

OPINIONS



MT Football coach Rick Stockstill's paid to teach a class that he doesn't teach.

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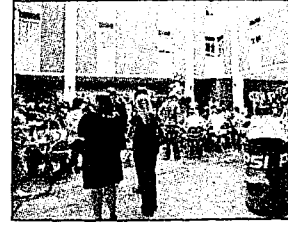
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FEATURES



Students and community come together to kick-off Homecoming week with Chili Cook-Off.

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 14

Raiders decimate Hilltoppers



FOOTBALL, PAGE 5

Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Blue Raiders' quarterback, Dwight Dasher, drops back for a pass during Saturday's Homecoming game, in which MTSU beat Western Kentucky 62-24. Dasher made three touchdown passes and ran two for touchdowns.

Homecoming shows school pride, brings back alumni

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

Students, alumni and the MTSU community celebrated Homecoming 2009 with events all day Saturday that lead up to the game against Western Kentucky where the Blue Raiders crushed the Hilltoppers 62-24.

Homecoming started with a parade consisting of numerous Greek and student organizations, along with alumni and other community members like the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department and Harley Davidson.

"I helped build our float, so it is pretty awesome," said Christopher Whitelaw, a sophomore recording industry major and member of Alpha Tau Omega. "I spent a lot of hours pumping the red and blue and making papier-mâché."

Alpha Chi Omega, Sigma Nu and Alpha Gamma Rho won first place for the float competition. Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha, Zeta Tau Alpha and Tau Kappa Epsilon were the second place winners. Alpha Omicron Pi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Pi won third.

Following the parade, Tailgating began in Walnut Grove, and the area was covered with tents full of fans who were excited for the game. The Raider Walk took place by Peck Hall with the Band of Blue playing while cheerleaders and fans applauded the football players as they made their way to Floyd Stadium.



Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Students tailgate in Walnut Grove before the game on Saturday.

"I think Homecoming is such a great reflection of building school spirit," said President Sidney McPhee. "We have over 300 organizations on campus, and to see so many of them come out is really great."

Kris Basler, a sophomore recording industry major and member of Pi Kappa Phi, said that he thought that school spirit is something MTSU has strug-

gled to maintain, but that Homecoming was a time to come together and revive that spirit.

"This a great way for the campus to come together, both Greeks and non-Greeks, to support their school and show their Blue Raider spirit for their university," Basler said.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Desmond Yates and Katie Phillips were crowned Homecoming king and queen at Saturday's Homecoming game.

HOMEcoming, PAGE 2

Step show champs earn sixth win

By BEN UNDERWOOD
Staff Writer

Alpha Phi Alpha won both first place fraternity and best overall performance at the National Pan-Hellenic Council's step show Friday evening at the Murphy Center.

Marco Born, an employee of the athletic department box office, calculated attendance at around 3,500 based on ticket sales.

"We have about 6,000 [tickets] to sell, and we've sold about 3,500 so far," Born said.

The show opened with a special guest performance by Nashville-based group "Southern Movement," who were featured on season four of MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew." The show continued with step lines from three fraternities and three sororities from the NPHC.

The crews employed props and video clips to accompany the step and dance routines. Local artist and choreographer Craig Watkins hosted the event and joined in the performance with an original dance routine.

The six judges awarded trophies to the first and sec-

ond place fraternities and sororities, and also awarded an overall winner.

Jozmen Robinson of Alpha said he was "very proud of the turnout" for the event and of his fraternity brothers.

"We've been working probably since May," Robinson said. "This is our sixth year winning and this is our first year to win overall."

Robinson said he plans to step next year and hopes Alpha can extend the winning streak to ten years in a row.

Brandon Thompkins said he was also excited about winning the overall award. He could not step this year due to an injury, but he has participated for the last four years.

"This is the first year for a fraternity to win the overall prize," Thompkins said. "I wanted to go out on a good note."

Kappa Alpha Psi took second place fraternity for their "Family Matters" parody performance.

Delta Sigma Theta took first place sorority honors with their "Toy Story" themed performance, and Zeta Phi Beta took home the second place sorority award.

Thompkins said that the

ticket proceeds go to cover the production costs, prize money to the winners and to benefit the NPHC.

The event drew a large crowd with students forming a line around the Murphy Center by 7 p.m.

Brianna Bingham, a sophomore at Oakland High School, came with her mother Kim and said she thought the attendance was similar to last year.

"It's about the same as last year," Bingham said. "I think more people will come but they're in the line outside."

Kim Bingham works for LT's Trophy House, which provided the five trophies for the show.

"We do it every year," Bingham said. "This is my first time coming, and I'm interested to see who actually wins them."

NPHC treasurer, Terrence Adams, sold souvenir T-shirts and took preorders for DVDs before the performance and during intermission to raise additional funds to benefit NPHC. Adams said he hoped to sell out of the shirts during the show's intermission.

