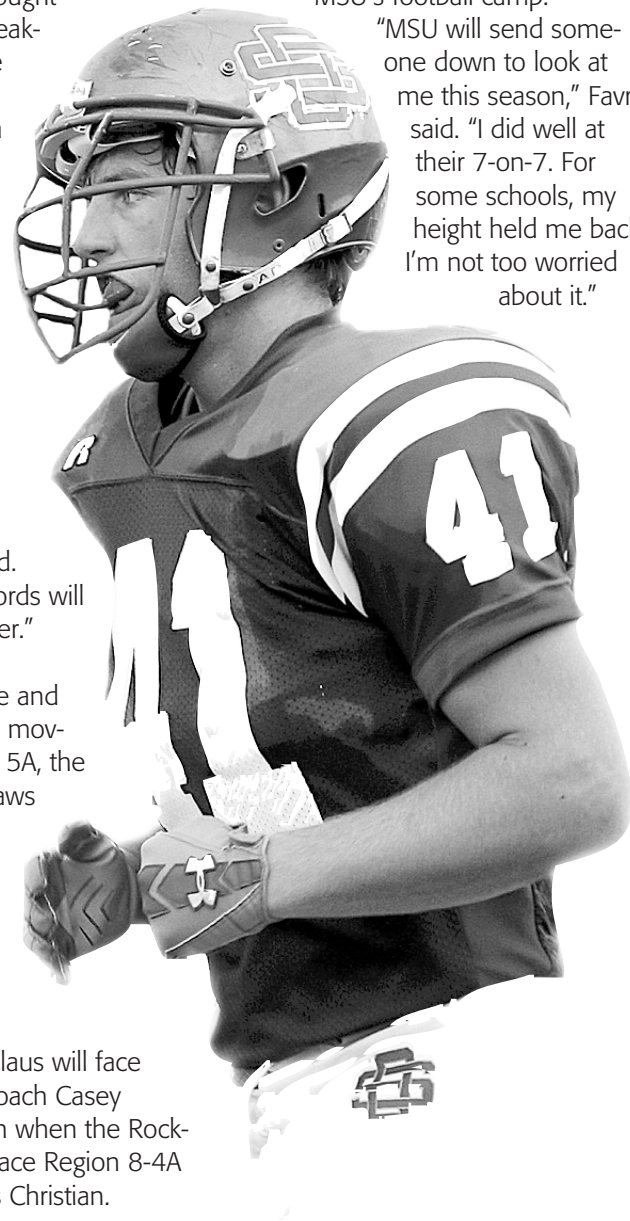
"It's a big help for us," Favre said. "We're a small 4A school. D'Iberville and Picayune were bigger than us. But that's no excuse. We still have to work hard like we always do."

Favre, who also plays on defense, has embraced the role of team leader.

"It's a lot of pressure to do the right thing," Favre said. "Kids look up to me and I like having that pressure."

The recruiting process has gone slow for the 5-foot-10-inch tall Favre. He did well at MSU's football camp.

"MSU will send someone down to look at me this season," Favre said. "I did well at their 7-on-7. For some schools, my height held me back. I'm not too worried about it."



HIGH SCHOOL 2009 SCHEDULES

| | Bay High | Biloxi | D'Iberville | East Central | Gautier | George County | Gulfport | Hancock | Harrison Central | Long Beach | Moss Point | Ocean Springs |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| AUG. 21 | at Vancleave | South Jones | at Forrest County | at Florence | Pascagoula | at Moss Point | vs. Warren Central# | at Pearl River Central | | at Stone | George County | vs. Vicksburg# |
| AUG. 28 | North Pike | at St. Martin | Harrison Central | Pascagoula | at Gulfport | Stone | Gautier | at Long Beach | at D'Iberville | Hancock | at Picayune | Tylertown |
| SEPT. 4 | at Hancock | Fontainebleau | | at North Pike | | at Greene County | at West Lauderdale | Bay High | Stone | at Pearl River Central | at Ocean Springs | Moss Point |
| SEPT. 11 | Pearl River Central | at D'Iberville | Biloxi | Greene County | at Columbia | at Wayne County | | St. Stanislaus | at Springfield (La.) | St. Patrick | at Pascagoula | |
| SEPT. 18 | Poplarville | | Ocean Springs | | at Greene County | | Northeast Lauderdale | | Northeast Jones | | | at D'Iberville |
| SEPT. 25 | St. Stanislaus | Petal | at East Central | D'Iberville | at West Harrison | Harrison Central | Pascagoula | at Ocean Springs | at George County | Moss Point | at Long Beach | Hancock |
| OCT. 2 | at Forrest County | George County | Long Beach | at Gautier | East Central | at Biloxi | at Harrison Central | Pascagoula | Gulfport | at D'Iberville | Vancleave | at Petal |
| OCT. 9 | at Pass Christian | at Ocean Springs | at Vancleave | St. Martin | at Long Beach | at Pascagoula | Hancock | at Gulfport | at Petal | Gautier | at West Harrison | Biloxi |
| OCT. 16 | Purvis | at Pascagoula | West Harrison | Moss Point | Vancleave* | at Gulfport | George County | Petal | Ocean Springs | at St. Martin | East Central | at Harrison Central |
| OCT. 23 | at Greene County | Harrison Central | at Gautier | at West Harrison | D'Iberville | Hancock | at Petal | at George County | at Biloxi | Vancleave | St. Martin | Pascagoula |
| OCT. 30 | | at Hancock | Moss Point | Long Beach | at St. Martin | at Petal | Ocean Springs | Biloxi | Pascagoula | at East Central | at D'Iberville | at Gulfport |
| NOV. 6 | | Gulfport | at St. Martin | at Vancleave | Moss Point | Ocean Springs | at Biloxi | at Harrison Central | Hancock | West Harrison | at Gautier | at George County |

Notes: * — Thursday
** — Saturday

*** — Tuesday
— Red Carpet Bowl, Vicksburg

HIGH SCHOOL 2009 SCHEDULES

| | Pascagoula | Pass Christian | Pearl River Central | Picayune | Poplarville | Resurrection | St. Martin | St. Patrick | St. Stanislaus | Stone | Vancleave | West Harrison |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| AUG. 21 | at Gautier | Mize | Hancock | | at Columbia | at West Lincoln*** | Greene County | | Taylorsville | Long Beach | Bay High | |
| AUG. 28 | at East Central | at St. Patrick | at Poplarville | Moss Point | Pearl River Central | | Biloxi | Pass Christian | at Mendenhall | at George County | at Greene County | |
| SEPT. 4 | | St. Martin | Long Beach | at Forrest County | at Lumberton | | at Pass Christian | at Pope John Paul II | at Jackson Prep | at Harrison Central | | Carver |
| SEPT. 11 | Moss Point | at Lumberton | at Bay High | | Vancleave | Ben Franklin** | Forrest County | at Long Beach | at Hancock | West Harrison | at Poplarville | at Stone |
| SEPT. 18 | Picayune | at Purvis | | at Pascagoula | at Bay High | at Christian Collegiate*** | | Vancleave | Forrest County | | at St. Patrick | |
| SEPT. 25 | at Gulfport | Greene County | at Forest Hill | at McComb | Forrest County | at St. Luke* | at Vancleave | | at Bay High | Wayne County | St. Martin | Gautier |
| OCT. 2 | at Hancock | | Stone | Forest Hill | at Purvis | R.A. Hubbard** | West Harrison | at Sumrall | at Greene County | at Pearl River Central | at Moss Point | at St. Martin |
| OCT. 9 | George County | Bay High | at Brookhaven | at Stone | at St. Stanislaus | Christian Collegiate** | at East Central | at Collins | Poplarville | Picayune | D'Iberville | Moss Point |
| OCT. 16 | Biloxi | at Poplarville | McComb | Brookhaven | Pass Christian | at J.U. Blackster** | Long Beach | West Marion | | at West Jones | at Gautier | at D'Iberville |
| OCT. 23 | at Ocean Springs | St. Stanislaus | at Picayune | Pearl River Central | | at R.A. Hubbard | at Moss Point | Seminary | at Pass Christian | Brookhaven | at Long Beach | East Central |
| OCT. 30 | at Harrison Central | at Forrest County | Wayne County | at West Jones | Greene County | Collinsville* | Gautier | at Perry Central | Purvis | at Forest Hill | West Harrison | at Vancleave |
| NOV. 6 | Petal* | | at West Jones | Wayne County | | St. Luke** | D'Iberville | | | at McComb | East Central | at Long Beach |

Notes: * — Thursday *** — Tuesday
 ** — Saturday # — Red Carpet Bowl, Vicksburg

HIGH SCHOOL 2009 RECRUITING

Top recruits come in pairs

By JAMES JONES
jjones@sunherald.com

A unique trend highlights Mississippi's college football recruiting Class of 2010.

Seven schools on the Sun Herald's Top 25 list of prospects have at least two players.

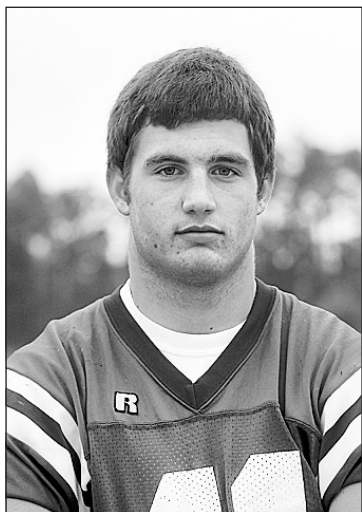
Yazoo City, Olive Branch, Oak Grove, South Panola, West Point, Madison Central and Ocean Springs each have multiple Division I recruits.

Olive Branch and Oak Grove each lead the way with four players.

Three members of the Conquistadors' offensive line cracked the Top 25

Mammoth tackle Damien Robinson sits atop the recruiting rankings. He's joined in the Top 10 by Shon Coleman, an Auburn verbal, and Eric Lawson.

Oak Grove's high-powered offense has three recruits: wide receivers Steve McNair Jr., Rob-



DICKSON

ert Johnson and Jay Hughes. Warrior defensive tackle Vince Taylor has verbally committed to Vanderbilt.

Yazoo City has three standouts: defensive tackle Kaleb Ellis, offensive lineman Demarco Cox and linebacker Taurice King.

Ocean Springs has two players with D-I offers: tight end J.T.

Dickson and running back Allen Howze. Howze has already verbally committed to Southern Miss. A third, safety Sam Noblin, just missed the list.

Madison Central's defensive tackle duo of Byron Bennett and Carlton Martin are getting strong looks from scouts.

West Point has a pair of recruits headed to Mississippi State: defensive back Michael Carr and defensive tackle Curtis Virges.

Defensive lineman Devin Clark and running back Nicholas Parker represent South Panola, which had its string of 89 straight wins snapped by Meridian in the Class 5A state championship game last year.

Southern Miss landed the state's top quarterback prospect, Dominique Johnson of Taylorsville. The last standout quarterback from Taylorsville is Jason Campbell, a starter with the Washington Redskins.

MISSISSIPPI TOP 25

Here are the Sun Herald's Top 25 college football recruits in Mississippi:

| Player | Ht. | Wt. | Pos. | School |
|--------------------|------|-----|------|--------------------|
| Damien Robinson | 6-8 | 330 | OT | Olive Branch |
| Carlos Thompson | 6-5 | 200 | DT | Hollandale Simmons |
| Vincent Sanders | 6-3 | 185 | WR | Noxubee County |
| J.T. Dickson | 6-3 | 250 | TE | Ocean Springs |
| Robert Johnson | 6-0 | 195 | WR | Oak Grove |
| Demarco Cox | 6-8 | 285 | OL | Yazoo City |
| Carlton Martin | 6-2 | 270 | DT | Madison Central |
| Matthew Wells | 6-0 | 190 | DB | Lawrence County |
| Shon Coleman | 6-8 | 275 | OL | Olive Branch |
| Steve McNair | 6-1 | 195 | WR | Oak Grove |
| Byron Bennett | 6-2 | 250 | DT | Madison Central |
| Nicholas Parker | 6-2 | 210 | RB | South Panola |
| Dominique Sullivan | 6-2 | 170 | QB | Taylorsville |
| Curtis Virges | 6-3 | 290 | DT | West Point |
| Eric Lawson | 6-6 | 320 | OL | Olive Branch |
| Nick Griffin | 5-11 | 195 | DB | Perry Central |
| Jay Hughes | 5-11 | 175 | DB | Oak Grove |
| Vince Taylor | 6-2 | 270 | DT | Oak Grove |
| Micheal Carr | 6-1 | 195 | WR | West Point |
| Taurice King | 6-2 | 225 | LB | Yazoo City |
| Keyshun Shipp | 6-2 | 215 | RB | Olive Branch |
| Devin Clark | 6-2 | 260 | DL | South Panola |
| Cordell Giles | 6-3 | 235 | TE | Ray Brooks |
| Markese Triplett | 6-4 | 205 | WR | Louisville |
| Allen Howze | 6-1 | 210 | RB | Ocean Springs |

South Mississippi Top 10: Greyhounds roll on

By JAMES JONES
jjones@sunherald.com

Ocean Springs is expected to have its best football team in years.

The Greyhounds (9-2 last year) sit atop The Sun Herald's preseason South Mississippi Top 10 football poll.

Ocean Springs, considered a favorite to win Region 4-6A, returns plenty of talent on both offense and defense.

Tight end/defensive tackle J.T. Dickson, quarterback Sam Noblin and running back Allen Howze lead a talented senior crop.

The Greyhounds realize

there's a huge bulls-eye on their back.

"Coach (Todd) Mangum already told us that every team on the Coast wants to beat Ocean Springs," Howze said.

Sitting in the second position is Moss Point, considered a strong favorite to win Region 4-5A.

The multi-skilled Tigers (6-4) are led by wide receiver DeAdrian Terry, linebacker Keith Barkley and kicker Jason Loris.

"We're excited about our potential, we can't wait to get the season started," Tigers coach Lewis Sims said.

A possible one-two matchup could materialize on Sept. 4

when Moss Point invades Greyhound Stadium. Moss Point, though, must survive its first two contests against George County and Picayune.

Harrison Central (6-6) is considered the Greyhounds' toughest opposition to winning a Region 4-6A crown.

The Red Rebels have three Division I prospects, linebacker Brandon Keel, quarterback Aerion Williams and running back Furious Bradley.

Picayune and Gautier, who both move up to Class 5A this year, complete the Coast's top five.

The Maroon Tide's grind-it-out attack is led by running back Ja-

mal Hall and quarterback Jacob Kennedy.

Quarterback Travonta Thomas returns for his second year as a starter to lead the Gators (5-5).

D'Iberville (14-1), St. Stanislaus (8-3), George County (6-6) and Stone (6-5) occupy the middle of the poll.

Gulfport (4-6) is the only team ranked with a losing record from last year. The Admirals return quarterback Derrick Lattimore with plans to end their three-year playoff drought.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI POLL

The Sun Herald's preseason South Mississippi Top 10:

| Team | 2008 record |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. Ocean Springs | 9-2 |
| 2. Moss Point | 6-4 |
| 3. Harrison Central | 6-6 |
| 4. Picayune | 9-3 |
| 5. Gautier | 5-5 |
| 6. D'Iberville | 14-1 |
| 7. St. Stanislaus | 8-4 |
| 8. George County | 6-6 |
| 9. Stone | 6-5 |
| 10. Gulfport | 4-6 |

REGION OVERVIEWS

4-6A: A rose by any other name, just as sweet

By DOUG BARBER
dmbarber@sunherald.com

New name. Same teams. Same level of difficulty. The biggest schools in South Mississippi will be competing in Region 4-6A as the state adds a new classification in athletic competition.

What was Region 4-5A a year ago is now Region 4-6A.

Petal won the region a year ago with Ocean Springs finishing second.

George County and Harrison Central made the state playoffs as the Nos. 3 and 4 teams, respectively.

Three pivotal region games this season are Gulfport-Harrison Central on Oct. 2, Ocean Springs-Harrison Central on Oct. 16 and George County-Ocean Springs on Nov. 6.

Ocean Springs, under Coach Todd Mangum, appears to be the favorite. The Greyhounds have registered six straight

winning seasons. You have to go back to the Hugh Pepper-coached days for that kind of success. Pepper posted 18 straight winning seasons from 1963 through 1980.

Defensive tackle J.T. Dickson, quarterback Sam Noblin and running back Allen Howze lead a Greyhound team that would like to be playing in Jackson on the first weekend in December in the inaugural 6A championship game.

Harrison Central, 6-6 a year ago, looks like one of the major challengers. Quarterback Aerion Williams ignites an explosive offense that features running back Furious Bradley.

Defensively, the Red Rebels count on linebackers Brandon Keel and Jamie Dennis, and Bradley, who doubles as a defensive back.

George County has won 65 games in six seasons under head coach Al Jones, and they should also be in the playoff

chase. Quarterback R.J. Spivery returns after rushing for 1,007 yards and Ricco Carter (71 tackles) paces the defense.

Biloxi goes back to the double-winning under Coach Steve Jones, and plans to be in playoff mix. Ends Jeremy Britton and Robert Simpson lead the defense while either Hawtin Buchanan or Dennis Robertson direct the offense.

Gulfport coach Mike Justice hopes to get the Admirals back into the playoffs after a three-year absence. Quarterback Derrick Lattimore leads the Gulfport attack. The Admirals looked very good in a spring jamboree against Vigor and Moss Point.

Hancock showed improvement last year under new coach David King, and hopes to make the leap into playoffs. Quarterback Keagan Gillihan leads an explosive offense while linebacker Chris Bermond anchors the defense.

Two years ago, Pascagoula



SUN HERALD

Ocean Springs' Allen Howze and his Greyhounds teammates will again square off against George County for high stakes.

had a lot of firepower and Coach Scott Sisson is trying to get the Panthers back to that level. Quarterback Jaron Shannon takes the helm of a young

football team.

Petal coach Steve Buckley has to replace running back Isiah Newsome, who signed with Louisiana-Monroe.

4A/3A/2A/1A: New divisions offer rivalries

By DOUG BARBER
dmbarber@sunherald.com

To some coaches and fans, reclassification has not had much of any effect.

Think again when you speak about competition in the divisions in the new Class 4A and Class 3A in South Mississippi.

Longtime neighbors Bay High, St. Stanislaus and Pass Christian are part of the new Division 8-4A. They join Poplarville, Forrest County AHS, Greene County and Purvis.

A year ago, Bay High, St. Stanislaus, Poplarville and Forrest County were 4A schools.

Pass, Greene County and Purvis competed as 3A schools.

The end result should be a very competitive division, and one in which travel is not that big a problem.

One thing is for sure. The football will be tossed around in this division. Record-setting quarterback Dylan Favre returns for his senior year at St. Stanislaus, and the Rockachaws hope to improve on their 8-3 record of a year ago.

Bay High and Pass Christian — both with new head coaches — have both gone to the spread. The Tigers made the state playoffs a year ago. Pass Christian

only won two games.

Jeff Hopgood and Casey Wittmann are new coaches at Bay High and Pass High, respectively.

Poplarville won only one game last year.

Greene County and Purvis made the state playoffs last year as the respective Nos. 3 and 4 teams from Division 8-3A.

Forrest County, under coach Larry Dolan, won six games last year, and lost a 36-35 nail-biter to perennial power Moss Point. The Aggies made the state playoffs as No. 4 seed from Division 7-4A.

Please see 8-4A, Page 29



SUN HERALD

Bay St. Louis and St. Stanislaus will continue their rivalry in Division 8-4A.

REGION OVERVIEWS

4-5A: Moss Point at the top

By JAMES JONES
jkjones@sunherald.com

Moss Point has won more Region 4-5A football championships than any Coast team.

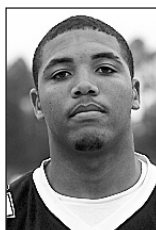
The Tigers (6-4) are picked to add another one to their trophy case.

With a splendid senior class led by linebacker Keith Barkley and wide receiver DeAdrian Terry, Moss Point has the talent to make a Class 5A state title run.

The Tigers are using last year's second-place finish in Region 7-4A as motivation.

"The kids have a chip on their shoulder," Tigers coach Lewis Sims said. "They're ready to play."

D'Iberville and Gautier both figure to challenge the Tigers for Region 4-5A supremacy.



Barkley

The Gators won't have problems scoring points with quarterback Travonta Thomas and offensive lineman Daniel Quave.

"I feel that it will be us, Moss Point and D'Iberville competing for the title," Gautier coach Arlton Hudson said.

"Moss Point's looking to bounce back. D'Iberville's going to have a good team."

The Warriors reload after last year's unbeaten regular-season. They went on and reached the 4A state championship game.

Offensive lineman Dylan Holley will provide senior leadership for D'Iberville, which renews its rivalries with St. Martin and Gautier.

"We're glad to be back on this side of the region," Warriors coach Buddy Singleton said. "It's a short trip on Interstate 10 for us."

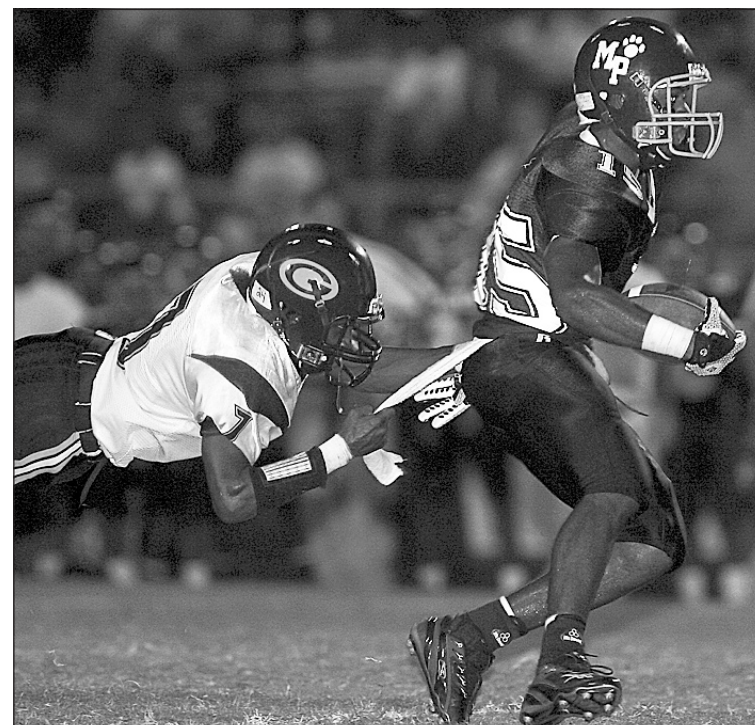
The Tigers, Warriors and Gators are favored to earn the first three playoff berths, but the last berth will be a dogfight.

Can Long Beach resume its winning ways under a new coach and with quarterback Anthony D'Angelo?

St. Martin has made strides under veteran coach Ed Stanley, but can the Yellow Jackets get over the hump?

Vanceleave, which upset Moss Point last year, hasn't made the playoffs in a few years.

Second-year coach Marcus High continues his rebuilding job at East Central, which must replace All-South Mississippi running back Sam Fairley.



WILLIAM COLGIN/SUN HERALD

Gautier's Maurice Loury tries to perform a flying tackle on Moss Point's Cardarrius Stallworth during a game in Moss Point last year.

"This will be a very tough region," High said. "We look

forward to facing the Jackson County rivals."

3-5A: Picayune will see familiar faces this season



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD

With the return of junior running back Jamal Hall, Picayune has a shot at winning the Region 3-5A championship.

By JAMES JONES
jkjones@sunherald.com

Picayune runs into a familiar playoff rival in Region 3-5A.

Perennial state power Wayne County joins the Maroon Tide in the realigned region.

The War Eagles have eliminated Picayune from the state playoffs the past three seasons. All three of the contests went down to the wire, and expect another hard-fought contest.

Wayne County (10-2 last year) is expected to make another state title run under coach Marcus Boyles.

The War Eagles have won titles in 5A and 4A.

Picayune coach Dodd Lee doesn't mind the challenge,

hoping to get the Maroon Tide over the top.

"I think that we can play with anybody," Lee said.

The Maroon Tide (8-3) have the offensive juice to challenge Wayne County, with running back Jamal Hall and quarterback Jacob Kennedy.

Region 3-5A is stacked from top to bottom, which means the 5A playoff spots may not be decided until the end of the regular season.

Most of the teams have impressive resumes and can make a legitimate case for making the playoffs.

West Jones made the 4A South State semifinals last year before falling to D'Iberville.

Brookhaven and Forest Hill are

also strong teams.

Stone (6-4) will be in the playoff mix, returning a strong offensive nucleus of running back Darion Arrington and quarterback Clint Hatten. The Tomcats made the 4A playoffs last year for the first time since 1998.

Pearl River Central moved up to Class 5A in reclassification. Improving from two wins last year to contend for the playoffs will be an impossible task.

"I try not to think about it too much," PRC coach Jeremy Weir joked. "McComb and us are the only ones in the group that did not make the playoffs last year. But McComb can bounce back at any time and return. The rest of the region speaks for itself."

LOOKING AHEAD

New coaches, new classes, same excitement

It doesn't seem that long ago that D'Iberville was battling Noxubee County for the 2008 Class 4A state championship, a game that everyone thought would be dominated by the offense.

But it turned out to be a low-scoring defensive struggle.

Now we are five days away from the 2009 season openers, and you can't help but wonder who will be the stars, who will be the Cinderella teams.

The new reclassification system looks like it favors Coast teams in Class 4A. The new Class 6A is a mirror image of the old Class 5A. The new Coast divisions in Class 5A both look extremely competitive.



By Doug Barber

Sun Herald

Thirty years ago, this writer was privileged to watch the renaissance of Picayune football under Coach Calvin Triplett, and Coach Dodd Lee has carried on the tradition of power.

Moss Point, likewise, has been solid through the last 30 years with coaches like the late Billy Miller, Jerry Alexander and now Lewis Sims.

D'Iberville's Buddy Singleton was prowling the sidelines at Warrior Stadium 30 years ago and he will be doing the same this year.

Trendwise, the new Long Beach coach Tommy Browder arrives at a time when it looks



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

D'Iberville squared off with Noxubee County in the Class 4A state championship last season.

like Coast football is embracing the spread offense. We should see more shotgun this year than ever before.

The success of a team — however innovative on offense — will still be predicated on tackling and blocking.

Even with the spread, a successful defense will prevent the big play and make an offense work for 14 plays, not give up those two- or three-play scoring drives.

Some of the former powers, like Gulfport and Biloxi, are trying to reclaim some of that former glory this season.

Gulfport coach Mike Justice and Biloxi coach Steve Jones have enjoyed success in the past as they try to rebuild.

As for the races, it looks like Ocean Springs, Harrison Central and George County will be battling for the first Region 4-6A championship.

Moss Point, Gautier and D'Iberville look like the frontrunners in Region 4-5A.

Wayne County appears to be the favorite in the far-flung, but incredibly difficult Region 4-5A. That region has rivals Wayne County and West Jones, rivals McComb and Brookhaven,

and toss in Picayune, Stone High, Forest Hill and Pearl River Central.

A good team may not make the playoffs from that region.

St. Stanislaus looks strong in 8-4A, but there could be challenges from Forrest County, Greene County and Bay High.

St. Patrick joins a new division in 8-3A, and the Fighting Irish could be in the mix for division honors with Collins.

It's a familiar refrain for this time of the year, but I can't wait.

Doug Barber can be reached at 896-2321 or dmbarber@sunherald.com

8-4A

Continued from Page 27

Rocky Gaudin and his St. Patrick Fighting Irish, now in Division 8-3A, face a new set of opponents — mostly from the Hattiesburg area. The Irish have moved up from Class 2A.

The Irish made the playoffs last year and won seven games.

Their new division foes include Collins, Perry Central, Seminary, Sumrall and West Marion.

Resurrection Catholic in Pascagoula starts its inaugural football program. The Class 1A school is not playing a division schedule.

Drew Brees leads the Saints into a season filled with expectations, Page 33

HIGH SCHOOL 2009

TEAM PROFILES

BILOXI INDIANS



Jones

Head coach: Steve Jones
Region: 4-6A
Last year's record: 2-9
Offense: Double wing
Defense: 4-3

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Hawtin Buchanan 6-8, 245, jr., QB Dennis Robertson 6-4, 225, jr., TB Travoris Robinson 5-10, 200, jr., TB Darius Duckworth 6-1, 187, jr., FB Kenny Powell 6-0, 205, sr., WB Justin Gibson 5-10, 160, sr., WB Marcus Foster 6-0, 180, sr., SE Harrison Russell 6-1, 180, sr., SE D.J. Hogue 5-10, 160, jr., TE Diunte Miller 6-2, 265, jr., TE Sean Ballough 6-1, 200, sr., RT Alex Shinal 6-3, 330, jr., RG Ross Hollis 6-2, 185, sr., C Mike

Bull 5-11, 190, sr., C Derek Whitfield 6-3, 275, jr., LG James Demoruelle 5-8, 270, sr., LT Harry Moskowitz 6-3, 277, sr.
DEFENSE: DL Adrian Walker 6-0, 255, jr., DL Xavier Graham 6-2, 255, jr., DL Kieonta Causey 6-3, 230, jr., DE Robert Simpson 6-3, 245, sr., DE Jeremy Britton 6-3, 245, sr., DE Matt Wahl 6-2, 200, jr., LB Kenny Powell 6-0, 205, sr., LB Alek Montgomery 6-0, 200, sr., LB Drew Hopkins 6-0, 185, jr., LB Jerone Tunstall 6-0, 200, sr., DB Jerry Webb 5-11, 170, sr., DB Zack Num Num 5-9, 170, jr., DB Harrison Russell 6-1, 185, sr., .



Demoruelle

GEORGE COUNTY REBELS



Jones

Head coach: Al Jones
Region: 4-6A
Last year's record: 6-6
Offense: Multiple
Defense: 4-4

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB R.J. Spivery 6-1, 190, sr., RB Adrian Bradley 5-8, 170, jr., RB Joseph Bradley 6-0, 205, jr., TE Anthony Underwood 6-1, 210, sr., WR Colby Parker 6-2, 180, sr., WR Tyler Holifield 6-2, 170, jr., LT Nathan Davis 6-0, 270, sr., LG Kevin Dueitt 5-9, 230, sr., C Rory Nelson 6-0, 235, sr., RG Hunter Havard 6-0, 235, sr., RT Dillan Gray 6-2, 265, sr.



Spivery

DEFENSE: LE Dylan Davis 5-11, 175, jr., LT Josh Goff 6-0, 210, sr.,

RT Chavis Jones 5-7, 240, sr., RE Caleb Smith 6-3, 185, sr., SS P.J. Bradley 5-11, 180, jr., ILB C.J. Leggett 6-0, 210, sr., ILB Jamie Steverson 5-7, 190, sr., WLB Ricco Carter 5-8, 195, jr., LCB Tavaris Vaxter 5-9, 165, sr., FS Jordan Pope 5-10, 170, sr., RCB Jared Williams 5-11, 180, sr.

GULFPORT ADMIRALS

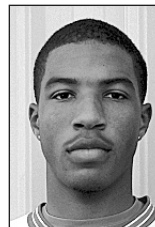


Justice

Head coach: Mike Justice
Region: 4-6A
Last year's record: 4-6
Offense: Misdirection I
Defense: 5-0

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: C Jacob Troutman 6-1, 280, jr., G Evan Cox 6-3, 235, sr., G Justin Veenstra 6-3, 240, sr., G Christian Bruno 5-10, 190, sr., T Laurence Ramsey 6-0, 300, jr., T Haydon Smith 6-5, 265, sr., WR Darius Jackson 6-2, 175, sr., WR Kenny Hudson 6-1, 175, sr., WR C.J. Adams 6-1, 175, jr., QB Derrick Lattimore 6-2, 190, sr., RB Shadale Chambers 5-10, 170, sr., RB Brandon McClendon 5-10, 185, soph.,



Lattimore

DEFENSE: DT Warren Conway 6-2, 230, jr., NG Avery Sullivan 6-1, 290, jr., DT Blaze Pollack 6-0, 250, sr., DT Chris Davis 5-10, 200, jr., DT Kendrick Chapman 5-10, 185, jr., DE Cortez Hartzog 6-5, 275, jr., DE Robert Johnson 6-0, 180, sr., DE Rashad Hamilton 6-2, 185, sr., LB Jonathan Monroe 6-0, 210, sr., LB John Cooley 6-1, 190, sr., LB Jamison Goins 6-3, 230, soph., LB Tommy Ngo 5-11, 190, sr., SS Lamar Smith 5-11, 190, sr., FS David Bertucci 6-2, 185, jr., CB Chris Mitchell 6-1, 175, sr., CB Dennis Harvey 6-1, 175, sr., SS Chris Wells 6-0, 200, sr.,

HANCOCK HAWKS

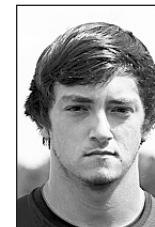


King

Head coach: David King
Region: 4-6A
Last year's record: 2-8
Offense: Multiple
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Keagon Gillihan 6-0, 193, sr., RB Adrian Whavers 5-10, 170, sr., WB Lance Jaynes 5-9, 175, sr., TE Carlos Talavera 6-2, 208, sr., WR Brian Armenta 5-10, 163, sr., WR Brandon Schwartz 5-8, 155, sr., C Jason Chiasson 6-2, 236, jr., G Diego Albino, G Eric Madere 6-1, 235, sr., T Dillon Emmons 5-11, 235, sr., T Brayden Stephens 6-4, 200, jr., FB Chris Bermond 6-1, 215, sr., WB Phillip Meynard 5-9, 178, jr., WR Michael Henry 5-11,



Gillihan

153, jr.

DEFENSE: LB Chris Bermond 6-1, 215, sr., LB Alex Jackson 5-7, 154, jr., DE Anthony Cardinale 5-11, 170, sr., DE Todd Savoy 5-9, 168, sr., DT Drake Domino 6-1, 287, jr., DT Carlos Talavera 6-2, 208, sr., DT Eric Madere 6-1, 235, sr., CB Michael Henry 5-11, 153, jr., CB Adrian Whavers 5-10, 170, sr., SS Aaron Ladner 6-2, 195, jr., S Phillip Meynard 5-9, 178, jr., DT Ethan Ball 6-4, 220, sr., DT Leland Elchos 6-1, 234, jr., DT Bruce Conant 5-11, 190, jr.

HARRISON CENT. RED REBELS



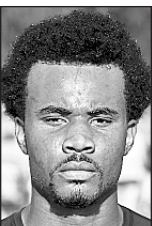
Cuevas

Head coach: Ronnie Cuevas
Region: 4-6A
Last year's record: 6-6
Offense: Multiple
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

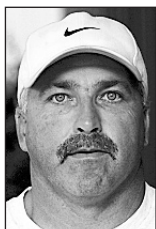
OFFENSE: C Preston Caldwell, 5-10, 230, sr., LT Wes Rea, 6-5, 290, sr., LG Winston Jordan, 6-2, 270, sr., RG Brandon Farmer, 6-2, 280, soph., RG Arron Jackson, 6-0, 230, soph., RT Nick Redmond, 6-6, 300, jr., WR Maurice Reese, 6-2, 185, sr., RB Furious Bradley, 5-10, 170, sr., WR Richard Jasper, 5-9, 160, jr., WR Marvin Ellis, 5-11, 170, sr., RB Brandon Keel, 6-2, 215, sr., QB Aerion Williams, 6-2, 210, sr., WR Dijon McCorkle, 5-11, 160, jr., WR Jarious Washington, 6-0, 190, sr.,

DEFENSE: DE Wes Rea, 6-5, 270, sr., NG Brandon Farmer, 6-2, 280, soph., DE Tony Crawford, 6-1, 220, jr., NG Devonte Holder, 6-1, 250, soph., LB Jamie Dennis, 5-11, 210, sr., DL Levi Brumfield, 5-11, 210, sr., ILB Brandon Keel, 6-2, 215, sr., ILB Keshyric Tillman, 5-11, 185, jr., OLB Shane Murray, 5-11, 185, sr., OLB Joe Shotwell, 6-1, 190, sr., CB Furious Bradley, 5-10, 170, sr., CB Trevon Manning, 5-9, 165, jr., FS Devonte Griffith, 5-11, 160, jr., CB Donnie Farmer, 5-11, 165, soph., ILB Casey Wilczynski, 5-10, 180, sr.



Williams

OCEAN SPRINGS GREYHOUNDS



Mangum

Head coach: Todd Mangum
Region: 4-6A
Last year's record: 9-2
Offense: I
Defense: 3-5

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Sam Noblin, sr., FB Chase Rasa, sr., TB Allen Howze, sr., TE Travis Dickson, sr., WR Joe Morrow, jr., WR Matt Lee, sr., WR Tony Chapel, jr., WR Anthony Gennarelli, jr., LT John Quave, jr., LG Donovan Montgomery, sr., C Glenn Ferrell, sr., RG Wayne Levoy, sr., RT Jordan Dossett, sr., K Evan Carraghan, jr.

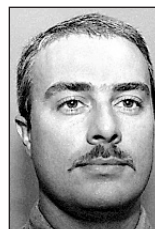


Noblin

DEFENSE: DE Travis Dickson, sr., DE Jacob Souers, sr., NG Chris Carter, sr., OLB Dawson Wells,

jr., OLB Hunter Steiner, sr., ILB Wade Wells, sr., ILB Cody Wilson, CB Joe Morrow, jr., CB Nick Boggs, sr., FS Sam Noblin, sr., SS Andy Reichel, jr., P Justin Danise, sr.