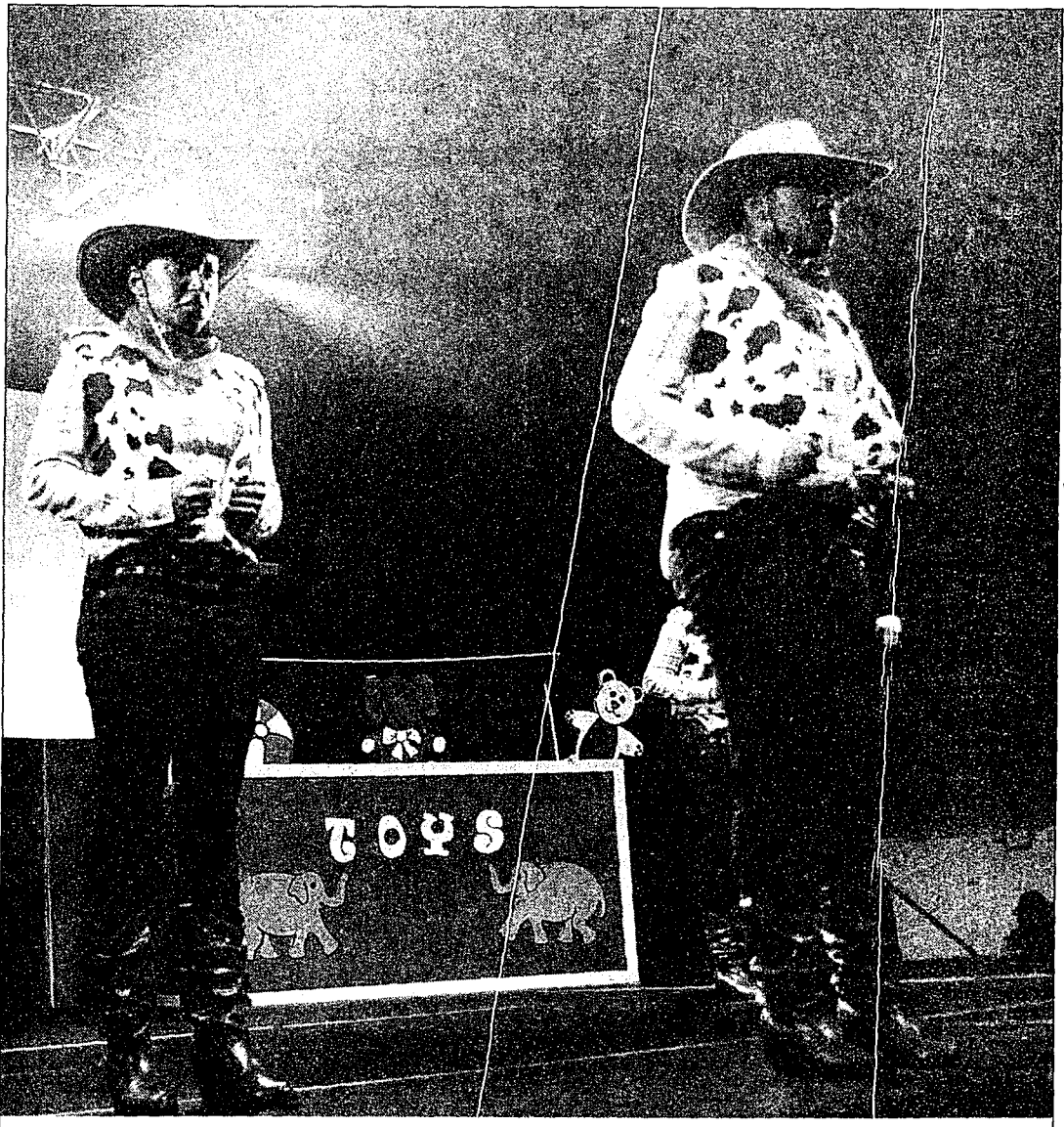


Photo by Gina DePrio, contributing photographer
Delta Sigma Theta earned first place of sororities for its performance of a "Toy Story" themed routine.

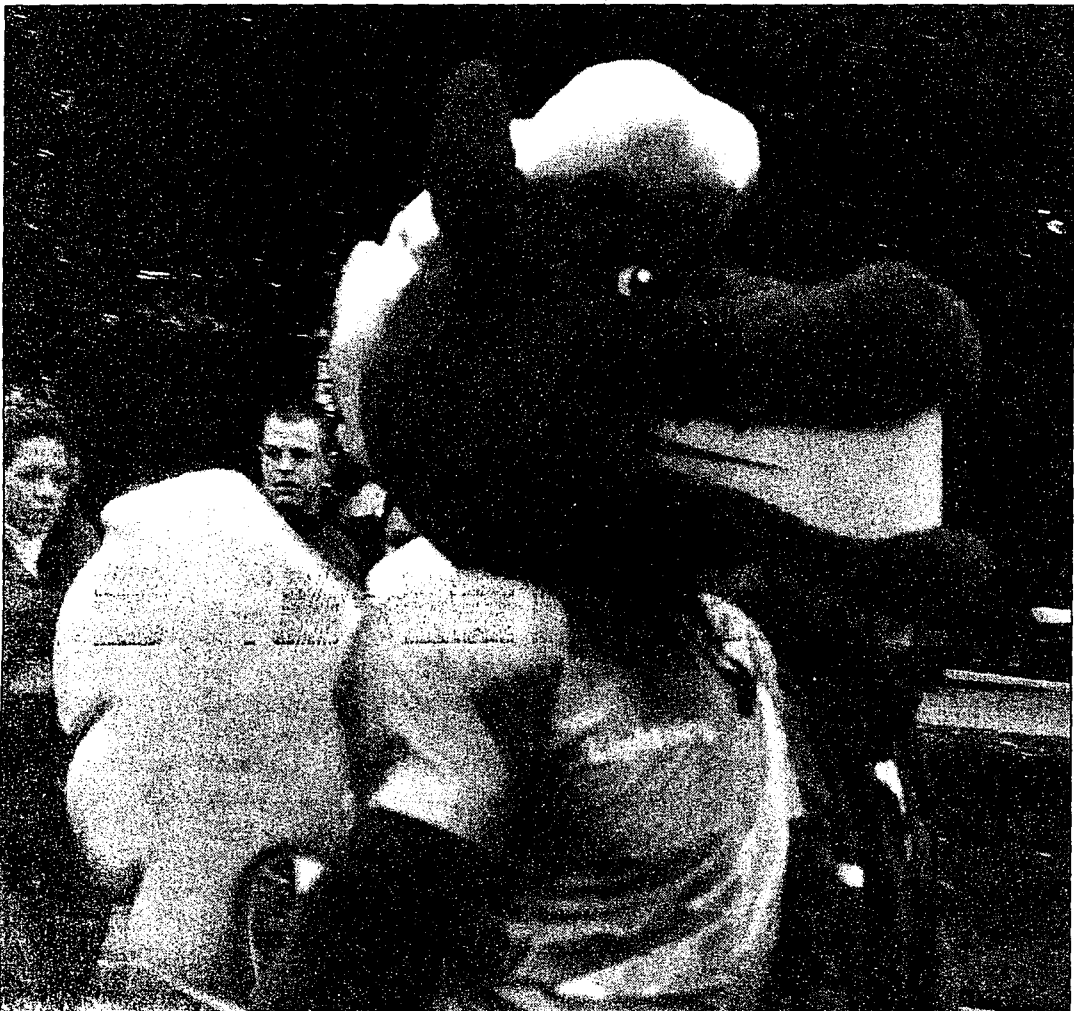


Photo by Gina DePrio, contributing photographer
Lightning marches during the Homecoming parade on Saturday with students, alumni and community.

HOMECOMING FROM PAGE 1

Blair Dudley, a junior journalism major and Fight Song director, said she thought Homecoming was a great way to try to bring the entire campus together for a day.

"I know a lot of times people just think this is a backpack school," Dudley said. "They think everyone just goes home on the weekends and no one gets involved, so I really think it's great to bring everyone together for one day and just celebrate the school."

While hundreds of students came out and celebrated in anticipation of the game, many alumni came to support their alma mater as well.

"It's been quite a few years since I came to a Homecoming game," said Claude Wilson, an alumnus who got his masters from MTSU in 1973. "I see a lot of blue everywhere, so it seems like there is great community school spirit."

McPhee said staff members and the alumni office put a lot of effort towards involving the alumni since they are one of the reasons why Homecoming takes place.

"I think it's always great to get our alums back so that they can get reconnected with the university," McPhee said. "It's nice to see their excitement and I have heard a lot of positive things from them about the campus."

Alpha Delta Pi won Lightning's Cup, an overall Homecoming spirit and participation award. Desmond Yates and Katie Phillips won the titles of 2009 Homecoming king and queen.

"It feels really good to win," Yates said. "It's a real honor to be named MTSU's Homecoming king. I had no idea I was going to win because I had some really great competitors."

Phillips said in her time at MTSU, she had never planned on participating in Homecoming court before and was shocked when she ran this year and won.

"I really want to use my title to increase school spirit," Phillips said. "I think the Homecoming king and queen should show up to most events and represent MTSU the best way that they can. Homecoming was so awesome this year, especially being on this side of it."

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FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Homecoming: a good time was had by all, except Western

Another homecoming has come and gone, leaving in its wake a crew of satisfied alumni and empty cans galore in Walnut Grove.

Obviously, the biggest congrats go to the MT Blue Raiders for their stellar victory over Western Kentucky. We didn't expect anything less than a Homecoming victory, but our football players still deserve a pat on the back for making the game worth attending.

Our only complaint is, once again, the "don't ask, don't tell" attitude of our campus and local police when it comes to tailgating and alcohol.

It is not MTSU's policy that makes us a dry campus – it is the Tennessee Board of Regents'. The alcohol policy (Policy 3:05:01:01) states, "the use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages on university, community college and technology center owned or controlled property shall be prohibited."

Whether we approve of the alcohol ban or not, if all the tailgaters came together in a moment of sobriety and petitioned the TBR, the Board might actually change its policy – or at the very least, make an exemption for Homecoming.

But until then, carrying 24-packs of Natural Ice and Miller Light openly around Walnut Grove is a big no-no. We do, however, commend this year's tailgaters for their excellent selection of multi-colored Solo Cups.

Listen to the editorial board podcast online at mtsusidelines.com/opinions

OPINIONS

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Coaching pay pilfers academics

Let's take a look at how MTSU's head football coach Rick Stockstill gets paid.

He receives \$97,078 from the athletic budget for being a football coach and \$97,078 from the academic budget for being a professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, according to the 2009-10 salary budget.

But he is no ordinary teacher. Pipeline records dating back to 2007 show that he teaches only one three-hour course a semester, except for in the fall of 2007 when he taught one two-hour course. The three-hour class he teaches each fall is entitled "Coaching and Officiating Football," and his spring class is entitled "Intermediate Coaching and Officiating Football."

The rule of thumb at MTSU is that a professor teaches 12 hours a semester, even though the Tennessee Board of Regents says professors can teach up to 15 hours a semester if needed.

What makes the situation more unusual – and an all-around insult to the academic integrity of MTSU – is that he does not



And there you have it

Michael Stone

even teach the three-hour class he gets paid almost \$100,000 to teach.

After checking up on a couple leads about him not actually teaching the class, as well as trying to track down where the originally scheduled classroom is now located, I found that it is actually Chris Matusek, MTSU's football director, who teaches the class.

This means that Stockstill is receiving a great deal of academic funds for nothing.

The justification behind this is MTSU athletics doesn't make enough money to pay its coaches, so it has to dip into the academic budget to keep

them around. According to a health and human performance professor who wished not to be named, MTSU wouldn't have the coaches it has if it didn't draw money from academics.

In total, there are 20 coaches, athletic trainers and others who are primarily employed by MTSU athletics that have their salaries divided between athletics and academics, according to the 2009-10 salary budget.

Like Stockstill, these university employees typically teach three hours a semester. Stockstill's is by far the highest, though; his total salary is MTSU's second highest, behind President Sidney McPhee's \$263,857.

I wouldn't be surprised, since Stockstill doesn't teach his three-hour course, that rumors are true and some of the other head coaches don't teach theirs either, especially during their respective sporting seasons.

The aforementioned health and human performance professor said that with coaches getting paid to teach classes they don't teach, rifts have



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Head Coach Rick Stockstill makes \$97,078 for teaching one class.

been caused between the Department of Health and Human Performance and MTSU athletics, and professor complaints are justified.

Stockstill's academic salary alone is \$15,000 higher than the highest-paid health and human performance professor and \$52,000 higher than the lowest-paid one, according to the 2009-10 salary budget.