PASCAGOULA PANTHERS

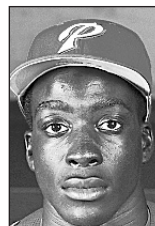


Sisson

Head coach: Scott Sisson
Region: 4-6A
Last year's record: 2-8
Offense: Pro set
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Jaron Shannon, 5-9, 160, RB Major Williams, 5-9, 170, FB Antone Thornton, 5-9, 182, WR Mitchell Keeton, 5-6 145, WR Aaron Dennis, 5-6, 140, OL Corry Blalote, 5-11, 310, OL Cornillous Virgil, 6-0, 270, C Gavin Tillman, 5-10, 180, OL Jesse Diaz, 6-0, 240, OL Jeremy Jenkins, 5-10, 230, TE Donovan Gordon, 6-0, 180.

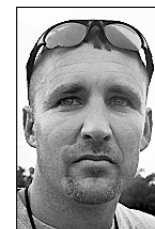


Golson

DEFENSE: DE David Wilson, 6-1, 185, DE Jesse Diaz, 6-0, 240, DL Sidney Potts, 6-1, 195, DL Anthony

Webb, 6-4, 240, LB Alonzo Peavy, 5-9, 175, LB Taquan James, 5-10, 200, LB Yetez Brooks, 5-11, 185, DB Senquez Golson, 5-10 170, DB Codaryl Weathersby, 5-10, 150, DB Jared Shannon, 5-6 140, DB Daniel Miles, 5-10, 160

PRC BLUE DEVILS

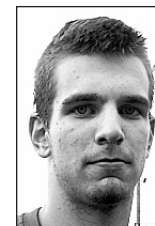


Weir

Head coach: Jeremy Weir
Region: 3-5A
Last year's record: 2-8
Offense: Spread
Defense: Multiple 50

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Tyler Lee, 6-0, 200, sr., RB Bruce Smith, 5-7, 120, sr., RB Lance Powers, 5-11, 175, jr., WR Garret Penton, 6-1, 170, sr., WR Pacer Frierson, 5-7, 140, jr., WR Jacob Smith, 6-1. 175, sr., OL Nicky Thigpen, 6-1, 260, sr., OL Ashton Lancaster, 6-1, 245, jr., OL Chase Thigpen, 5-10, 245, sr., OL Clayton Yates, 5-9, 235, jr., OL Blake Goode, 5-10, 180, sr.



Lee

DEFENSE: DL Clayton Yates, 5-9, 235, jr., DL P.J. Taylor, 5-10, 170,

jr., DL Blake Goode, 5-10, 180, sr., DL Ashton Lancaster, 6-1, 245, jr., LB Cody Smith, 5-8, 170, soph., LB Kyle Mitchell, 5-9, 160, sr., LB Bryce Spence, 5-8, 160, soph., LB Adam Stockstill, 5-7, 135, jr., DB Ruben Stephens, 6-0, 170, soph., DB Jacob Smith, 6-1. 175, sr., DB Garret Penton, 6-1, 170, sr., K Pacer Frierson, 5-7, 140, jr.

TEAM PROFILES

PICAYUNE MAROON TIDE



Lee

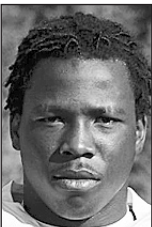
Head coach: Dodd Lee
Region: 3-5A
Last year's record: 9-3
Offense: Multiple
Defense: 4-3

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Jacob Kennedy, 5-9, 155, Jr., RB Jamal Hall, 5-8, 185, Jr., RB Joel Davis, 5-8, 235, jr., WR B.J. Jeansonne, 5-8, 180, jr., WR Jonathan Moore, 6-0, 170, sr., TE: Malcolm Faciane, 6-4, 220, jr., LT Brandon Lee, 6-2, 240, sr., LG Robbie Bender, 6-2, 240, sr., C Keesan Bowens, 5-10, 245, jr., RT DeAmbry Jackson, 5-10, 240, sr., RG Maurice Jones, 6-2, 240, jr.

DEFENSE: DE Chase Tretbar, 6-4, 185, jr., DE Derionne Stewart,

6-4, 181, jr., DT Jay Lambert, 5-10, 190, sr., DT Christian McDougle, 5-10, 240, jr., LB Jarrod Jones, 5-10, 180, sr. LB Brandon Dedeaux, 5-11, 195, jr., CB Eric Smith, 5-10, 165, jr., CB Tyrone Davis, 5-10, 150, jr., WS Terrance McCann, 5-10, 170, sr., FS Wayne McMooain, 5-9, 160, sr., WS Courtney Nixon, 6-0, 160, jr.



Hall

STONE TOMCATS



Oakes

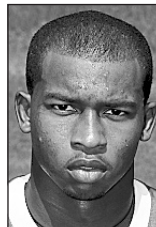
Head coach: Brian Oakes
Region: 3-5A
Last year's record: 6-5
Offense: Multiple
Defense: 3-3

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Clint Hatten, jr., RB Patrick Wilson, sr., RB Keontae Galloway, jr., RB Darion Arrington, jr., RB Darius Calloway, sr., C Steven Campbell, sr., OL Tyler Corbett, sr., OL Clint Hyatt, sr., OL Ethan Riley, sr., OL Evan Riley, sr., OL Tyler Holley, sr., OL Cade Amacker, jr., WR Fred Boggs, sr., WR Clint Carlisle, sr.

DEFENSE: NG Tray Harris, sr., NG Antonio Evans, sr., DE Ryan Bruner, sr., DE Evan Riley, sr., DE Ramsey

Sellers, jr., DE Ethan Riley, sr., LB Tyler Holley, sr., LB Gemar Johnson, jr., LB Patrick Wilson, sr., LB Clint Carlisle, sr., DB Charles Jackson, sr., DB Darius Jones, soph., DB Keontae Galloway, jr., DB Jatarris Willis, jr., DB Jasper James, soph., S Darius Arrington, jr.



Arrington

D'IBERVILLE WARRIORS



Singleton

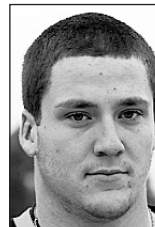
Head coach: Buddy Singleton
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: 14-1
Offense: Multiple
Defense: 4-3

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: TE Jeremy Picard, 6-0, 205, sr., ST Dylan Holley, 6-3, 275, sr., SG Brendon McClinton, 6-2, 235, sr., C Zack Miller, 5-10, 195, soph., WG C.J.Moran, 5-9, 195, sr., WT Jeff Korn, 5-11, 260, sr., WT Mikey Moran, 5-10, 220, soph., QB Jake Ladner, 6-2, 185, sr., RB Joe Prine, 5-8, 160, sr., FB Quan Mikel, 5-10, 195, jr., WO Taylor Hardy, 5-8, 140, jr., WO Brandon King, 5-8, 140, jr., WO Greg Rushing, 6-0, 175, sr., QB/WO Greyson

Chambless, 6-1, 180, jr.

DEFENSE: DE Dylan Holley, 6-3, 275, sr., DE Brendon McClinton, 6-2, 235, sr., DT Zack Heuser, 5-10, 195, sr., DT Jeff Korn, 5-11, 260, sr., LB Anthony Rodriguez, 5-10, 195, soph., LB Quan Mikel, 5-10, 195, jr., LB Dallas Hebert, 5-9, 170, jr., LB Mikey Moore, 5-10, 155, jr., LB Marcellous Henderson, 5-11, 170, soph., LB Jeremy Picard, 6-0, 205, sr., DB Jarius Carter, 5-10, 175, sr., DB Greyson Chambless, 6-1, 180, jr., DB Blake Bateaste, 5-9, 160, soph., LB Jake Ladner, 6-2, 180, sr.



Holley

EAST CENTRAL HORNETS



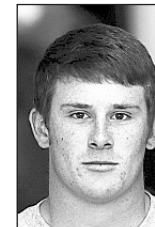
High

Head coach: Marc High
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: 2-8
Offense: Double wing
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

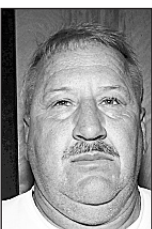
OFFENSE: QB Brance Crane, 5-7, 151, jr., FB Antwon Wells, 5-10, 174, soph., FB Hugh Burrage, 5-7, 170, jr., WB Marcus Guyton, 5-10, 172, jr., WB Bradley Green, 5-7, 174, sr., C Kermit Loupe, 6-1, 232, jr., OG Richard Guardia, 5-7, 170, sr., OG A.J. McCreary, 5-10, 200, sr., OG Will Dickerson, 5-7, 180, sr., OT Kevin Lowe, 6-2, 225, sr., OT Jason Wells, 5-11, 275, jr., TE Trevor Naramore, 5-10, 185, jr., TE Shane Pearson, 6-4, 240, sr.

DEFENSE: DE Jesse Jones, 5-8, 205, sr., DE Josh Jones, 5-10, 195, sr., DT Anthony Johnson, 5-11, 220, sr., DT Jared Ray, 6-1, 304, jr., LB Colby Ehlers, 6-1, 185, sr., DB Jake Evans, 5-7, 150, sr., LB Stephen Heil, 5-10, 213, jr., LB Jamal Johnson, 5-9, 174, sr., DB Micah Fairley, 5-9, 152, soph., DB Chase Goff, 5-10, 150, jr., DB Chad Belcher, 6-0, 190, sr., LB Brandon Waltman, 5-9, 165, jr.



Green

GAUTIER GATORS



Hudson

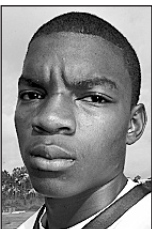
Head coach: Arlton Hudson
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: 5-5
Offense: Multiple
Defense: 4-3

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Travonte Thomas, 6-0, 180, sr., RB Ryan Driver, 5-10, 185, jr., RB Adonis Polk, 5-10, 175, jr., WR Dominique Brown, 5-10, 180, sr., TE Cordell Paige, 6-3, 245, sr., TE Mike Quave, 6-2, 180, jr., OT Daniel Quave, 6-4, 320, sr., OG Ryan Triplett, 6-0, 240, sr., C Keith Smuckler, 6-0, 340, jr., OG: Chase Hatten, 6-0, 225, jr., OT Patrick Reynolds, 6-2, 240, jr.

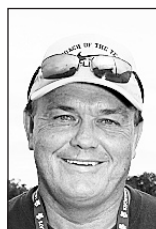
DEFENSE: DE Cordell Paige, 6-3, 245, sr., DE Steven Gonin, 6-6,

250, sr., DT Ryan Triplett, 6-0, 240, sr., LB Chase Hatten, 6-0, 225, jr., LB Joel Allen, 6-0, 210, sr., LB Charles Wilson, 5-10, 170, sr., LB Jagger Dawson, 6-0, 180, jr., CB James Paisley, 5-10, 180, sr., CB Adonis Polk, 5-10, 175, jr., S Kevance McDonald, 5-10, 175, soph., S Jalen Hawkins, 5-10, 175, jr.



Thomas

LONG BEACH BEARCATS



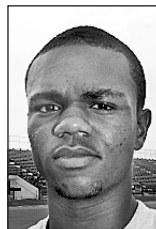
Browder

Head coach: Tommy Browder
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: 1-7
Offense: Spread
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Anthony D'Angelo, 210, jr., RB Josh Rushing, 220, jr., WR Dimitry Smith, 160, sr., WR/TE Miles Alexander, 205, sr., WR Ned Rushing, 170, jr., WR Zack Holder, 165, sr., WR P.J. Dobbs, 165, soph., WR Corey Moore, 155, sr., G Ben Wiles, 320, sr., T Paul Gregory, 270, jr., T Kenny Nassar, 270, jr., G Devin Rushing, 210, jr., C Charles Tidwell, 265, sr.

DEFENSE: DE Josh Rushing, 220, jr., DE/LB Michael Moten, 190, jr.,



Smith

LB Richie Brown, 175, soph., LB Matthew Bute, 180, soph., DB Matt Wallace, 170, sr., DB Milton Britton, 175, soph., LB Derek Szymanski, 165, sr., DB Corey Moore, 155, sr., Some of the defensive line positions have yet to be determined.

MOSS POINT TIGERS



Sims

Head coach: Lewis Sims
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: 6-4
Offense: Multiple
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

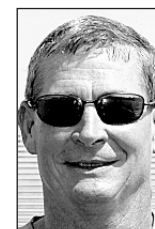
OFFENSE: OL Branton Thomas, 5-10, 220, sr., OL Wesley Steele, 6-2, 270, sr., OL Michael Edwards, 6-3, 260, sr., OL Willie McIntyre, 6-0, 322, sr., OL Deion Simpson, 6-0, 225, soph., OL Levell Hartfield, 6-1, 280, jr., WR D'Adrian Terry, 6-1, 175, sr., WR Keylin Watson, 6-2, 170, jr., RB JoJo Snell, 5-9, 170, sr., RB Byron James, 5-8, 150, jr., RB Reggie Matthews, 5-11, 222, jr., QB Quayshawn Williams, 5-9, 186, sr., QB Joe Kirkland, 6-1, 161,

soph., K Jason Loris, 5-11, 148, sr.
DEFENSE: DE Gabriel King, 6-0, 220, sr., DE Tyrell Guyton, 6-1, 185, sr., DE Fred Johnson, 6-0, 185, jr., DE Alonzo Law, 5-10, 204, sr., DT Kevin Richardson, 6-1, 224, sr., NG: Bayette Williams, 5-9, 225, sr., LB Corey Loggins, 5-9, 170, sr., LB Josh Jones, 5-10, 210, sr., LB Keith Barkley, 6-1, 210, sr., LB: Jonathan Hinton, 6-0, 200, jr., DB Dawaiian Hutchins, 5-11, 185, sr., DB Corey Loggins, 5-9, 170, sr., DB Telvis Henderson, 5-11, 160, sr., DB Josh Richardson, 5-10, 170, sr., DB Darryl Williams, 5-8, 160, sr.



Barkley

ST. MARTIN YELLOW JACKETS



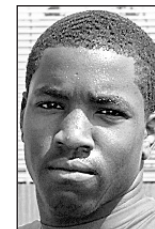
Stanley

Head coach: Ed Stanley
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: 2-7
Offense: Option
Defense: 3-3 Stack

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: C John Guice, 5-10, 235, sr., G Scott Fetters, 5-11, 260, sr., G Phillip Levine, 5-11, 220, jr., T Jimmy Balius, 6-2, 215, jr., T Easton Gregory, 6-1, 260, jr., TE DeAndrea Westbrook, 6-3, 200, jr., FB Taylor Morris, 5-11, 220, sr., HB Darryl Richardson, 5-11, 250, sr., TB Rodney Jones, 5-9, 180, sr., QB Eugene Walton, 5-6, 150, sr., TB/QB Lamanski Finch, 5-11, 160, sr., WR Devin Panyko, 5-10, 165, sr.

DEFENSE: DL Kenny Sheppard, 6-1, 250, jr., DL Mitchell Williams, 6-3, 240, jr., DL McCauley Wallace, 5-9, 230, sr., LB Billy Parker, 6-1, 205, jr., LB Tashaun Monroe, 5-9, 180, jr., LB Jalen James, 6-1, 200, soph., LB Timmy Dunipace, 5-10, 185, jr., LB Joe Trahan, 5-11, 180, jr., DB Dave Sliman, 5-11, 180, sr., DB Kenny Nguyen, 5-8, 150, soph., DB Justin Franklin, 5-9, 160, sr.

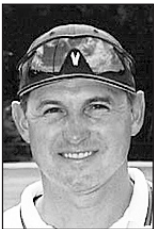


Walton

HIGH SCHOOL 2009

TEAM PROFILES

VANCLEAVE BULLDOGS

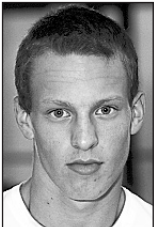


Head coach: Jim Bloomfield
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: 5-5
Offense: Multiple
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: OT Billy Geiger, 6-2, 255, sr., OG Andrew Woods, 5-10, 205, jr., OG Hank Davis, 5-10, 205, sr., C Elton Barrett, 5-8, 190, jr., OL Simon Holden, 5-11, 180, sr., OL Donald Overstreet, 6-1, 170, sr., OL Chasen Bragg, 5-9, 175, jr., QB Colin Bray, 6-3, 175, jr., RB Brit Yates, 5-10, 175, sr., RB Dawson Chapman, 5-10, 160, sr., RB Brandon Smith, 5-8, 170, jr., RB Isaiah Warren, 5-11, 180, jr., RB Thadius Whittle, 5-8, 150, jr., WR Hunter Bloomfield, 5-11, 160, sr., WR Tyler Bray, 6-4, 170, sr., WR Malik Thompson, 5-11, 155, jr.,

DEFENSE: DL Emario Eakins, 6-0, 210, sr., DL Jes Stringfellow, 6-2, 200, sr., DL Logan Wall, 5-11, 235, jr., DL Jay Yates, 6-2, 220, jr., ILB Justin Gibbs, 5-8, 185, jr., OLB Brit Yates, 5-10, 175, sr., OLB Donald Overstreet, 6-1, 170, sr., OLB Damien Allen, 5-9, 185, jr., OLB Isaiah Warren, 5-11, 180, jr., S Hunter Bloomfield, 5-11, 160, sr., S Malik Thompson, 5-11, 155, jr., CB Dawson Chapman, 5-11, 160, sr., CB Deon Dunning, 5-11, 145, sr.,



Bray

WEST HARRISON HURRICANES



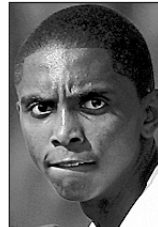
Russell

Head coach: David Russell
Region: 4-5A
Last year's record: None
Offense: Multiple
Defense: 4-3

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB John Dunning, 5-10, 150, fr., QB C.J. Felix, 6-0, 160, jr., FB Josh Thomas, 5-8, 170, soph., TB Booker Ruggs, 5-7, 150, soph., FLK Devoah Farmer, 5-8, 150, soph., TE Zacchaeus Wells, 6-5, 240, soph., ST Johnathon Steube, 6-3, 280, soph., SG Bryant Lauterusser, 6-1, 250, jr., C Dustin Anderson, 6-2, 200, sr., WG Caleb Cuevas, 5-10, 180, jr., WT Drak Hilton, 6-0, 220, jr., SE Chris Hudson, 5-10, 170, jr.