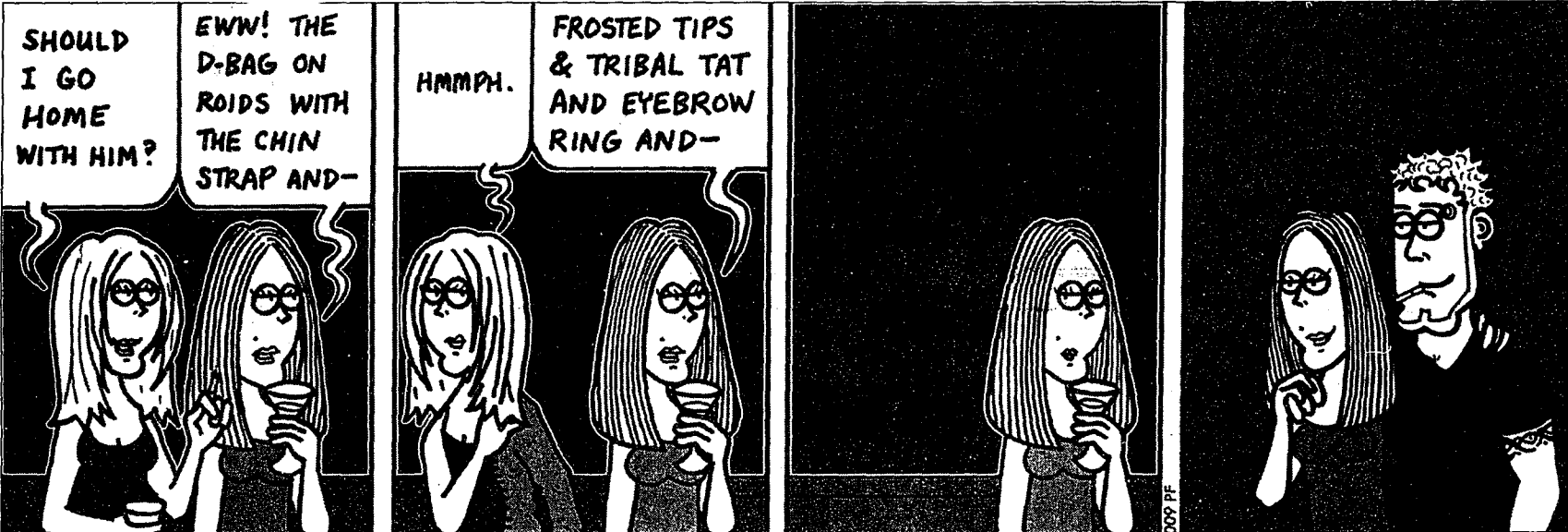
But I don't blame Stockstill for accepting the money. It's mainly MTSU's fault for offering him the money

to begin with.

And though the budget cut crisis has slightly subsidized this semester due to stimulus money, it will arise again in a few years.

Because of this, MTSU can't continue wasting academic funding on coaches, both symbolically and literally. This is especially true if the coaches aren't even teaching their classes.

Michael Stone is a senior journalism major and can be reached at mjs3v@mtsu.edu.



"Blundergrads" blundergrads.blogspot.com © 2009 Phil Flickinger

Homecoming traditions strange but fun

Saturday, the Blue Raiders killed the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers in a whopping 62-24 defeat for our Homecoming game.

That is so much better than the awful game we witnessed last week against Mississippi State. It's always nice to be able to bring down a win for homecoming, and with the rough games the Raiders have been playing, it was just nice to see them look good again. Congrats, Blue Raiders.

In doing a little research to try and figure out exactly what angle to take on the whole "homecoming" thing, I came across some fun and interesting facts.

The whole homecoming tradition, according to the NCAA, started in 1911 at the University of Missouri, or that is whom they credit, anyway.

It seems a little arguable since Baylor is credited with the first homecoming bonfire in 1909. They lit fires to keep away the riffraff from Texas Christian University, who they were playing for their game. Thank good-



My point, and I do have one

Mallory Boyd

ness all we have to worry about at MTSU from our rivals are broken tree branches in front of the Keathley University Center.

One school, Queen's University in Ontario, currently holds what it refers to as the "Pancake Kegger" before their homecoming game. Everyone eats tons of pancakes and drinks a bunch of beer so that they are fortified for all the cheering they will be doing for their team

that day. Pretty sure that would violate the dry campus policy here at MTSU, but still, it sounds like fun.

The homecoming court did not come around until the 1930s. It seems odd that it did not originate with the game itself. It is one of those things that we could probably do without at the college level, because it does not really mean anything to people outside of the Greek population.

Also, it seems rather off to democratically elect a monarchy, but whatever. Tradition is tradition, and the king and queen have become part of ours here at MTSU.

As the homecoming tradition aged, things like tailgating before the game and the iconic homecoming parade were added. I am actually a big fan of the parade. That is

something that takes a lot of creativity and thought, not to mention teamwork among many organizations to put together. The parade is always fun because of all of the different ideas that one gets to see all in one place. Plus, it is a showing of school spirit that we do not get to see all year.

Also, the school's marching band generally participates in the homecoming parade. Here at MTSU I think we have an exceptional band. The Band of Blue is part of what makes every football experience a great one. They are by far the most fun group to watch besides the football team. At times, they are better to watch than the team, especially if they are playing the Kraken. The halftime show would not exist without them, and touchdowns

would not be nearly as epic.

The tradition of homecoming, archaic though it may be, is one of the better ones. It brings together all of the groups in a school, involves the alumni and generally makes people feel like they have an opportunity to be involved at least once a year. Even if students are not in any extracurricular activities or organizations, they can still find something to do during Homecoming. Even those who could care less about the crowning of the king and queen can go and cheer on the football team and our own excellent band. Homecoming gives us an opportunity to feel like a part of something at our school, if only for one week in the fall. And let us hope that the Blue Raider football team plays more games like the one they played today. For the one, true, pride of the blue, MTSU Raiders Ride!

Mallory Boyd is a sophomore history major and can be reached at mnb2v@mtsu.edu

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by Sarah Conatser in NEWS

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SIDELINES

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Chili Cook-Off tantalizes senses

By BRITTANY KLATT
Staff Writer

The smell of spices and peppers float through the air. Eddie Money's "Two Tickets to Paradise" is drowned out by the sound of chatter and laughter.

Toddlers giggle as curious dogs come their way. Cheerleaders stand next to elementary school students. Students reconnect with old friends while meeting new people. All of these different groups joined together over one simple dish: chili.

Every year for homecoming, the Student Government Association throws its Chili Cook-Off to kick off Homecoming weekend.

"I don't know where it started, but it has become a Homecoming tradition," says Homecoming Director Mallory Phillips.

For \$3, guest could sample the variety of chili recipes that the MTSU community has to offer. Student organizations were invited to participate, as well as alumni and local restaurants.

"I wanted a diverse group," Phillips says. "I tried get non-Greeks involved with Homecoming."

While the majority of contestants were Greek organizations, some of the other contestants were the MTSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Student Programming and the Wesley Foundation.

"It shows we're supporting Rutherford County and our school," says Whitney Morris, president of Habitat for Humanity. "It brings every organization together."

Because of the rainy weather, there were some changes made to this year's event. Instead of being held in the Murphy Center Forest, the event was moved to the courtyard in Peck Hall. Though unexpected, the shift proved to be beneficial.