DEFENSE: DE Zacchaeus Wells, 6-5, 240, soph., DT Bryant Lauterusser, 6-1, 250, jr., DT John Kendrick, 5-9, 200, jr., DE Devon Owen, 6-0, 200, jr., LB Dijay Lander, 6-0, 160, soph., LB Dominique Jenkins, 5-10, 170, soph., LB Booker Ruggs, 5-7, 150, soph., CB Anthony Jackson, 6-0, 160, soph., cB D'Andre Plummer, 5-9, 150, soph., S Ronnie Davis, 6-0, 170, soph., S Chris Cone, 5-9, 160, jr.



Dunning

BAY HIGH TIGERS



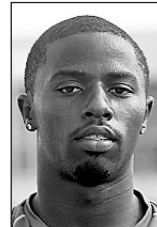
Hopgood

Head coach: Jeff Hopgood
Region: 8-4A
Last year's record: 4-7
Offense: Multiple
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Braxton Lafontaine, 5-8, 175, Jr., RB Julious Allen, 5-8, 180, Sr., RB/WR Rahein Lyons, 6-2, 185, Sr., WR Marshall Hoffman, 6-0, 180, Sr., WR Brennan Dunklin, 5-10, 195, Jr., WR Telvin Singleton, 5-7, 150, Jr., T Lionel Haynes, 6-0, 255, Sr., G Brandon Mitchell, 5-10, 215, Sr., C Anthony Guerrero, 5-11, 250, Jr., G Damien Lewis, 5-8, 205, Sr., T Jordan Sutherland, 6-1, 265, Jr.

DEFENSE: E Rory Island, 6-0, 200, Jr., NG Brandon Mitchell, 5-10, 215, Sr., E Tyler Jordan, 6-2, 210, Sr., LB Dillan Ladner, 5-10, 185, Sr., LB Skyler Favre, 5-10, 175, Sr., LB Antonio Reed, 5-11, 175, Soph., LB Pat Fontenot, 5-8, 180, Sr., CB Carl Ivey, 6-0, 170, Sr., CB: Justin Thornton, 5-8, 160, Sr., SS Elijah White, 6-0, 170, Sr., FS E.J. Taylor, 6-2, 165, Sr., K/P Seth Johnson, 5-10, 160, Jr.



Allen

PASS CHRISTIAN PIRATES



Wittmann

Head coach: Casey Wittmann
Region: 8-4A
Last year's record: 2-8
Offense: Spread
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

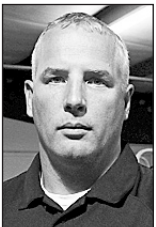
OFFENSE: TE Dustin Snyder, 6-0, 190, jr., OT Kyle McKeough, 6-0, 245, jr., OT Jonathan Cook, 6-3, 280, sr., OG Charlie Goff, 6-0, 245, sr., OG Zack Dominguez, 5-11, 245, sr., C Kane Keith, 6-3, 300, sr., QB Devon Evans, 6-0, 185, jr., RB Alfred Hall, 5-7, 155, sr., RB A.J. Dedeaux, 5-9, 185, sr., WR Marcus Dedeaux, 6-3, 185, jr., WR Brennon Hawkins, 5-6, 150, sr., WR Trevor Page, 6-1, 160, sr., WR Hakeem Graves, 5-8, 155, jr., WR Trey

Ausmer, 5-11, 165, jr.
DEFENSE: DE Dustin Snyder, 6-0, 190, jr., DE Marcus Dedeaux, 6-3, 185, jr., DT Zack Dominguez, 5-11, 245, sr., DT Kane Keith, 6-3, 300, sr., DT Teddy Williams, 6-1, 300, jr., DT Kyle McKeough, 6-0, 245, jr., MLB Charlie Goff, 6-0, 245, sr., LB Thomas Snyder, 5-8, 175, sr., LB Kenny Casey, 5-9, 180, sr., LB Tim Bradley, 5-10, 180, sr., LB Alfred Hall, 5-7, 155, sr., DB Donovan Evans, 6-0, 175, sr., DB Trevor Page, 6-1, 160, sr., DB A.J. Dedeaux, 5-9, 185, sr., DB Devon Evans, 6-0, 185, jr., DB Tyler Jenkins, 5-8, 165, sr.



Goff

POPLARVILLE HORNETS



Teal

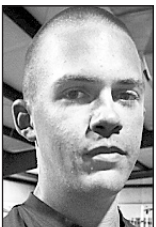
Head coach: Chris Teal
Region: 8-4A
Last year's record: 1-8
Offense: Multiple I
Defense: 3-4

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Eli Frierson, 5-11, 180, Sr., RB Tyler Holston, 5-8, 170, Sr., FB Gabriel Rhodes, 5-9, 205, Sr., TE Nick King, 6-0, 185, Sr., ST Jared King, 6-1, 245, Sr., SG Jade Sumpter, 6-0, 240, Sr., C Sean Stansy, 6-0, 210, Jr., WG Cody Smith, 6-0, 235, Sr., WT: Blaine Northrop, 6-5, 245, Sr., X Dexter Childs, 6-2, 185, Jr., Z Donovan Mixon, 5-10, 180, Soph.

DEFENSE: DE Blaine Northrop, 6-5, 245, Sr., DE Kendall Lee,

6-0, 210, Soph., DT Russell Ladner, 6-0, 200, Jr., DT Tyler Strahan, 5-11, 260, Soph., LB Jonathan McNair, 5-10, 190, Sr., B Colton Smith, 6-1, 205, Jr., LB Wesley Gentry, 5-11, 185, Sr., CB Neeko Lockhart, 5-11, 165, Soph., CB Donovan Mixon, 5-10, 180, Soph., S Rod Means, 6-0, 190, Sr., FS: Nick Peters, 6-0, 190, Sr.



Frierson

ST. STANISLAUS ROCKACHAWS



Williams

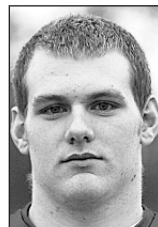
Head coach: Forrest Williams
Region: 8-4A
Last year's record: 8-3
Offense: Spread
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Dylan Favre, 5-11, 188, sr., RB Kollin Cannon, 5-9, 171, jr., WR Zander Romano, 6-1, 189, sr., WR Krisjon Wilkerson, 6-2, 198, sr., WR Boomer Scarborough, 6-1, 242, sr., WR Joe Klein, 5-10, 172, sr., LT Tyler Coward, 5-10, 232, jr., LG Craig Frigo, 6-1, 257, soph., C Chris Frigo, 6-2, 248, jr., RG Michael Carter, 6-0, 231, sr., RT Chandler York, 6-3, 302, sr.

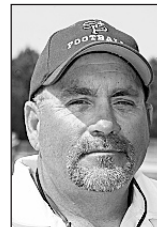
DEFENSE: DE Jeremy Forte, 6-5, 227, sr., DL Jack Gibbons, 6-1, 285,

sr., DE Taylor Thompson, 6-0, 217, jr., OLB Dylan Favre, 5-11, 188, sr., ILB Boomer Scarborough, 6-1, 242, sr., ILB Bryce Thomas, 5-11, 191, jr., ILB Blake Morreale, 5-11, 204, sr., OLB Sheldon Cantelli, 5-10, 189, jr., CB Jake Lindgren, 5-11, 174, jr., FS Krisjon Wilkerson, 6-2, 198, sr., CB Joe Klein, 5-10, 172, sr., P Boomer Scarborough, 6-1, 242, sr., PK Evan Ladner, 5-11, 176, sr.



Scarborough

ST. PATRICK FIGHTING IRISH



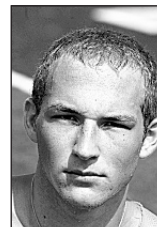
Gaudin

Head coach: Rocky Gaudin
Region: 8-3A
Last year's record: 7-4
Offense: Multiple
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: C Bubba D'Angelo (5-9, 200, sr.), G Callum Steff (5-9, 220, jr.), G Aaron Shankland (5-11, 230, sr.), T Bryan Ha (5-10, 275, sr.), T Jeff Pham (6-2, 310, sr.), TE Louis Endris (5-11, 175, sr.), SE Matt Blank (5-11, 150, jr.), QB/SE Ben Whiteside (6-2, 185, sr.), WB Matt Lively (5-11, 185, sr.), QB Peyton Letard (5-9, 140, jr.), RB Taylor Gundlach (5-9, 175, sr.), RB Jack Healy (6-1, 165, sr.), RB Dylan Herring (5-8, 155, sr.)

DEFENSE: NG Jeff Pham (6-2, 310, sr.), DT Aaron Shankland (5-11, 230, sr.), DT Callum Steff (5-9, 220, jr.), DE Garrett Reeder (5-11, 200, jr.), DE Connor Foxworth (6-0, 170, soph.), LB Louis Endris (5-11, 175, sr.), LB Bubba D'Angelo (5-9, 200, sr.), CB Dylan Herring (5-8, 155, sr.), CB Jack Healy (6-1, 165, sr.), SS Taylor Gundlach (5-9, 175, sr.), FS Ben Whiteside (6-2, 185, sr.)



Endris

RESURRECTION EAGLES



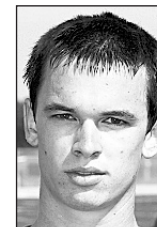
Boone

Head coach: Kevin Boone
Region: Independent
Last year's record: None
Offense: Multiple
Defense: Multiple

PROBABLE STARTERS

OFFENSE: QB Zach Mooror, 6-0, 180, jr., C Nathan Bosarge, 6-1, 220, jr., OG E.J. Nunez, 5-9, 215, jr., WR Zack Brown, 6-1, 185, jr., WR Alex Frazier, 6-6, 195, jr., WR Korbin Graves, 5-10, 190, jr., WR Parker Williams, 5-11, 195, soph., TB Fred Kato, 6-1, 225, soph., WR Patrick Gilmore, 6-1, 170, soph.

DEFENSE: PDE Richard Nunenmacher, 6-0, 175, sr., MLB Trey Lett, 5-7, 200, jr., SLB Fred Kato, 6-1, 225, soph., OLB Matthew



Moore

Illich, 6-3, 180, jr., OLB Korbin Graves, 5-10, 190, jr., OLB Parker Williams, 5-11, 195, soph., CB David Anderson, 6-1, 175, jr., FS Sam Brasher, 6-0, 160, jr., CB: Forrest Mooror, 6-2, 190, fr. Some starting line positions still to be determined.

DREW BREES

Brees hopes Saints are getting better with age



JOHN SLEEZER/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) looks to pass against the Kansas City Chiefs. The Saints defeated the Chiefs 30-20, on Sunday, November 16, 2008, at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri.

Brees threw for over 5,000 yards in 2008

By BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — Drew Brees turned 30 this year, still in his prime, but old enough to start pondering how much time is really left for him to win it all.

"When I look at our team, we've made some great moves in free agency and that kind of thing, but we're a very veteran team, so we're definitely not getting any younger," Brees said.

The Saints opened training camp with one of the older rosters in the NFL, with 19 players in their 30s and an average age of just under 27. Their oldest player is second-string quarterback Mark Brunell, who's 38, followed by their new long-snapper, 37-year-old Jason Kyle.

One of New Orleans' most significant moves in free agency was to bring in projected starting safety Darren Sharper, who at 33 is entering his 13th season.

"There's definitely an urgency this year," Sharper said. "When you get up in age a little bit, past 30, you don't know how many more years you're going to play, and then it's so hard just to get to the level of only getting to the playoffs. ... So each chance you get to be on a good team that you know has a chance to make it, you want to do everything you possibly can to get there."

Brees' final two seasons in his 20s were two of his best, but the Saints fell short of the playoffs both years.

In 2008, his 5,069 yards passing made him the only quarterback other than Dan Marino (5,084 yards in 1984) to throw for more than 5,000 yards in a season. Yet the Saints finished 8-8 and out of the playoffs. In 2007, Brees' 4,423 yards passing ranked second in the NFL, but the Saints were 7-9.

Every NFL team covets the kind of quarterback play Brees has given the Saints. No team wants to waste it.

"This is definitely a window of opportunity for us and no longer can you say, like most young people do, 'There's always next year,'" Brees said. "There might not be next year, so it's all about the here and now."

The Saints don't necessarily lack young players in starring roles. Running back Reggie Bush is 24 and receiver Marques Colston 26. Yet New Orleans sees a potential advantage in having a number of key players in their 30s.

The Saints were competitive and not far off from being a playoff team last season, given that five of their eight losses came by three or fewer points. They figured bringing in a few more veterans such as Sharper, or versatile, 30-year-old fullback Heath Evans, could establish the level of maturity, experience and leadership needed to make the difference in close games.

"Experience will beat speed and youth every single day of the week," Evans said after practice on Saturday, the second day of full practices at Saints training camp.

"I wouldn't have come here if I didn't think this team had the experience that it needed to win. I love hearing there are that many guys over 30 because it means you've got a lot of war wounds, a lot of knowledge, and that's really what it takes to win in this league, experience and knowledge."

Evans spent the past four seasons with veteran-filled New England, a stint that included the Patriots' 18-1 season in 2007 that ended with a close Super Bowl loss to the New York Giants.

Having come so close to winning what would have been his first and only title in his nine NFL seasons, Evans likes to think he's learned some valuable lessons that could help in New Orleans.

"I've got that bitter taste in my mouth that we've got to get out," he said. "I saw myself as a piece of the puzzle and maybe a piece that pushes us over the hump."

Similarly, the Saints' coaching staff looked at Sharper, with his 54 interceptions, as a potential defensive leader whose difficult-to-teach knack for creating turnovers could compensate for the steps he's lost with age.

ROBERT MEACHEM

A promising start gives Meachem confidence

By BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — Robert Meachem agrees that his rookie year in the NFL was a bust, and that a breakout performance in his third season is a must.

The New Orleans Saints can be only so patient with the former Tennessee receiver they drafted 27th overall in 2007.

"This year they're going to get to see a first-round draft pick," Meachem promised. "The last two years, that's been somebody else."

Curtis Johnson, the Saints' wide receivers' coach, puts it another way: "He better do something. We paid him two years."

Meachem spent every game of his rookie season watching from the sideline in a sweat suit, having failed to earn a spot on the 46-man active roster on Sundays.

Knee soreness bothered Meachem for most of that year, diminishing the speed that made him a constant deep threat in college.

During practice, he was relegated to the scout team and reduced to the status of a development project.

Last season, he was healthy, but coaches limited his playing time, saying he often negated his breathtaking speed by running routes improperly and missing assignments.

Still, his big-play ability was evident when he hauled in a 74-yard catch at Denver and a 52-yarder against San Francisco. His average of 24.1 yards per catch was second on the team behind only Devery Henderson (24.8).

He wound up with 12 catches in 2008 for 289 yards and three touchdowns.

"I was just a guy that really didn't understand what I was out here to do," Meachem said. "You know you're a first-round draft pick and you're trying to make every play that you can. ... You're trying to figure out, 'How can I run this route to get open?' But then you run a route your way, and you're kind of taking away from somebody else getting open."

"You've got to understand how to run a route the way coach wanted you to run it so everybody can get open."

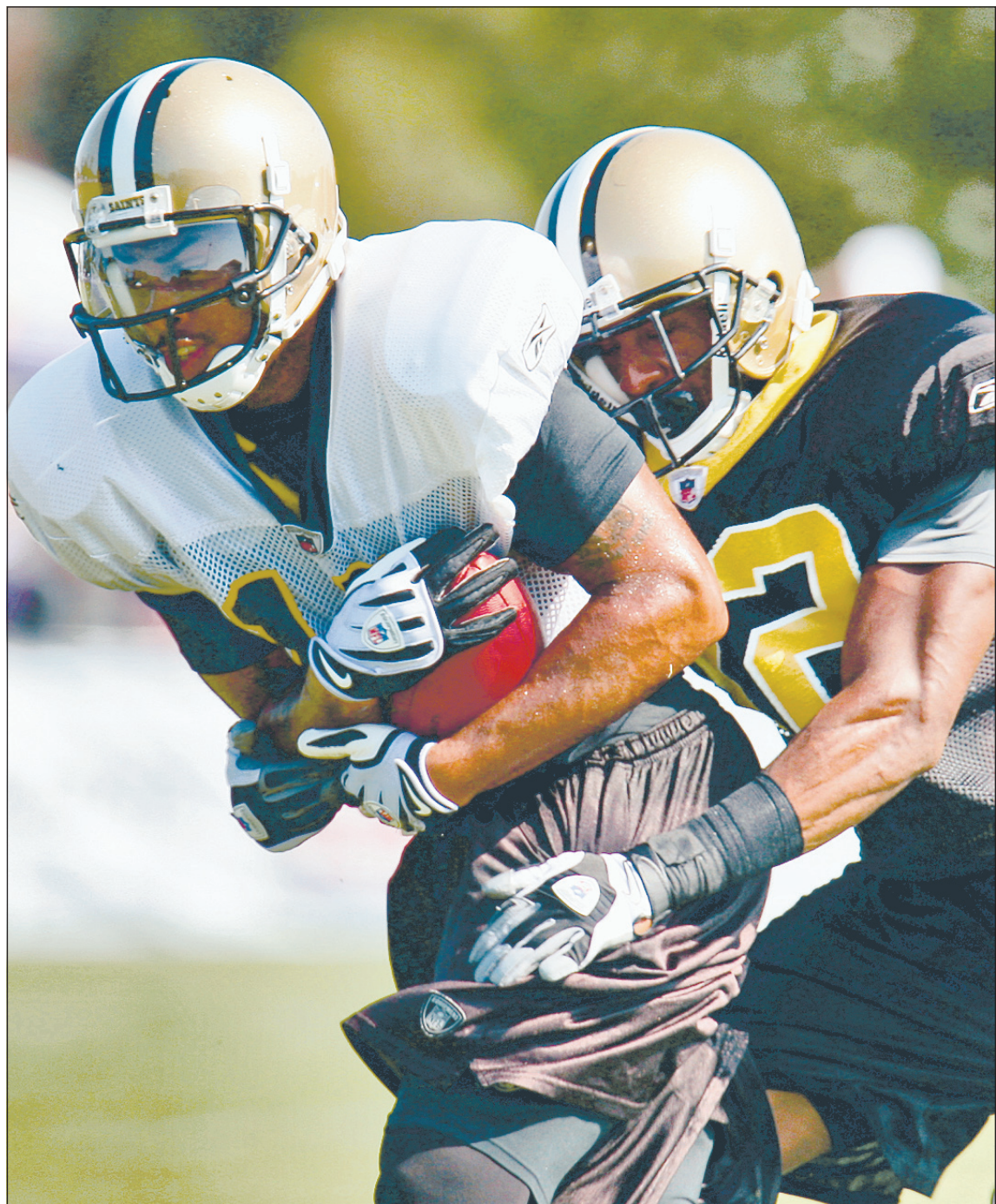
If it sounds like Meachem is catching on, it looks that way, too.

With receiver Lance Moore limited while recovering from offseason shoulder surgery, Meachem has been practicing with the first team early in training camp and performing like he belongs.

During 11-on-11 drills, Drew Brees has started going to him more both on deep balls and in the red zone. On several occasions, the result has been Meachem with the ball in the end zone.

"He's coming around," Brees said. "I'm really happy for him. I think he has worked extremely hard and we just have to keep finding the right opportunities for him."

Marques Colston, the Saints' leading receiver in 2006 and 2007, said Meachem shouldn't be judged by his rookie season because of his injury, which required arthroscopic surgery, performed between minicamp and training camp, to repair the medial meniscus in his right



New Orleans Saints wide receiver Robert Meachem (17) catches a ball in front of cornerback Jabari Greer (32) at the club's NFL football training camp in Metairie, La., Wednesday.

BILL HABER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

knee.

"It's hard enough to play in this league when you're healthy," Colston said. "This training camp he's coming in feeling pretty healthy and you're seeing the result now. As far

as talent goes, the sky's the limit for him. He can run all the routes, make all the plays."

If Meachem emerges as one of the Saints' premier receivers, it will provide a measure of vindication for head coach

Sean Payton, who drafted him. The coach isn't gloating yet, however, measuring his praise in a way that makes it clear he expects Meachem to continue to work on the mental aspects of the game.

SAINTS COLUMN

Saints have to strike when the iron is hot

COLUMN



Jim Mashek
jwmashek@sunherald.com

It doesn't take long to call roll of the list of distinguished New Orleans Saints quarterbacks.

Archie Manning. Bobby Hebert.

Drew Brees.

Sorry, Aaron Brooks. Not quite, Jim Everett. Wrong team, Kenny Stabler.

Brees begins his fourth season as the Saints quarterback, coinciding with the tenure of head coach Sean Payton and his 30th birthday. Payton has spoken about a window of opportunity for Brees, and how the Saints need to strike while he's still in his prime.

Brees nearly broke the NFL record for passing yardage in a season last year, finishing with 5,069 yards and 34 touchdown passes, but it was lost in the mediocrity of an 8-8 season, where the Saints have found themselves for the bulk of this decade, both under Payton and former coach Jim Haslett.

(The trip to the NFC title game three seasons ago being the obvious exception.)

Brees gets another chance this season, surrounded by capable wide receivers and an offensive line that excels at pass blocking. (Short-yardage situations, well, that's another story.) He has proven himself, time and again, but the Saints have often been lacking on defense. They're still waiting for celebrated back Reggie Bush's breakthrough season. But it all starts with Brees, and Payton knows this.

"(Brees) has done a number of things that have surprised us already," Payton said. "We certainly have a quarterback that's good enough to win with, and you never take that for granted ... I've read where people looked at it as a window and I think that's fair, but what I don't want to do is give you the time of that



BILL HABER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) signs autographs after practice at the club's NFL football training camp in Metairie, La.

window.

"(Brees) takes very good care of his body, he's someone that is very diligent with his training habits. When you have someone like that, and you have the right guy leading you, I think you look at each season with a sense of urgency."

The Saints lacked offensive balance last season, gaining nearly 80 percent of their yards through the air. Payton doesn't put a lot of significance on this, but the fact is the Saints are only going as far as Brees will take them.

Pierre Thomas replaces Duece McAlister, perhaps the most popular player

in Saints history, as the team's No. 1 tailback. Jonathan Vilma has given the Saints a force at middle linebacker. And Malcolm Jenkins, the club's first-round draft pick, should bolster a secondary that has taken its share of heat over the years.

Brees can share the wealth with his receivers, seasoned players such as Marques Colston, Lance Moore and Jeremy Shockey. We'll see if Shockey, who was injured for most of the 2008 season, is worth the second- and fifth-round draft picks the Saints shipped to the New York Giants. Personally, I'm not

holding my breath.

No one has to tell Payton that the Saints have won two — that's right, count 'em, two — playoff games in their 43-year history. Saints fans tend to become jaded pretty quickly, but they'll keep coming back.

"Every year is critical," Payton said. "Certainly, there is a sense of urgency that we all have as coaches and players."

And a window of opportunity with Drew Brees taking snaps that isn't getting any bigger.

Jim Mashek can be reached at 896-2333

ATLANTA FALCONS

LB Peterson believes 11th year will be his best

By GEORGE HENRY
The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Mike Peterson finally made peace with himself after last year's meltdown with Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio.

It took Peterson a few restless nights to put the embarrassments and disappointments behind him, but a reunion with Falcons coach Mike Smith has given the 11th-year linebacker a new outlook on football.

"You're going to go through some phases in your life when you have to learn from it and move on," Peterson said. "For some reason, and I might not understand it now, but this season, after we win the Super Bowl, I'll look back and say it was a blessing in disguise."

Peterson credits Smith with much of Jacksonville's success on defense from 2004-07, when the Jaguars went 40-24 and twice made the playoffs. Smith, who left as coordinator to become Atlanta's head coach in January 2008, also was his first and only NFL coach to always stay in touch and genuinely care about his personal life.

After Peterson broke his hand at San Diego and missed the final six weeks of 2006 and both playoff games, Smith took time to check in regularly and make sure his injured middle linebacker was emotionally stable.

"He's going to be the same guy on game day that he's going to be Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday," Peterson said. "That's one of the reasons guys in Jacksonville bought into the system. We loved Smitty down there. You wasn't just playing for the Jaguars and the name on your back. You was playing for the defensive coordinator.

"That's the main reason I'm here."

In the second week of free agency five months ago, the Falcons signed Peterson to a two-year contract worth \$6.5 million.

By NFL standards, the financial terms were modest, but Peterson knew a lot of teams likely shied away from his injury history, which included a torn pectoral muscle that ended his 2006 season after five games.

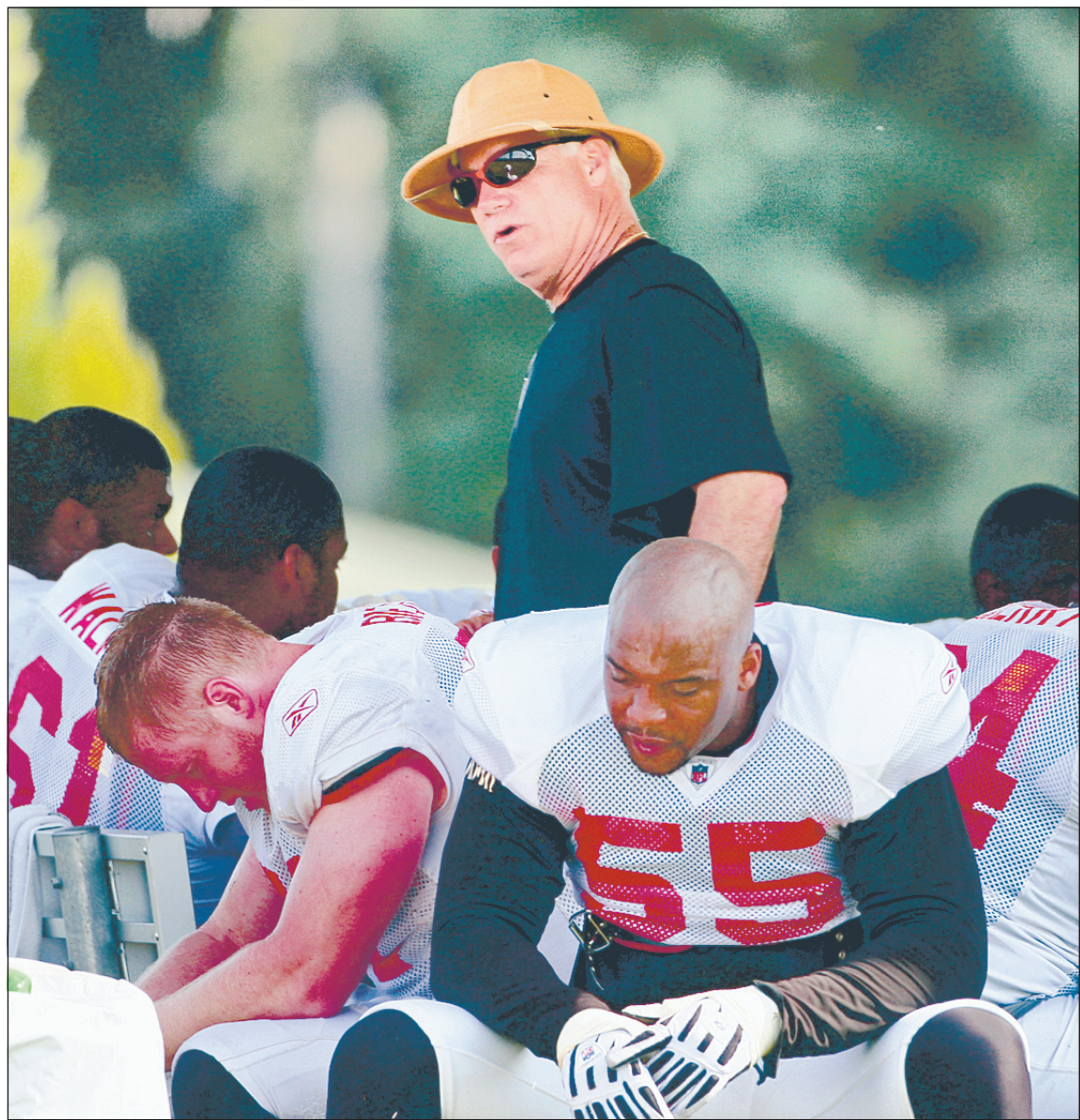
Because Smith and Atlanta defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder had worked so closely with Peterson in Jacksonville, the Falcons valued his experience (starting 127 of 135 games with 1,365 tackles, 15 interceptions, six fumbles forced and seven recovered) over zero Pro Bowl invitations in four years with Indianapolis and six in Jacksonville.

Atlanta also was unfazed by Peterson's fallout with Del Rio, who forced him to leave team headquarters twice last November and in a Week 10 victory at Detroit made him a healthy scratch for the first time in his career.

Though he and Del Rio never confirmed the cause of their disagreement, Peterson's muscle-flexing celebration in a loss at Cincinnati only hurt his cause. A \$10,000 fine for insubordination didn't help, either.

Even so, the Falcons, who chose not to re-sign Keith Brooking, needed an emotional leader at linebacker who could help keep second-year starter Curtis Lofton and first-year starter Stephen Nicholas focused.

"He was the leader of the defense in Jacksonville, so he knows through experience how to share information with younger players," VanGorder



JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atlanta Falcons head coach Mike Smith walks past players John Abraham (55) and Kroy Biermann, left, during a break at their NFL football camp in Flowery Branch, Ga.

said. "He knows how important that role is, and it's one that he embraces. He understands the entire scope of the game."

Peterson, a first-team All-Southeastern Conference selection as a senior year at Florida, was feeling spry on the fourth day of Atlanta's training camp.

He's excited that Smith and VanGorder have plugged him in at weakside linebacker. Plans call for him to start on

the outside after six years in the middle, but Peterson is the leading candidate to stay on the field for basic nickel packages as the Falcons' only linebacker.

"I think Mike can mentor those young players because he has played in our system, he's played for Brian VanGorder and he's familiar with me and what we try to get done," Smith said.

Peterson tries to tell his younger teammates to value

practice time as much as they snaps earned in games.

"That's why I'm out here every day doing what I have to do so that on Sunday it will all be easy to me," he said. "I win my games out here. I don't win my games on Sunday. Going against (Pro Bowl running back) Michael Turner out here and (Pro Bowl tight end) Tony Gonzalez out here, that's what makes Sunday easy."

DALLAS COWBOYS

Surplus of RBs gives Cowboys all kinds of options

By JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Imagine the Dallas Cowboys are playing one of their NFC East rivals. Let's say it's a tight game in their fancy new stadium. The crowd is ready to go wild, so offensive coordinator Jason Garrett decides to show off his trio of running backs.

It might play out something like this:

On first-and-10, Marion Barber goes banging up the middle, grinding out a few yards.

On second-and-6, Tony Romo throws to Felix Jones coming out of the backfield. He squirts up the field, stopped just shy of a first down.

Now it's third-and-1 and out comes third-stringer Tashard Choice. He lines up as a shotgun quarterback, with Romo setting up like a wide receiver and Jones coming in motion. It's a Dallas version of the Wildcat, with Choice and Jones filling roles they had when their college teams ran it.

OK, OK. It's still early August and the Cowboys haven't even played a preseason game, so there's no telling if anything like that might really play out. The point is, it could.

Barber, Jones and Choice — or, "Smash, Dash & Tash," as Choice has dubbed them — give Dallas a unique combination of depth and versatility at a position considered the backbone of every offense.

All three have proven they can gain big chunks of yards, both running and receiving. They are also all young and eager, buddies who understand their spots in the team's pecking order and fully accept it. There is no jeal-



ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas Cowboys' Marion Barber, left, takes a hand off from quarterback Tony Romo (9) during the team's NFL football training camp in San Antonio.

ousy or bitterness about sharing the job.

"We use it as a motivation to go out there and work harder," Jones said.

Here's how this three-man band works:

—Barber, the oldest at 26, is "Smash," the starter whose battering-ram style wears down defenses.

—Jones, a first-round pick last year, is "Dash," the 22-year-old speedster who seems even faster to worn-down defenses.

—Choice, a fourth-round pick last year, is "Tash" (yeah, well, at least it rhymes), a small, thick, quick guy who does it all, an inside runner like Barber but elusive like Jones. He's such a blend of the two that he's even

right in between their ages, 24.

"Each one is pretty darn good at everything," Romo said. "But in a couple of areas, they're special. It's just up to us to get them in that certain position and show their skills."

Garrett is the one who gets to figure it out. The more creative he is, the more successful the Cowboys could be.

"It's a good problem to have," Garrett said. "They are all going to get their chances — doing it together, doing it individually. We don't have to say 'This guy only does this and this guy only does that.'"

Expect Garrett to do a lot of tinkering because the Cowboys have renewed their commitment to running.

Team owner Jerry Jones threw it out at the start of training camp and coach Wade Phillips built on it by saying he wants the ground game to rank among the top 10.

Dallas was 21st last year, gaining its fewest yards rushing since 1997.

The Cowboys actually were one of the most effective teams, biting off 4.3 yards per carry, but they didn't have many carries — their fewest since 1990, the year they discovered that rookie Emmitt Smith might be pretty good one day.

Dallas' run-pass ratio got out of whack in recent years because of how well they did

basing things around Romo throwing to Terrell Owens and Jason Witten. Last season, injuries gave Garrett more reasons to keep passing.

Felix Jones went down after only six games and Barber hardly played after dislocating a toe on Thanksgiving.

Felix Jones came from Arkansas, Jerry Jones' beloved alma mater, and, the boss wanted to see the kid unleashed.

He responded with an 11-yard touchdown run on his first career carry, a 98-yard kickoff return for a touchdown the next week and a 60-yard touchdown run in his third game.

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GREEN BAY PACKERS

Healthy Grant ready to run hard for Packers



Green Bay Packers running back Ryan Grant avoids tackles as he runs down field during NFL football training camp.

CORY DELLENBACH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREEN BAY, Wis. — It's just a scrimmage, but Green Bay Packers running back Ryan Grant can't wait to play in front of a crowd at Lambeau Field.

Grant spent much of last year's training camp on the sidelines, first because of a contract dispute and then because of a hamstring injury. He went on to have a so-so season and the Packers' running game suffered.

A healthy Grant has a full camp to prepare this year. He hopes to recapture the form he showed during a breakout 2007 season — and the scrimmage is a good place to start.

"I'm definitely playing hard," Grant said. "Once they say live, you've got to go hard."

Grant arrived for the start of camp last weekend with a purpose. He is out to make amends for a 2008 season he called disappointing more because of the Packers' swoon to a 6-10 record after reaching the NFC title game the previous year than because of his own struggles.

Grant ran wild in the second half of the 2007 schedule, finishing with 956 yards and eight touchdowns. He then rushed for 201 yards — a Packers postseason record — and three touchdowns in an NFC divisional playoff rout of the Seattle Seahawks.

In a word, Grant was explosive for the Packers. But big runs were rare for Grant last year and he dropped from

5.1 yards per carry in 2007 to 3.9 yards last year. He became only the fourth player in club history to run for 1,200 yards (1,203), but the flair for breaking away from defenders was missing.

"Of course, any injury is going to impact performance on the field. It did," said Grant, referring to the hamstring he injured on his second day of practice.

Grant, who signed a four-year deal, said he doesn't think about last year. And having him on the field from Day 1 of training camp this year has been a positive for the Packers.

"I think Ryan has had a very solid camp," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "It's really our first time going through a full camp with Ryan."

"We get better every day. I talk about the philosophy to the offense, you need to be strong up the middle, and the only way to get strong up the middle is to make sure those guys practice every day. I'm talking about the center, two guards, the quarterback and the halfback."

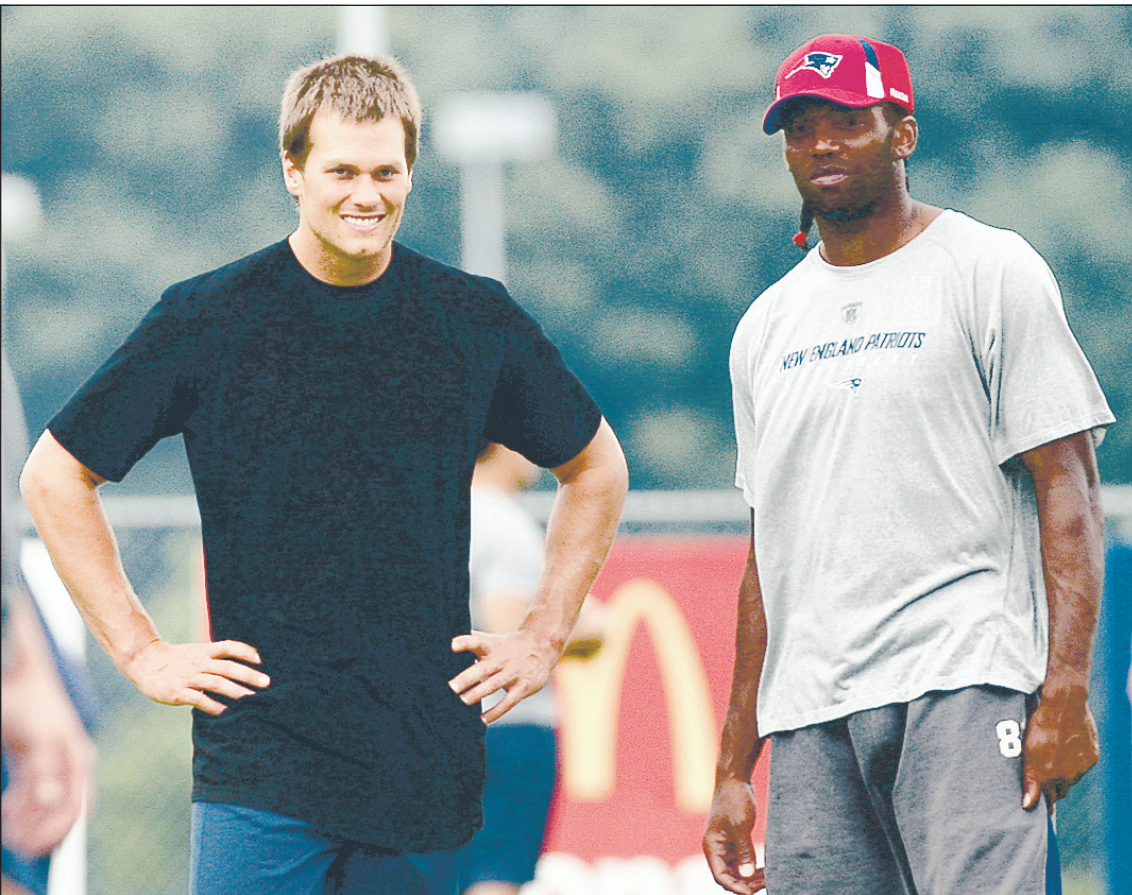
Grant is optimistic the big gains will be more the norm than the exception this season. Before reporting for camp, he spent a week and a half in Florida working out with a group of NFL players, including Packers safety Nick Collins.