"Since the Murphy Center



Photo by Sarah Finchum, staff photographer
Left to right: Erta Patil, Anabell Orthner and Kristi Robertson serve chili to the crowds attending the Chili Cook-Off last Friday afternoon.

Forest was muddy, we move here," Phillips says, waving at the courtyard. "For the first time we have a dining area."

The dining area was a major focal point of the event. During the two-hour event, the area was never completely empty. There was always a group of people gathered around, sharing stories and eating chili. When the sun began to set and the sky began to darken, the dining area filled up.

Since the event was a cook-off, guests had their own expectations about the entries.

"If it's a Chili Cook-Off, it needs something unique; you need to add something new to give it zest" says Josiah Stevenson, junior history major.

The entries were judged on taste, presentation and incorporation of school spirit. Keeping this these different areas in mind, each team had its own strategy

for victory.

The team from the Wesley Foundation showed off its school spirit by wearing blue referee uniforms and waving a picket sign that declared "MTSU rocks my socks off."

Arms/GrammyU, an organization for students in the recording industry, represented the major by presenting its condiments in bowls shaped out of old records.

Tau Sigma believed the

secret to a good batch of chili is random ingredients. Keeping with that belief, the team used dark chocolate in its chili.

"We have a colorful display with the dark color from the chocolate and the bright corn," says Crystal Barton, the sorority's vice president, as one of the other cooks stirred the chili. "We don't need that extra stuff."

As the sky finally turned black and a cool breeze drift-

ed through the courtyard, the event started to come to an end. By 6:30 p.m., displays were being torn down while the judges prepared to announce the winners.

First place in the Chili Cook-Off went to Adriana Holt, while the people's choice award was taken by Tau Omega.

The winners were thrilled with their victory. The cheers of second place winners Lambda Sigma echoed through the courtyard as the organizations continued to tear down their displays. But the competition was not the focus of the event.

"When I think Homecoming, I think community," says Miranda Martin, treasurer for Lambda Sigma. "Everyone is uniting for a good cause."

All of the money raised by the Chili Cook-Off will go to benefit Habitat for Humanity. While many groups participated in the event to help Habitat for Humanity, several of them also expressed personal reasons for entering the competition.

Some groups wanted a chance to get their names out.

"We're trying to get out there and become larger," says Taylor Hutchins, vice president of Lambda Sigma. "We just started back up last year."

Others wished to show their support for the school.

"It shows our organizations pride in school spirit," says Maria Fleming, vice president of member education for Kappa Delta. "All the different student organizations together screams MTSU Blue Raider pride."

Large groups of people enjoying good music, good food, good company and for a good cause describes the Chili Cook-Off. No matter who was presented with a trophy, everyone there walked away with fond memories and a full stomach.

'Where the Wild Things Are' brings back childhood memories, imaginative images

By JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER
Staff Writer

Who didn't read the book "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak when they were a child? Who couldn't relate to the wild, energetic and misunderstood Max in their youth?

"Where the Wild Things Are" is a great story that captures the heart and wonder of the childhood imagination. Now you can see the book come to life on the big screen at a theater near you.

The anticipated motion picture was released on Oct. 16, and is under two hours long. Seeing how the movie is based on a book for children, it is appropriately rated PG.

Directed by Spike Jonze and produced by Tom Hanks, "Where the Wild Things Are" is a beautiful masterpiece of cinematography that utilizes powerful visuals and entrancing music to deliver the classic story of Max and his overactive imagination.

Max (Max Records) is a hyperactive little boy who longs for the attention of his family. When Max feels like he is competing for his sister Claire's (Pepita Emmerichs) attention and his mother's affection, he dons his infa-

mous wolf suit and throws a world-class tantrum.

Max is scolded by his mother (Catherine Keener) for acting like a wild monster and biting her. In the midst of the yelling, Max runs away from home and into the wilderness in a fit of tears.

Max runs across a boat on the shore of a beach and decides to set sail on the ocean in search of new lands of adventure. After sailing for a long period of time, Max finds himself on a strange and beautiful island.

Max explores the land and eventually runs into a group of wild and strange looking monsters. Max spies on the creatures while one of the monsters, Carol (James Gandolfini), throws a fit of rage and destroys the other monsters' homes.

Max reveals himself to the monsters by running to the huts and hitting them with a stick, imitating Carol's actions. Hollering and screaming, Max runs from hut to hut inflicting whatever damage he can and acts out his wild nature.

Carol approaches the little boy still dressed as a wolf, and despite being a scary looking 8-foot-tall monster,



Photo courtesy of Warner Brothers
The monster Carol (left) is approached by a nervous Max (right) overlooking the dreamy landscape of the Land of the Wild Beasts.

Max stares into his eyes and growls. Carol laughs and says, "I like this one. There is a spark in you that can't be taught."

The others gather around Max, but they do not seem so kind. The monsters surround Max and threaten to eat him, but the power of his childlike imagination stops them dead

in their tracks.

Max tells the monsters that he has the power to make their heads explode and he is a king in his homeland.

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Hard-hitting questions for Homecoming



Katie Phillips
Homecoming Queen



Desmond Yates
Homecoming King

We caught Homecoming Queen Katie Phillips and Homecoming King Desmond Yates after being crowned and had them discuss how it feels to be elected, what they plan on doing in the future, the traditions of Homecoming and the lack of response to this year's Homecoming elections.



Listen to the MTSU Sidelines interview with Katie Phillips and Desmond Yates podcast online at MTSUSidelines.com/multimedia

Volleyball sweeps LA

Weekend Sun Belt wins extend MT streak

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

Blue Raider volleyball swept the Bayou State with a perfect-scoring weekend, besting UL-Lafayette and UL-Monroe in Sun Belt conference play.

The team extended their winning streak to seven matches after winning over Louisiana-Monroe on Saturday.

On Friday, MT butted heads against the Ragin' Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette. Sophomore Stacy Oladinni and junior Izabela Kozon helped to lead the team to their first 3-0 win of the weekend.

Kozon added to the team tally of 51 kills by scoring 15 kills on the night with a .257 hitting percentage, closely followed by Oladinni's 14. Senior outside hitter Ashley Mead posted 10 kills of her own.