The focus of those drills for Grant?

"Explosion," he said.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Brady back on the field and ready for action



WINSLOW TOWNSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New England Patriots receiver Randy Moss, right, talks with quarterback Tom Brady during NFL football training camp at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady expects to be on the field in exhibition games — his first action since injuring his knee in the 2008 regular season opener.

"Yeah, I think I'll play," he told reporters. "I mean, last year it wasn't like I wasn't supposed to play. I would have loved to have played. Just some circumstances came up where I couldn't."

After missing the entire preseason last year with an unspecified foot injury, the two-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player — and 2007 NFL MVP —

was playing the first quarter of the first game last season when his knee collapsed on a hit from Kansas City Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard. He missed the rest of the season.

Back on the field for training camp this week, Brady admitted to some arm soreness as he works to get back into football shape.

"It feels pretty good, and then you come out and do four or five practices in a row and it doesn't feel as hot, so it's part of what training camp is about," he said. "The soreness becomes a part of the practices and you just have to do a good job of taking care of yourself. My arm was in really good

shape coming in. It still feels like it's in good shape, so hopefully it stays that way."

Brady said he doesn't spend much time thinking about the repaired knee. He is wearing a brace during practices.

"I've kind of made a concerted effort to move on," he said. "That was last season and this is this season. I don't think about it. I think it's been a great learning experience for me and I'm using it, really, as a positive. Hopefully I can go out this year and be a great quarterback for this team."

Brady said the brace isn't restricting his movement, although he joked he may have gone from "slow" to "slower."

The biggest challenge for the Patriot star will be getting back to his form in 2007, when he threw an NFL-record 50 touchdown passes in leading the Patriots to a 16-0 regular season before losing to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl.

"I hope it finishes different if we are in that position," Brady said.

But he said there were some

good things that came from his injury and forced time off.

"I think I've learned a lot of things that I wouldn't have learned had I been playing, things that help you grow as a person and as a player, as a leader, as a teammate," he said. "I'm going to take those lessons and hopefully be a better player for them."

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SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Rivers still chasing first Super Bowl ring

'04 draftee trying to catch up to Eli, Big Ben

By BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — So, what about Philip Rivers?

Eli Manning has one Super Bowl ring and became the NFL's highest-paid player on Aug. 5. Ben Roethlisberger has two Super Bowl victories in four seasons and got his big payday last year.

Rivers is still waiting for both. He's the only one of the Big Three quarterbacks from the draft class of 2004 who doesn't have a Super Bowl ring.

"I'll always be linked with those guys and you like to follow their careers and what they're doing, but it's not something I spend a lot of time worrying about," Rivers said.

The contract extension likely will come. As for a Super Bowl ring, well, the Chargers simply need to get to the title game first. They've certainly had their chances in recent seasons and have been picked by some of the so-called experts to make it this year.

If any team knows that getting to the Super Bowl isn't a sure thing, it's San Diego. The Chargers have been guilty of believing preseason prognosticators, talking big and then falling short.

Rivers said he doesn't see that happening this year.

"It's a long way from December and January, and we've got to understand that," he said at training camp. "The feel is different. You don't feel the hype and all the hoopla right now. I mean, we've got the energy and everybody's excited, but it's a little more focused group and I think that's going to be key."

The best thing the Chargers can do is learn from the past three seasons, Rivers said. They seemed headed for the Super Bowl after a 14-2 regular season in 2006

before tanking against New England in their playoff opener.

They beat Indianapolis on the road the following season to reach the AFC championship game.

They lost to the Patriots, who then lost to Manning's New York Giants in the Super Bowl.

Rivers played that AFC title game with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

He had surgery and was ready to go the first day of training camp last summer. Despite the Chargers' overall struggles last season, Rivers threw 34 touchdown passes to break Dan Fouts' club record, and with 4,009 passing yards joined Fouts as the only QBs in team history to throw for more than 4,000 in a season.

The Chargers were the popular Super Bowl pick last summer before a roller-coaster season saw them make it into the playoffs as AFC West champions at 8-8 only because of Denver's historic collapse.

Once there they beat Indianapolis in overtime before losing on the road to Roethlisberger and the eventual Super Bowl champion Steelers.

"Three years ago, we were a team where, 'How many playoff games have you been in? None, none, none,' and you go down the line," Rivers said. "And now we're a team that says, 'Well, we've been in about every situation you can be in.' From a situational and circumstance and adversity standpoint, I don't think there's anything that can get thrown at us that we can't handle."

Rivers doesn't think the Chargers were overconfident last year but admits they "basked in the hype a little bit. We kind of ran with the hype a little bit. The whole, 'They took it lightly approach,' that's nonexistent."



DENIS POROY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers delivers a pass during NFL football training camp held at the Chargers facility in San Diego.

NEW YORK GIANTS

NY Giants teammates happy for Eli Manning

Look for return to Super Bowl

By TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Eli Manning is already taking some good-natured grief from his New York Giants teammates for his \$97 million, six-year contract extension.

Some members of the offensive line have asked Manning where they are going on vacation, and of course there have been queries about what type of Rolex they are going to get.

"We were (teasing him) before he got the deal, but this just gives us more ammo," center Shaun O'Hara said between practices at the University at Albany. "It's almost too easy. Everybody knows about it and I like to be more creative when I am teasing Eli. I am sure he is getting it from everybody. I'm just glad he one-upped Peyton."

The former Ole Miss quarterback will earn an average of \$15.3 million, making him the NFL's highest-paid player in terms of annual salary. His big brother, Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts, averages \$14.17 million.

Teammates were happy for Manning, whose contract runs through the 2015 season.

"He definitely deserved it," defensive end Justin Tuck said. "Considering the market he is playing in and all the pressure he has on him as far as being a New York Giant in this city, the pressure he gets from the fans, the organization and his teammates, his family, he definitely deserves it."

Manning, the No. 1 pick in the



MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) talks to wide receiver Hakeem Nicks during NFL football training camp in Albany, N.Y.

2004 draft, has been the Giants' starting quarterback since the middle of his rookie season and has led them to the playoffs in each of his four full seasons as a starter. He engineered New York's Super Bowl upset of New England in 2008 and was the game's MVP. He led the

Giants to the NFC East title this past season and earned his first Pro Bowl berth.

"That list is definitely piling up," Tuck added. "We want him to be in a Giants uniform as long as he plays, and this contract goes a long way to solidifying that."

Offensive tackle David Diehl said Manning deserves every penny.

"Good things happen to good people," Diehl said. "He has come in from the get-go and continued to work hard and continued to be the guy we want to have the ball on every



MIKE GROLL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning passes during NFL football training camp in Albany, N.Y.

single play."

O'Hara added that Manning has worked hard and been accountable to his teammates and the organization, adding everyone knew that he was going to be the face of the Giants once he grew into the role.

O'Hara doesn't see Manning changing because of the new contract.

"You're not going to see him showing up in fur coats and Bentleys with diamonds all over his chest," O'Hara said. "That is not his style. We're not worried about it going to his head, and if it does, we'll be glad to bring him back down to reality."

Tuck even quipped that Manning would continue to drive a Toyota.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Jason Campbell to unleash his inner 'dragon'

By Joseph White
The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Even Jason Campbell's father is hard-pressed to come up with examples of his son losing his temper.

"Things that would bother me," Larry Campbell said, "don't bother him."

Carlos Rogers said he hasn't seen a football-related tantrum from his longtime friend and Washington Redskins teammate since their days at Auburn. Is there anything recent? Outside of football, perhaps?

"Other than football," Rogers said with a smile, "probably getting mad at his girlfriend."

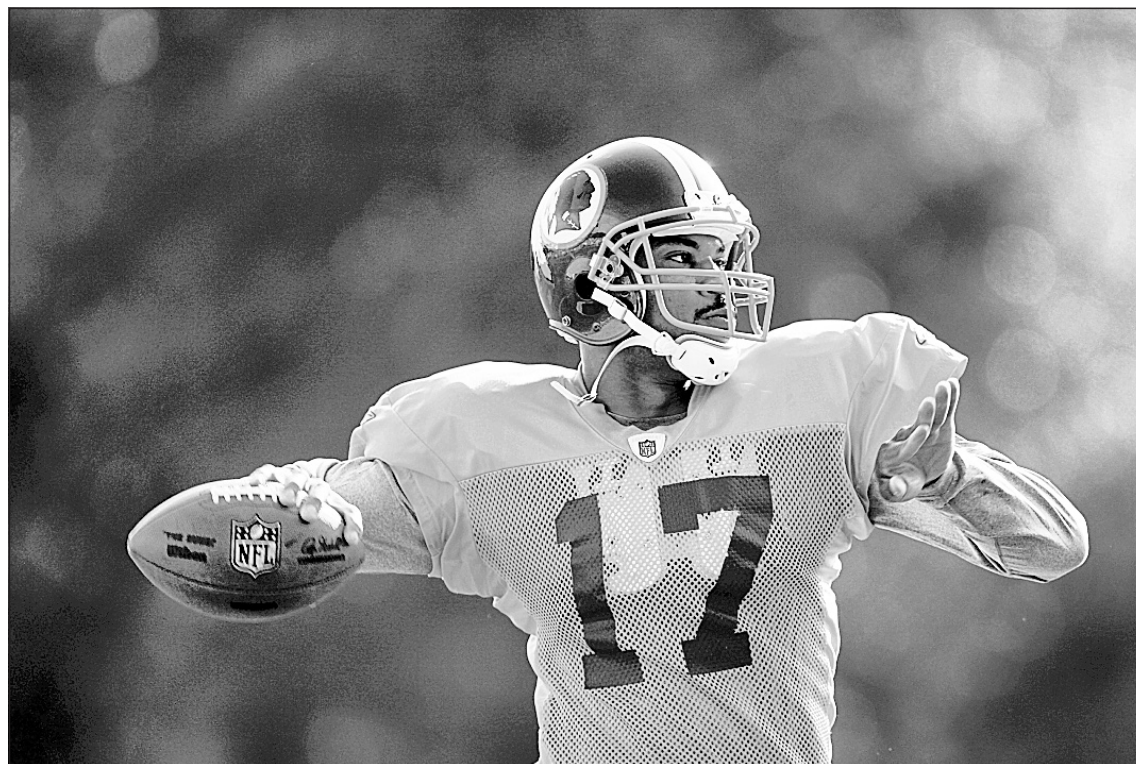
And though Campbell said he can't remember the last time he lost his temper, the quarterback who has been both praised and criticized for his levelheaded demeanor warned it would not be prudent to upset him.

"I'm one of those type of guys that you don't want to push to the limit — because once it all builds up to the inside, when it does come out, it's like a dragon," Campbell said.

This from a player whose emotion meter, on a scale of 1 to 10, never seems to stray outside the range from 4.9 to 5.1. Campbell admitted the dragon hasn't been unleashed very often.

"No, but it will get unleashed a lot this year," he said. "Because we're trying to win a championship, we're trying to at least make it to the playoffs, so my leadership qualities have to step up big time."

Big time is right. Campbell, in the final year of his contract, has been given a become-great-or-else mandate from owner Dan Snyder, who spent the



Pablo Martinez Monsivais/The Associated Press

Washington quarterback Jason Campbell hopes to take the team into the playoffs in the final year of his contract. Some Redskins fans have gotten impatient with him.

offseason trying to trade for Jay Cutler and seriously considered moving up in the draft to select Mark Sanchez.

Campbell let it be known he would demand a trade if Sanchez had come to Washington. His precarious perch has landed him on the cover of the upcoming issue of *Sports Illustrated* under the title "Already Feeling the Heat" — accompanied by the quote: "I am fine now, but there were a couple of times in the offseason I felt like a piece of tissue they were flushing down the toilet."

But there were no outward signs of the dragon during the offseason trials.

Campbell was given credit for handling his adversity with class, avoiding the type of sour ending Cutler had with the Denver Broncos.

"That's the positive side about Jason," Rogers said. "Through all this, he kept his cool. He went through the same thing Cutler was going through, and Cutler lost it."

Ever since Campbell became the regular starter midway through the 2006 season, questions have persisted as to whether he has enough outward fire to be an championship-caliber quarterback. To some, his personality is reflected in cautious play.

Last year, his interception percentage was tied for the best in the league — only six picks in 506 attempts — but he also threw only 13 touchdown passes and ranked 25th with an average of 6.41 yards per attempt.

"In college, Jason was rough," Rogers said. "He was tough on

his guys. Since I've been here, he hasn't been like that with these linemen. I don't know if it's that they're older and he can't tell them what to do, but he knows he's the quarterback. That's his job, to get everyone in line."

That said, it's natural to be cautious when the offense is constantly changing. Campbell played for four offensive coordinators at Auburn and had three different offensive schemes in his first four years with the Redskins. With coach Jim Zorn back for a second season, Campbell is enjoying a rare bit of continuity.

Yet even if he is more comfortable, teammates don't want their quarterback to become a firebrand just for the sake of doing so.

"He's honest with the play-

ers and he's honest with the guys that he trusts around here, but even when you see him a little bit upset, he's still a pretty cool guy," tight end Chris Cooley said. "I've heard a lot of people make a big deal out of quarterback personas and their temperaments, and I think he's fine."

"He's a leader for us right now. He's a leader in our huddle. He knows what he needs to do. He's a little more assertive when he's on the field, and we're good with that."

Zorn is Campbell's antithesis, a heart-on-the-sleeve coach.

He's the first to realize that Campbell isn't cut from the same cloth.

"A man has to be who he is," Zorn said. "I think other people want to see a guy that is a 'hooray' guy — 'Yeah!' — and people love that because you can get behind that guy. But that guy does it naturally. I don't want to say, 'Hey, Jason, you've got to light this thing up.' He has what I say is a quiet intensity, not a monstrous big voice."

So Campbell won't be leading Zorn's "Hip, hip, hooray!" chant in the locker room?

"He does it," Zorn said. "He just may not lead it."

Campbell has spent the first week of training camp laughing off the offseason tribulations, saying that he's moved on and is enjoying life. He said the fans who brought a "DC WANTS VICK" sign to practice will be "the ones trying to jump back on the bandwagon" when the team starts winning.

"You've just got to weather the storm," Campbell said. "Nobody has to tell me what I've got to do to be successful."

OAKLAND RAIDERS

JaMarcus Russell's on the Raiders' hot seat

By Steve Corkran
McClatchy Newspapers

NAPA, Calif. — JaMarcus Russell's first two years in the NFL have produced more questions than victories for the Raiders.

As Russell prepares for his third season, coach Tom Cable said there's only one answer that matters.

"It's getting to a point where he can help us win, and I mean that," Cable said. "That's really the bottom line here."

Nothing else matters, Cable said. People can question Russell's weight, his work ethic, his leadership and whatever else all they want. The Raiders selected Russell No. 1 in the 2007 NFL draft because they felt as if he is talented enough to lead the Raiders from the depths of six straight losing seasons.

"You can ask those (questions) to death," Cable said, "and it really comes down to, do you feel you can go out and lead your team to win?"

The Raiders are 5-11 with Russell as their starting quarterback the past two seasons — he missed one game last season because of a knee injury.

The third year typically is about the time an NFL quarterback settles in and makes huge strides. The immediate success enjoyed by Atlanta Falcons rookie Matt Ryan last season is the exception.

The Raiders are hopeful that Russell is on the verge of a breakout season, especially since they added wide receivers Darrius Heyward-Bey and Louis Murphy to an offense that already features three quality running backs.

"It takes time, especially at the quarterback position ...," Raiders middle linebacker Kirk Morrison

said. "It takes a couple years. ... For JaMarcus going into his third year, the game is going to slow down for him a lot, and he's going to have a successful year."

Russell completed only 53.8 percent of his passes, was sacked 31 times and fumbled 12 times last season. He balanced that with 13 touchdown passes against only eight interceptions and a strong showing his first two games.

Cable has made expediting Russell's development a primary objective this season.

He made the well-regarded Paul Hackett the quarterbacks coach, signed veteran Jeff Garcia as the backup and challenged Russell to work harder than ever.

If Russell is feeling any added pressure, there aren't any overt signs, and he isn't letting on in the least.

"I always say, 'Be better than they expect you to be, or be greater than they expect you to be.' " Russell said after a recent



Paul Sakuma/The Associated Press.

Oakland quarterback JaMarcus Russell looks for a breakout season.

practice. "Anything that they expect of you, be more than that, and then they can't ask for anything else."

Cable says 16 wins this season would be nice. Naturally, that's unrealistic, but the point is clear.

Adding to Russell's burden is the presence of Garcia, the so-called 800-pound elephant in the locker room.

"I don't believe I'm a backup quarterback by any means," Garcia said upon arriving to training camp in Napa.

Garcia makes it clear that he

isn't here to undermine Russell's progress, just to raise the bar, so to speak, and give Cable two appealing options when it comes time to select a quarterback for the regular-season opener Sept. 14.

"I'm not the guy who comes in with all the accolades coming out of college and the high draft pick (status)," Garcia said, "but I come in with a lot of positive experience, I come in with success at winning football games and going to playoffs and leading different organizations to that sort of level. I don't see this

as being any different."

"And I don't think that any player should focus on who the starter is at one position, but how can they be the best that they can be in order to help this team rise to another level?"

Russell turns 24 a week from Sunday. Still, he is one of the youngest starting quarterbacks in the league.

That, along with the incessant pressure and lofty expectations placed upon Russell, tends to get overlooked, Raiders left offensive tackle Mario Henderson said.

"It's hard for anyone to imagine the pressure that he has to go through of being the No. 1 pick," said Henderson, who entered the NFL in the same draft class as Russell. "I can be sitting at home watching TV and hear that, 'JaMarcus hasn't done this, he hasn't done that.' People don't know that he has made such great strides since coming into the league, it's amazing."

Henderson said Russell is more of a vocal leader and that he doesn't let anything faze him.

"He could have been one of those guys who said, 'Everyone's against me,' " Henderson said. "He could have been one of the guys who didn't work hard. Yet, he took all the negativity and what people are saying and made it a positive. ..."

"He goes out there and gets better because he knows that everyone on this team respects him, believes in him and knows he is working hard."

Russell just takes it all in stride.

"There's going to be a lot going on this year," Russell said. "You have a lot of doubters who kind of count the Raiders out. It's the beginning of a new year."

NFC SOUTH

Ryan, Gonzalez feeding off each other in Atlanta

By George Henry
The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Tony Gonzalez has a hard time believing Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan is only entering his second NFL season.

"He's definitely ahead of the curve," Gonzalez said of his new Atlanta teammate. "I'm very impressed by him. All the hype, it's real and it means something when you step out here on the field."

The Falcons traded for the tight end on April 23.

A 12-year veteran with 10 Pro Bowl invitations, Gonzalez doesn't exactly look forward to the first day of wearing pads every summer. But the chance to play alongside Ryan, The Associated Press 2008 NFL offensive rookie of the year, excited him enough to agree to a trade from Kansas City, the only team he's played for.

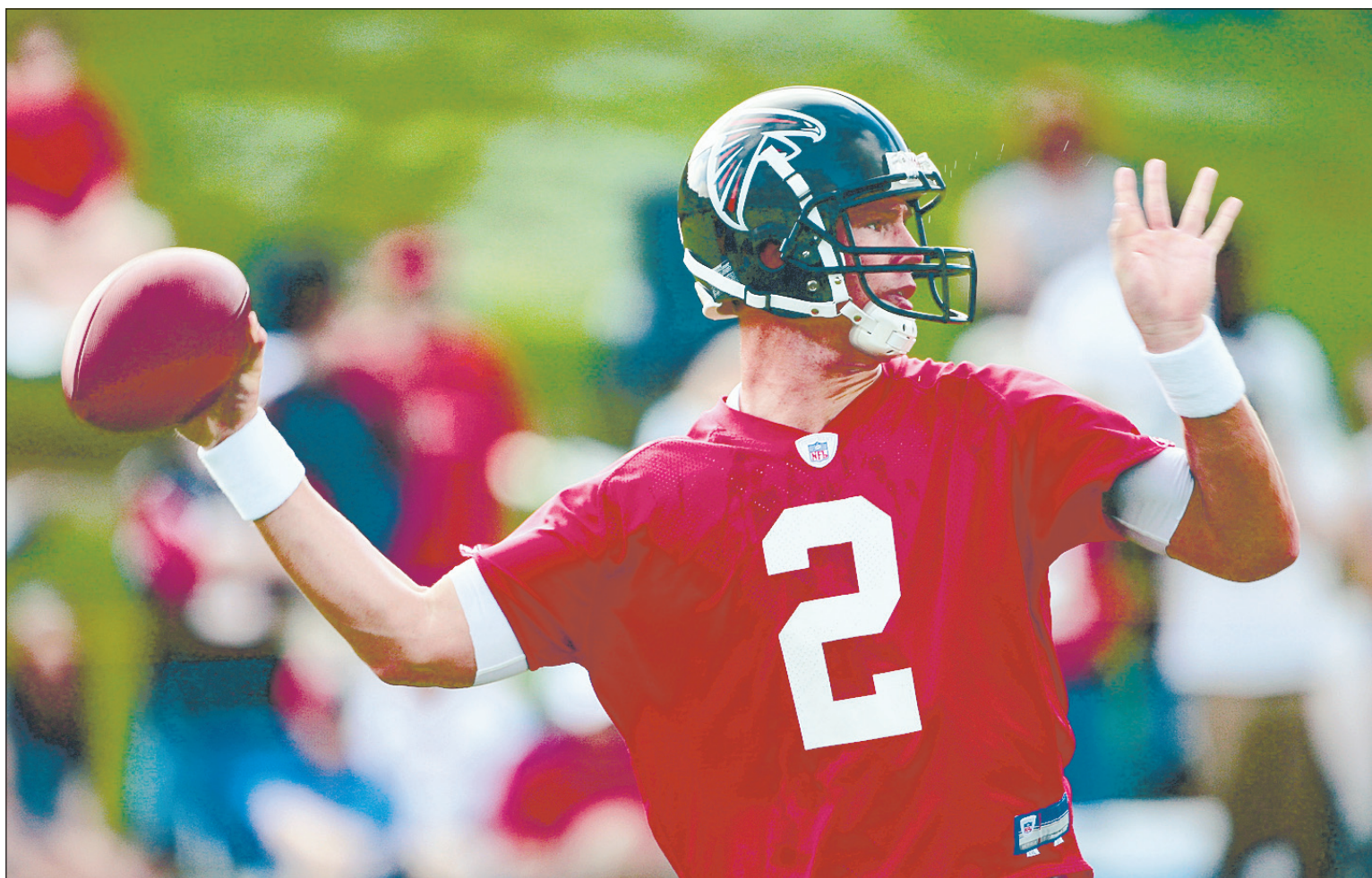
Simply put, Gonzalez considers Ryan the missing link to longtime goals still unaccomplished: winning a playoff game, a conference championship and a Super Bowl.

Ryan's ability to read defenses quickly, run the no-huddle and throw accurately separate him in Gonzalez's eyes.

"He knows exactly where everybody's going," Gonzalez said. "He knows where to put that ball, and he works hard. I think that's really the difference in what a great player is. Somebody that works hard.

That's what separates some guys like Peyton Manning and Tom Brady. Those guys are constantly in the (film) room trying to get better, on the field and off the field."

Ryan knows the addition of Gonzalez won't just cause fits



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atlanta Falcons' quarterback Matt Ryan is excited about the addition of All-pro tight end Tony Gonzalez.

as opponents try to cover him. His presence will create more chances for Atlanta's other playmakers.

"I'm starting to develop a little bit of a rapport with him," Ryan said. "It's been good so far, and I look forward to more good work with him."

The only drawback through the Falcons' first four practices has been Roddy White's hold-out for a new contract. Though the season opener is still six weeks away, Ryan knows the more work White and Gonzalez have with each other, the better off Atlanta will be.

White and running back Michael Turner made their first Pro Bowls last year catching passes

and taking handoffs from Ryan. For the Falcons, 2008 was the first time in their 43-year history that their offense netted 5,700 yards.

More importantly, Ryan's quick decision-making helped Atlanta go 6-2 in games decided by one score or less. The Falcons finished 11-5, earned an NFC wild-card spot and reclaimed some dominance at the Georgia Dome, where they went 7-1 after combining for a 6-10 home mark the previous two years.

Though coach Mike Smith kept all of his primary assistants on staff after their first season together with Atlanta, he decided to make one subtle change

in evaluating personnel.

Position coaches had every returning player write an evaluation of himself and turn it in before the start of camp. For Ryan, the focus became film study that wasn't necessarily more intense, just more specific.

Ryan's primary concern now is giving receivers better chances for big gains downfield. Even more enticing is the opportunity to dip further into coordinator Mike Mularkey's playbook.

"If I make better decisions throughout the game, it's going to cause less mistakes," Ryan said. "You certainly can be more accurate with it and give your receivers a better chance to make plays after they have the

ball in their hands. So that's the focus, and I'm going to continue to work on it."

For Gonzalez, his mantra of "getting better" seemingly hasn't changed since Kansas City drafted him 13th overall in 1997. Now that Ryan is his quarterback, Gonzalez intends to stay as committed to his workout regimen, film study and practice habits as he's ever been, but a chance to finally win a playoff game is still his top goal.

"I don't think anything in life — I don't care how good you are — there's always more to learn and always thing to know," Gonzalez said. "I want to make sure I know that playbook front to back and side to side."

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Carolina still banking on Delhomme at quarterback

By Mike Cranston
The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — A sweaty Jake Delhomme headed toward a screaming crowd behind the fence surrounding Carolina's practice field. Many of the autograph-seekers were dressed in No. 17 jerseys, and all were clearly on the same side of the divisive issue that has no middle ground.

Jake Fan or Jake Hater?

The two groups have been bickering for years, but this offseason was unlike any other. All it took was one ugly, six-turn-over performance in a stunning playoff loss.

"The last one I played wasn't too darn good," Delhomme deadpanned.

Delhomme threw five interceptions, lost a fumble and produced a 39.1 passer rating in the Panthers' embarrassing 33-13 home loss to Arizona in the NFC divisional playoffs. The worst performance of his career — he was one interception shy of the dubious NFL playoff record — came on his 34th birthday, too.

"That's something that will always stick with me, even 10 years from now," Delhomme said. "That's part of the deal."

It overshadowed his return from reconstructive elbow surgery, his 54-33 record as a starter and the slew of fourth-quarter comebacks that earned him loyal supporters.

The fans who can't stand his unorthodox style and gambling nature roared, demanding Carolina make a move in the offseason.

The Panthers responded by giving Delhomme a five-year, \$42.5 million extension that locks him up through 2014.

And they didn't sign a QB, leaving Delhomme clearly ahead of holdovers Josh McCown and Matt Moore.

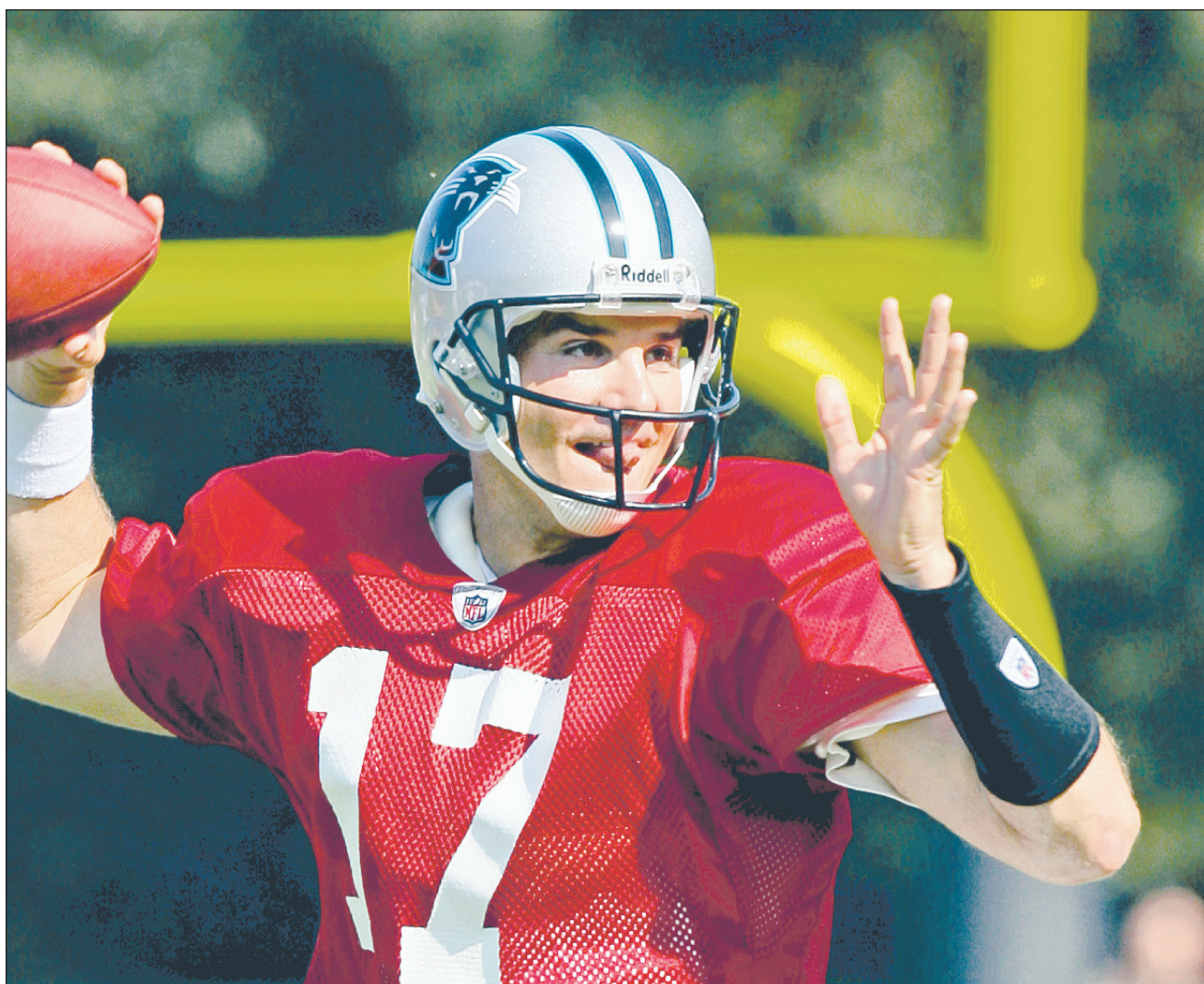
No question, coach John Fox, general manager Marty Hurney and Delhomme's teammates are members of the Delhomme fan club.

"He's our quarterback. I love him. I'm so glad we re-signed him to a longer deal," left tackle Jordan Gross said. "He's got a lot of criticism from everybody from that game, but you won't hear any of it in the locker room. He's the epitome of a leader. ... I have total confidence that he'll come back as a better player this than he was last."

Delhomme's success story, going from NFL Europe to New Orleans Saints benchwarmer to Super Bowl quarterback in his first year with Carolina made him a local star, a locker room favorite and a leader his teammates trust.

But his style isn't always easy on the eyes. He'll throw off the wrong foot, make a bad decision, yell at his teammates.

He's also prone to be Bad Jake. It happened in Oakland last season when the Panthers won despite him completing only 7 of 22 passes with four interceptions.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Panthers believe in quarterback Jake Delhomme despite his awful playoff contest against Arizona.

Then it happened again at the worst possible time, helping Carolina end a 12-4 season with a thud.

"He was down after that game and he apologized to us," Gross said. "We all told him to knock it off. He doesn't want us apologizing to him when we have a bad game. Since then he's just been anxious to get started again."

Delhomme expressed gratitude that the Panthers extended his contract, which also created needed salary-cap space this season. But Panthers management never wavered that he

was their guy. Fox repeatedly brings up 2007, when Delhomme was lost to his elbow injury and the Panthers went through four quarterbacks, including 44-year-old Vinny Testaverde, in a 7-9 season.

So there was Delhomme back under center for Carolina's opening practice Monday morning, eager to create distance from the Jan. 10 disaster.

"Certainly it was tough because we had such a great year," Delhomme said. "For myself it was tougher than the other guys, because they gave us more of a chance to win

than I did."

If Delhomme's confidence is shaken, it didn't show. His teammates still believe in him, and Delhomme seems unconcerned with the negative message board threads, the angry talk radio callers or the critics who question if Carolina can win a Super Bowl with him.

"I've always thought I had thick skin, but I just added another layer on top of it," Delhomme said. "You've got to go with the ups and downs. Certainly it was a down, and I'm looking for more ups."

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Freeman creates problem in Tampa – a good one

By FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Josh Freeman wants to give himself every opportunity to become Tampa Bay's starting quarterback, so the rookie insisted on signing a contract before the start of training camp.

"I expressed to my agent that one of my main goals is to become the starter ... and the best way to do that is to be in camp on time," the first-round draft pick said after agreeing to a five-year deal worth \$36 million, including more than \$10 million guaranteed.

"Obviously we probably would have liked a little more, and they probably would have liked a little bit less," Freeman added. "But we all wanted to be in camp on time. That was the main focus."

Although the Bucs had their sights on the future when they selected him 17th overall, the former Kansas State star was impressive enough during offseason practices that coach Raheem Morris has not ruled out the possibility of playing him right away.

The other quarterbacks in camp are Luke McCown and Byron Leftwich, who have both been starters in the NFL, and second-year pro Josh Johnson.

Morris conceded it may be difficult to ensure each candidate gets enough snaps during camp to give each a true shot at winning the job.

"The older guys deserve the privilege to get the most reps in the beginning," Morris said, adding that ideally he'd like to settle on a starter before the third preseason game. "The young guy got his chance throughout OTA days and got better and

better."

Freeman wouldn't speculate on his chances of winding up No. 1 heading into the season.

"Honesty I couldn't tell you. That's all the coach's decision," Freeman said after he and the rest of the team reported to camp Friday afternoon.

"I'm just going to come in and try to give them every reason I can to start me."

"We'll let the preseason take care of that," general manager Mark Dominik said when asked if he'd be comfortable heading into the season with a rookie at quarterback.