Oladinni paced the team with her .772 hitting percentage, and took just one error in 18 attempts.

MT trailed just once in the first set, when a ball handling

error by senior Leslie Clark gave the serve back to the Cajuns. But the lead was short lived, as a Mead kill would put the Blue Raiders back in the lead for the eventual 25-21 win.

UL-Lafayette came out fighting in the second set, and would stay in the game throughout the set. MT trailed 25-24 late in the set, but a block by Mead and Yancey would clinch the win and the 2-0 lead.

The team would use the momentum from the first two wins and carry it to their third, a 25-16 blowout.

The Blue Raiders immediately followed up their first weekend win with another, by travelling to Louisiana-Monroe on Saturday.

The team posted a .451 hitting percentage in the match, the highest for the team all season. MT knocked down 52 kills with just 11 errors in 91 total attempts.

Janay Yancey led the team with 12 kills and a .733 attack percentage. The senior garnered just one error in 15 attempts.

Mead had another great

match, posting 10 kills of her own with just two errors, earning a .444 hitting percentage.

The first set belonged to the Blue Raiders, who never let the Warhawks above ten points. The set would end with MT ahead 25-10.

The second set did not get off to as good of a start for the Blue Raiders, but the team would recover in time to cap off the set with a 25-19 win.

The Blue Raiders led the way again in the third set, taking a 25-14 win and polishing off another perfect match in Sun Belt conference play. MT held ULM (0-12 SBC) to just 23 kills for a .099 hitting percentage. No Warhawk scored double-digit kills.

Stephanie Wardach led the ULM offense with seven kills, while Meghan McCoy garnered 18 assists.

The Blue Raiders had Sunday off, and will return to action tonight at 7 p.m., to face off against division leader, the New Orleans Privateers. For results from the match, log on to mtsusidelines.com.

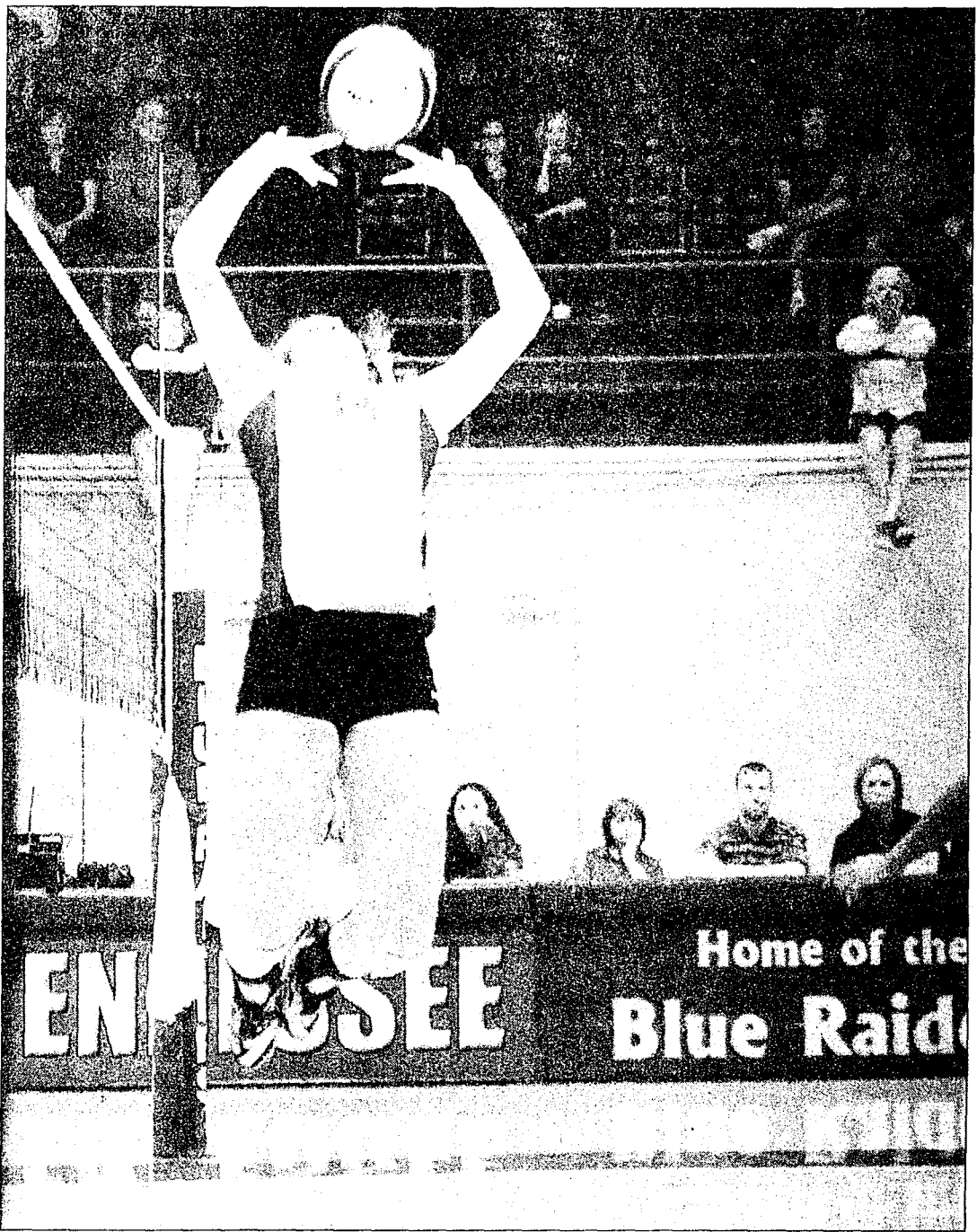


Photo by Alex Trineff, staff photographer
Senior Leslie Clark bumps and sets for a teammate while playing Denver at the Alumni Memorial Gym.

SOCCER FROM PAGE 6

Perlman redirected the ball to the far right post, but Blue Raider Elisabeth Sikes was able to stray the ball away and keep the game tied at nil.

Both teams' goalkeepers played excellent games, and the scoreless match was forced into overtime.

The first of two ten-minute overtime periods saw both teams attempt a score twice, but neither succeeded. At the start of the second, both teams began to show fatigue and could not come up with the score.