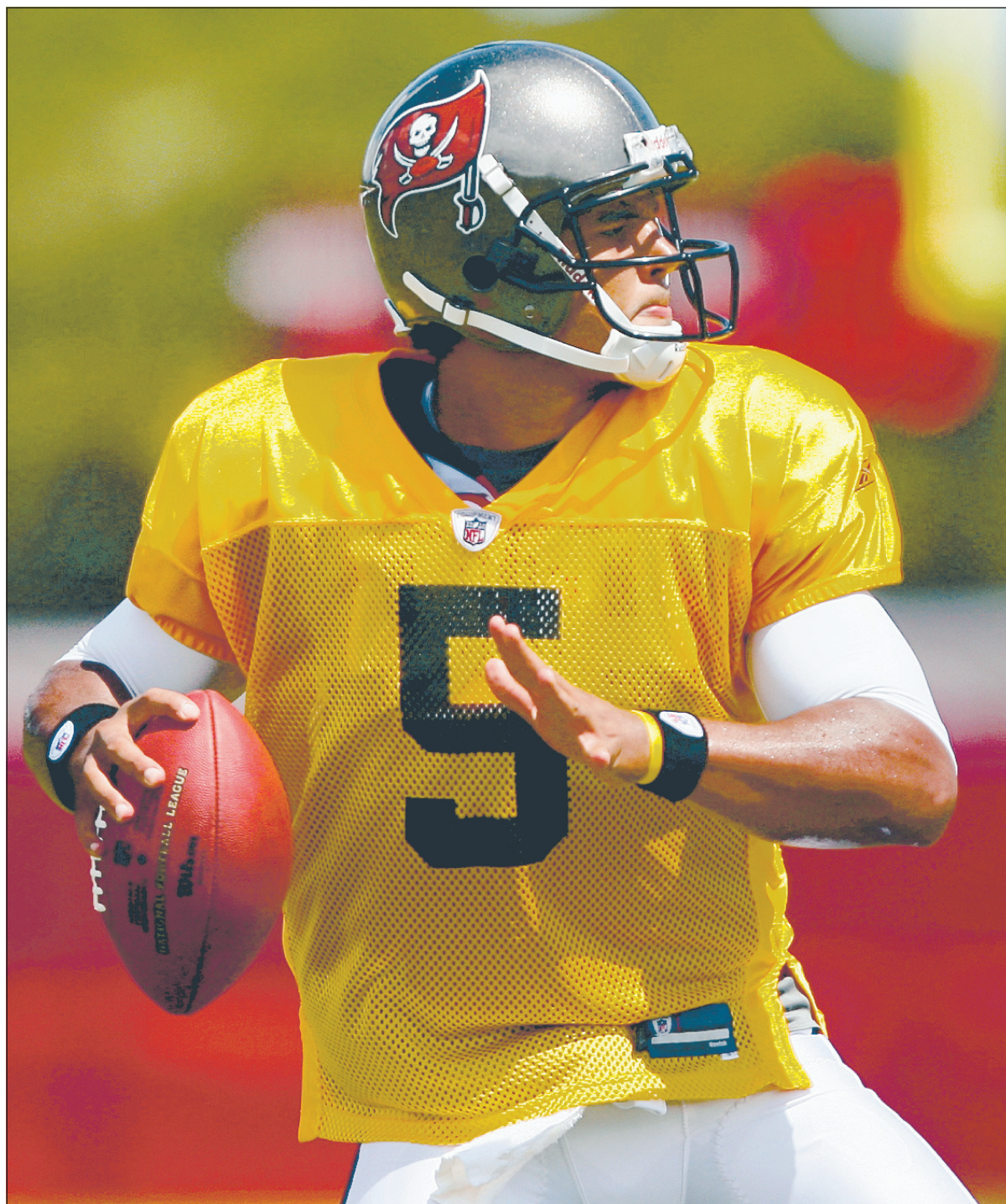
"I've stated all along, and ... Raheem and I have spoken on this a number of times. The best-laid plan is let Josh sit and learn," Dominik added, "but we'll let the guys compete and decide that on the field."

Freeman, who entered the draft after his junior year, completed 59 percent of his passes for 8,078 yards and 44 touchdowns in three seasons at Kansas State. At 6-foot-6, 248 pounds, he not only was difficult to sack, but had 20 TDs rushing.

The 21-year-old was the third quarterback selected in the draft behind Matthew Stafford and Mark Sanchez.

The Bucs softened their stance on bringing Freeman along slowly when neither McCown or Leftwich clearly established themselves as No. 1 during the offseason program.

Two rookie quarterbacks, Matt



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Josh Freeman hopes to start on opening day.

Ryan and Joe Flacco, led their teams to the playoffs last year.

And while Morris reiterated the Bucs won't rush Freeman's development, he insists he won't hold him back if he's clearly

better than the veterans.

"When we drafted him, we said 'we'll get the guy, get him in here, and we'll let it play itself out,'" Morris said.

"And Josh became a problem.

A good problem," the coach added, referring Freeman's performance in organized team activities and minicamp. "You look forward to that. We'll just make the decision as we go."

SCHEDULE

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE — RANKING THE 2009 SCHEDULES ON LAST YEAR'S RECORDS:



1. Miami Dolphins .594
2. Carolina Panthers .592
3. New England Patriots .590
4. Atlanta Falcons .588
5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers .580
6. Buffalo Bills .570
7. New York Jets .568
8. New Orleans Saints .557
9. Philadelphia Eagles .535
10. New York Giants .527
11. Jacksonville Jaguars .516

12. Dallas Cowboys .516
13. Indianapolis Colts .512
14. Tennessee Titans .508
15. Houston Texans .506
16. Washington Redskins .492
17. San Diego Chargers .484
18. Kansas City Chiefs .484
19. Oakland Raiders .480
20. Denver Broncos .480
21. Detroit Lions .467
22. St. Louis Rams .465

23. Cincinnati Bengals .465
24. Seattle Seahawks .457
25. Cleveland Browns .449
26. San Francisco 49ers .443
27. Arizona Cardinals .441
28. Baltimore Ravens .438
29. Pittsburgh Steelers .434
30. Green Bay Packers .428
31. Minnesota Vikings .420
32. Chicago Bears .414

ARIZONA CARDINALS

| | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | San Francisco | 3:15 p.m. |
| Sept. 20 | at Jacksonville | noon |
| Sept. 27 | Indianapolis | 7:20 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | BYE | |
| Oct. 11 | Houston | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 18 | at Seattle | 3:05 p.m. |
| Oct. 25 | at N.Y. Giants | 7:20 p.m. |
| Nov. 1 | Carolina | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 8 | at Chicago | noon |
| Nov. 15 | Seattle | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | at St. Louis | 3:05 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | at Tennessee | noon |
| Dec. 6 | Minnesota | 3:15 p.m. |
| Dec. 14 | at San Francisco | 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 20 | at Detroit | noon |
| Dec. 27 | St. Louis | 3:05 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | Green Bay | 3:15 p.m. |

ATLANTA FALCONS

| | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | Miami | noon |
| Sept. 20 | Carolina | noon |
| Sept. 27 | at New England | noon |
| Oct. 4 | BYE | |
| Oct. 11 | at San Francisco | 3:05 p.m. |
| Oct. 18 | Chicago | 7:20 p.m. |
| Oct. 25 | at Dallas | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 2 | at New Orleans | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 8 | Washington | noon |
| Nov. 15 | at Carolina | noon |
| Nov. 22 | at N.Y. Giants | noon |
| Nov. 29 | Tampa Bay | noon |
| Dec. 6 | Philadelphia | noon |
| Dec. 13 | New Orleans | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at N.Y. Jets | noon |
| Dec. 27 | Buffalo | noon |
| Jan. 3 | at Tampa Bay | noon |

BALTIMORE RAVENS

| | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | Kansas City | noon |
| Sept. 20 | at San Diego | 3:15 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | Cleveland | noon |
| Oct. 4 | at New England | noon |
| Oct. 11 | Cincinnati | noon |
| Oct. 18 | at Minnesota | noon |
| Oct. 25 | BYE | |
| Nov. 1 | Denver | noon |
| Nov. 8 | at Cincinnati | noon |
| Nov. 16 | at Cleveland | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | Indianapolis | noon |
| Nov. 29 | Pittsburgh | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 7 | at Green Bay | 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | Detroit | noon |
| Dec. 20 | Chicago | noon |
| Dec. 27 | at Pittsburgh | 3:15 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | at Oakland | 3:15 p.m. |

BUFFALO BILLS

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 14 | at New England | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 20 | Tampa Bay | 3:05 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | New Orleans | 3:05 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | at Miami | 3:05 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 | Cleveland | noon |
| Oct. 18 | at N.Y. Jets | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 25 | at Carolina | 3:05 p.m. |
| Nov. 1 | Houston | noon |
| Nov. 8 | BYE | |
| Nov. 15 | at Tennessee | noon |
| Nov. 22 | at Jacksonville | noon |
| Nov. 29 | Miami | noon |
| Dec. 3 | N.Y. Jets at Toronto | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | at Kansas City | 3:15 p.m. |
| Dec. 20 | New England | noon |
| Dec. 27 | at Atlanta | noon |
| Jan. 3 | Indianapolis | noon |

CAROLINA PANTHERS

| | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | Philadelphia | noon |
| Sept. 20 | at Atlanta | noon |
| Sept. 28 | at Dallas | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | BYE | |
| Oct. 11 | Washington | noon |
| Oct. 18 | at Tampa Bay | noon |
| Oct. 25 | Buffalo | 3:05 p.m. |
| Nov. 1 | at Arizona | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 8 | at New Orleans | 3:05 p.m. |
| Nov. 15 | Atlanta | noon |
| Nov. 19 | Miami | 7:20 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | at N.Y. Jets | noon |
| Dec. 6 | Tampa Bay | noon |
| Dec. 13 | at New England | noon |
| Dec. 20 | Minnesota | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 27 | at N.Y. Giants | noon |
| Jan. 3 | New Orleans | noon |

CHICAGO BEARS

| | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Green Bay | 7:20 p.m. |
| Sept. 20 | Pittsburgh | 3:15 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | at Seattle | 3:05 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | Detroit | noon |
| Oct. 11 | BYE | |

| | | |
|---------|------------------|-----------|
| Oct. 18 | at Atlanta | 7:20 p.m. |
| Oct. 25 | at Cincinnati | noon |
| Nov. 1 | Cleveland | noon |
| Nov. 8 | Arizona | noon |
| Nov. 12 | at San Francisco | 7:20 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | Philadelphia | 7:20 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | at Minnesota | noon |
| Dec. 6 | St. Louis | noon |
| Dec. 13 | Green Bay | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at Baltimore | noon |
| Dec. 28 | Minnesota | 6:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | at Detroit | noon |

CINCINNATI BENGALS

| | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | Denver | noon |
| Sept. 20 | at Green Bay | noon |
| Sept. 27 | Pittsburgh | noon |
| Oct. 4 | at Cleveland | noon |
| Oct. 11 | at Baltimore | noon |
| Oct. 18 | Houston | noon |
| Oct. 25 | Chicago | noon |
| Nov. 1 | BYE | |
| Nov. 8 | Baltimore | noon |
| Nov. 15 | at Pittsburgh | noon |
| Nov. 22 | at Oakland | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | Cleveland | noon |
| Dec. 6 | Detroit | noon |
| Dec. 13 | at Minnesota | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at San Diego | 3:05 p.m. |
| Dec. 27 | Kansas City | noon |
| Jan. 3 | at N.Y. Jets | noon |

CLEVELAND BROWNS

| | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | Minnesota | noon |
| Sept. 20 | at Denver | 3:15 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | at Baltimore | noon |
| Oct. 4 | Cincinnati | noon |
| Oct. 11 | at Buffalo | noon |
| Oct. 18 | at Pittsburgh | noon |
| Oct. 25 | Green Bay | noon |
| Nov. 1 | at Chicago | noon |
| Nov. 8 | BYE | |
| Nov. 16 | Baltimore | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | at Detroit | noon |
| Nov. 29 | at Cincinnati | noon |
| Dec. 6 | San Diego | 3:05 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | Pittsburgh | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 20 | at Kansas City | noon |
| Dec. 27 | Oakland | noon |
| Jan. 3 | Jacksonville | noon |

DALLAS COWBOYS

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Tampa Bay | noon |
| Sept. 20 | N.Y. Giants | 7:20 p.m. |
| Sept. 28 | Carolina | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | at Denver | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 | at Kansas City | noon |
| Oct. 18 | BYE | |
| Oct. 25 | Atlanta | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 1 | Seattle | noon |
| Nov. 8 | at Philadelphia | 7:20 p.m. |
| Nov. 15 | at Green Bay | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | Washington | noon |
| Nov. 26 | Oakland | 3:15 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 | at N.Y. Giants | 3:15 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | San Diego | 3:15 p.m. |
| Dec. 19 | at New Orleans | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 27 | at Washington | 7:20 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | Philadelphia | noon |

DENVER BRONCOS

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Cincinnati | noon |
| Sept. 20 | Cleveland | 3:15 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | at Oakland | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | Dallas | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 | New England | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 19 | at San Diego | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 25 | BYE | |
| Nov. 1 | at Baltimore | noon |
| Nov. 9 | Pittsburgh | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 15 | at Washington | noon |
| Nov. 22 | San Diego | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 26 | N.Y. Giants | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 | at Kansas City | noon |
| Dec. 13 | at Indianapolis | noon |
| Dec. 20 | Oakland | 3:05 p.m. |
| Dec. 27 | at Philadelphia | noon |
| Jan. 3 | Kansas City | 3:15 p.m. |

DETROIT LIONS

| | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at New Orleans | noon |
| Sept. 20 | Minnesota | noon |
| Sept. 27 | Washington | noon |
| Oct. 4 | at Chicago | noon |
| Oct. 11 | Pittsburgh | noon |
| Oct. 18 | at Green Bay | noon |
| Oct. 25 | BYE | |
| Nov. 1 | St. Louis | noon |
| Nov. 8 | at Seattle | 3:05 p.m. |
| Nov. 15 | at Minnesota | noon |
| Nov. 22 | Cleveland | noon |

| | | |
|---------|------------------|------------|
| Nov. 26 | Green Bay | 11:30 a.m. |
| Dec. 6 | at Cincinnati | noon |
| Dec. 13 | at Baltimore | noon |
| Dec. 20 | Arizona | noon |
| Dec. 27 | at San Francisco | 3:05 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | Chicago | noon |

GREEN BAY PACKERS

| | | |
|----------|---------------|------------|
| Sept. 13 | Chicago | 7:20 p.m. |
| Sept. 20 | Cincinnati | noon |
| Sept. 27 | at St. Louis | noon |
| Oct. 5 | at Minnesota | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 | BYE | |
| Oct. 18 | Detroit | noon |
| Oct. 25 | at Cleveland | noon |
| Nov. 1 | Minnesota | noon |
| Nov. 8 | at Tampa Bay | noon |
| Nov. 15 | Dallas | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | San Francisco | noon |
| Nov. 26 | at Detroit | 11:30 a.m. |
| Dec. 7 | Baltimore | 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | at Chicago | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at Pittsburgh | noon |
| Dec. 27 | Seattle | noon |
| Jan. 3 | at Arizona | 3:15 p.m. |

HOUSTON TEXANS

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | N.Y. Jets | noon |
| Sept. 20 | at Tennessee | noon |
| Sept. 27 | Jacksonville | noon |
| Oct. 4 | Oakland | noon |
| Oct. 11 | at Arizona | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 18 | at Cincinnati | noon |
| Oct. 25 | San Francisco | noon |
| Nov. 1 | at Buffalo | noon |
| Nov. 8 | at Indianapolis | noon |
| Nov. 15 | BYE | |
| Nov. 23 | Tennessee | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | Indianapolis | noon |
| Dec. 6 | at Jacksonville | noon |
| Dec. 13 | Seattle | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at St. Louis | noon |
| Dec. 27 | at Miami | noon |
| Jan. 3 | New England | noon |

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | Jacksonville | noon |
| Sept. 21 | at Miami | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | at Arizona | 7:20 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | Seattle | noon |
| Oct. 11 | at Tennessee | 7:20 p.m. |
| Oct. 18 | BYE | |
| Oct. 25 | at St. Louis | noon |
| Nov. 1 | San Francisco | noon |
| Nov. 8 | Carolina | noon |
| Nov. 15 | New England | 7:20 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | at Baltimore | noon |
| Nov. 29 | at Houston | noon |
| Dec. 6 | Tennessee | noon |
| Dec. 13 | Denver | noon |
| Dec. 17 | at Jacksonville | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 27 | N.Y. Jets | 3:15 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | at Buffalo | noon |

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

| | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Indianapolis | noon |
| Sept. 20 | Arizona | noon |
| Sept. 27 | at Houston | noon |
| Oct. 4 | Tennessee | noon |
| Oct. 11 | at Seattle | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 18 | St. Louis | noon |
| Oct. 25 | BYE | |
| Nov. 1 | at Tennessee | 3:05 p.m. |
| Nov. 8 | Kansas City | noon |
| Nov. 15 | at N.Y. Jets | noon |
| Nov. 22 | Buffalo | noon |
| Nov. 29 | at San Francisco | 3:05 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 | Houston | noon |
| Dec. 13 | Miami | noon |
| Dec. 17 | Indianapolis | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 27 | at New England | noon |
| Jan. 3 | at Cleveland | noon |

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Baltimore | noon |
| Sept. 20 | Oakland | noon |
| Sept. 27 | at Philadelphia | noon |
| Oct. 4 | N.Y. Giants | noon |
| Oct. 11 | Dallas | noon |
| Oct. 18 | at Washington | noon |
| Oct. 25 | San Diego | noon |
| Nov. 1 | BYE | |
| Nov. 8 | at Jacksonville | noon |
| Nov. 15 | at Oakland | 3:05 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | Pittsburgh | noon |
| Nov. 29 | at San Diego | 3:05 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 | Denver | noon |
| Dec. 13 | Buffalo | noon |
| Dec. 20 | Cleveland | noon |
| Dec. 27 | at Cincinnati | noon |
| Jan. 3 | at Denver | 3:15 p.m. |

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Atlanta | noon |
| Sept. 21 | Indianapolis | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | at San Diego | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 4 | Buffalo | 3:05 p.m. |
| Oct. 12 | N.Y. Jets | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 18 | BYE | |
| Oct. 25 | New Orleans | 3:15 p.m. |
| Nov. 1 | at N.Y. Jets | noon |
| Nov. 8 | at New England | noon |
| Nov. 15 | Tampa Bay | noon |
| Nov. 19 | at Carolina | 7:20 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | at Buffalo | noon |
| Dec. 6 | New England | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | at Jacksonville | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at Tennessee | noon |
| Dec. 27 | Houston | noon |
| Jan. 3 | Pittsburgh | noon |

MIAMI DOLPHINS

| | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Cleveland | noon |
| Sept. 20 | at Detroit | noon |
| Sept. 27 | San Francisco | noon |
| Oct. 5 | Green Bay | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 | at St. Louis | noon |
| Oct. 18 | Baltimore | noon |
| Oct. 25 | at Pittsburgh | noon |
| Nov. 1 | at Green Bay | noon |
| Nov. 8 | BYE | |
| Nov. 15 | Detroit | noon |
| Nov. 22 | Seattle | noon |
| Nov. 29 | Chicago | noon |
| Dec. 6 | at Arizona | 3:15 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | Cincinnati | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at Carolina | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 28 | at Chicago | 6:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | N.Y. Giants | noon |

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

| | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------|
| Sept. 13 | at Cleveland | noon |
| Sept. 20 | at Detroit | noon |
| Sept. 27 | San Francisco | noon |
| Oct. 5 | Green Bay | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 | at St. Louis | noon |
| Oct. 18 | Baltimore | noon |
| Oct. 25 | at Pittsburgh | noon |
| Nov. 1 | at Green Bay | noon |
| Nov. 8 | BYE | |
| Nov. 15 | Detroit | noon |
| Nov. 22 | Seattle | noon |
| Nov. 29 | Chicago | noon |
| Dec. 6 | at Arizona | 3:15 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | Cincinnati | noon |
| Dec. 20 | at Carolina | 7:20 p.m. |
| Dec. 28 | at Chicago | 6:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 | N.Y. Giants | noon |

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Sept. 14 | Buffalo | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 20 | at N.Y. Jets | noon |
| Sept. 27 | Atlanta | noon |
| Oct. 4 | Baltimore | noon |
| Oct. 11 | at Denver | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 18 | Tennessee | 3:15 p.m. |
| Oct. 25 | at Tampa Bay (London) | noon |
| Nov. 1 | BYE | |
| Nov. 8 | Miami | |

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