A trio of fouls—two on MT,

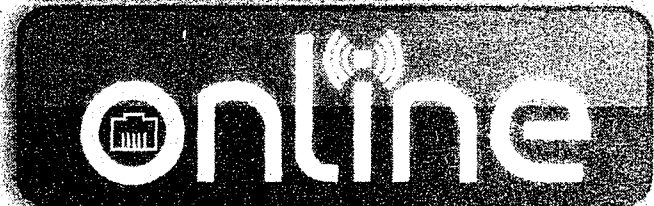
one for the Mean Green—hailed the end of the second overtime and caused the tie.

The Blue Raiders will hosted their final home match of the 2009 season on Sunday against Denver. The Pioneers have won five of their last six games against conference teams like Troy and South Alabama. Their most

recent contest, a 2-0 win over Western Kentucky, saw goal-keep Lara Campbell save five would-be scores, and four players attempt to score, with two succeeding.

The match at the Dean Hayes Soccer and Track Stadium will be the last road match for Denver before returning home to host North Texas.

To read more, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Sophomore midfielder/forward Luisa Moscoso looks for a shot around a Florida Atlantic defender.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Editor selection interviews will be held the week of Nov. 9

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SPORTS

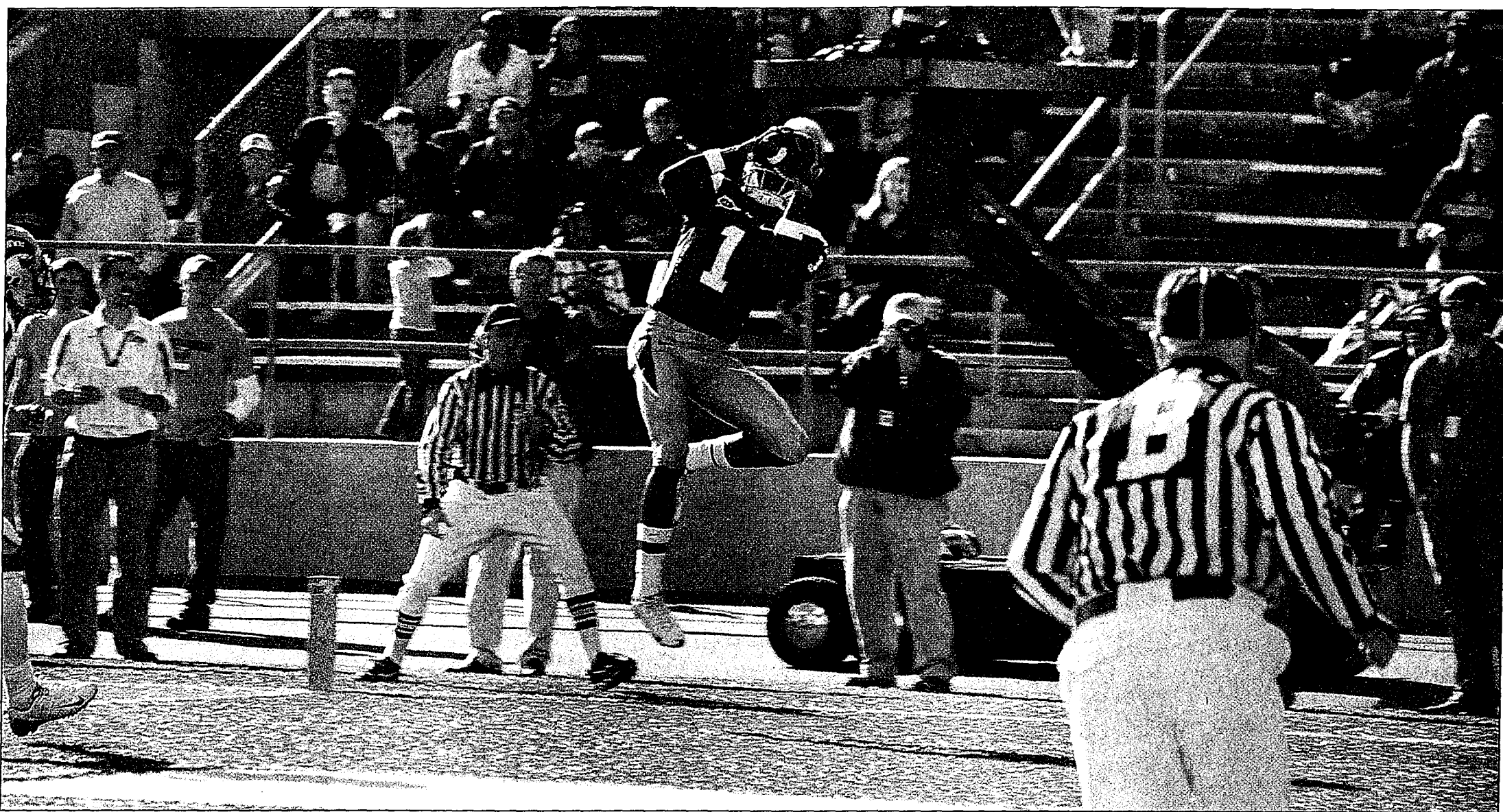


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Senior wide receiver Chris McClover reaches for one of his two touchdown receptions against the WKU Hilltoppers. MT trounced the Hilltoppers 62-24, the most points ever earned under head coach Rick Stockstill.

Blue Raiders host Homecoming smash

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders, led by junior quarterback Dwight Dasher, crushed the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers 62-24 at Floyd Stadium Saturday to cap an exciting Homecoming week. "I thought we played with great passion and toughness," said head coach Rick Stockstill. "That was what we preached coming into this week, to be physical on both sides of the ball."

MT opened the game slowly, allowing the Hilltoppers to take an early lead. After 30 yards of penalties on two pass interference calls, kicker Casey Tinius was put into position to hit a 37-yard field goal.

The Blue Raiders would respond with a drive that led to sophomore kicker Alan Gendreau nailing a 37-yard field goal.

MT would never look back, as the Blue Raiders controlled the rest of the action with an offensive explosion in the second quarter, starting at the 14:40 mark with Dasher hitting Chris McClover for a 23-yard touchdown pass.

The defense wasted little time, forcing a three-and-out to get the ball back for

Dasher to hit Harold Turner across the middle, who sprinted past the WKU secondary after the catch for a 52-yard touchdown.

"They showed me a lot," Dasher said. "My receivers can step into traffic and make plays, and what they can do after they make the catch."

MT continued to dominate the quarter with Dasher finding McClover again at 8:09 for a 34-yard touchdown, and running it in from a yard out for another score, giving the Blue Raiders a 31-3 lead.

"I thought we executed well," Stockstill said. "We made some plays and we simplified things offensively and I think it helped."

WKU shocked the MT defense on the last play of the second quarter with a 42-yard Hail Mary pass deflected right into the arms of Hilltopper receiver Jake Gaebler to make the halftime score 31-10.

The Hilltoppers were able to put an additional 14 points on the board in the second half once the second and third team defense was on the field, but MT stayed on the attack, driving to start the half to set up Gendreau for a 29-yard field goal, further extending his perfect kicking streak.

The ensuing kickoff resulted

in a WKU fumble recovered by the Blue Raiders, immediately resulting in a 49-yard touchdown run by freshman cornerback Kenneth Gilstrap to establish a commanding 41-10 lead.

The Hilltoppers took advantage of the removal of the defensive starters with drives resulting in a four-yard run by quarterback Kawaun Jakes and another Gaebler reception from quarterback Brandon Smith.

Dasher finished 22-35 with a career-high 421 yards of total offense, 355 coming through the air and 66 on the ground, with five total touchdowns.

"When you have a quarterback that is as dangerous [on] his feet as he is with his arm, he's awful hard to defend," Stockstill said.

"He's a tough guy to defend because he's so dynamic with his feet and when he's fundamentally sound he can do what he did today."

McClover and Turner had six passes each, and both receivers broke the century-mark in yards, reaching 149 and 113, respectively.

As a team, the Blue Raiders dominated the Hilltoppers with 646 yards of total offense to WKU's 250.

MT committed no turnovers while forcing four, a large reason the Blue Raiders

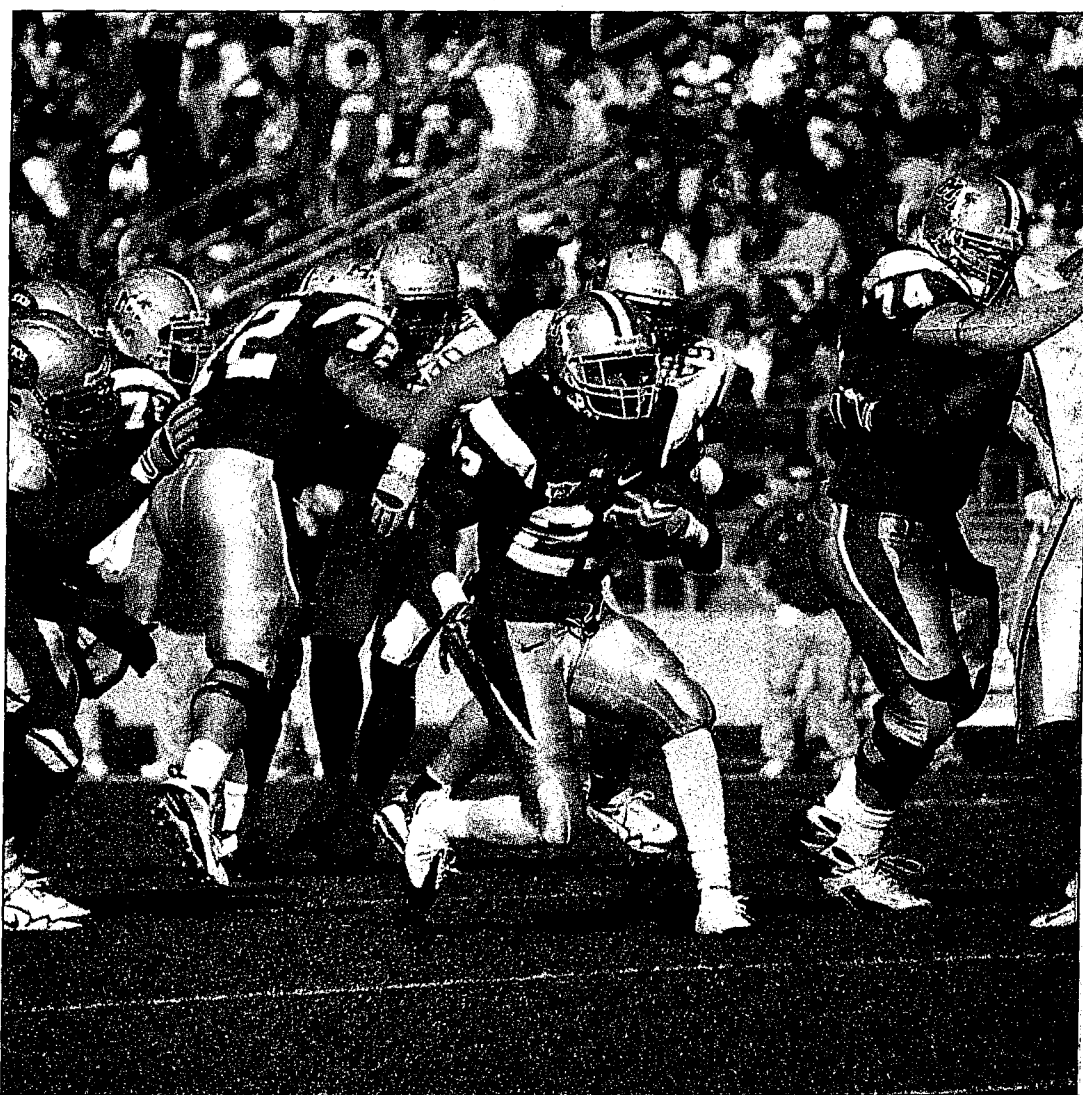


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

Sophomore running back D.D. Kyles sprints down the field for his touchdown against WKU on Saturday.

were so dominant.

The 62-point score marks the most points MT has scored under Stockstill.

MT improves its record to

4-3, while WKU falls to 0-7 in their first year at the Football Bowl Subdivision level.

The Blue Raiders will travel to Boca Raton, Fla. next week

to meet Florida Atlantic University, while the Hilltoppers will travel to Denton, Texas to face the University of North Texas.

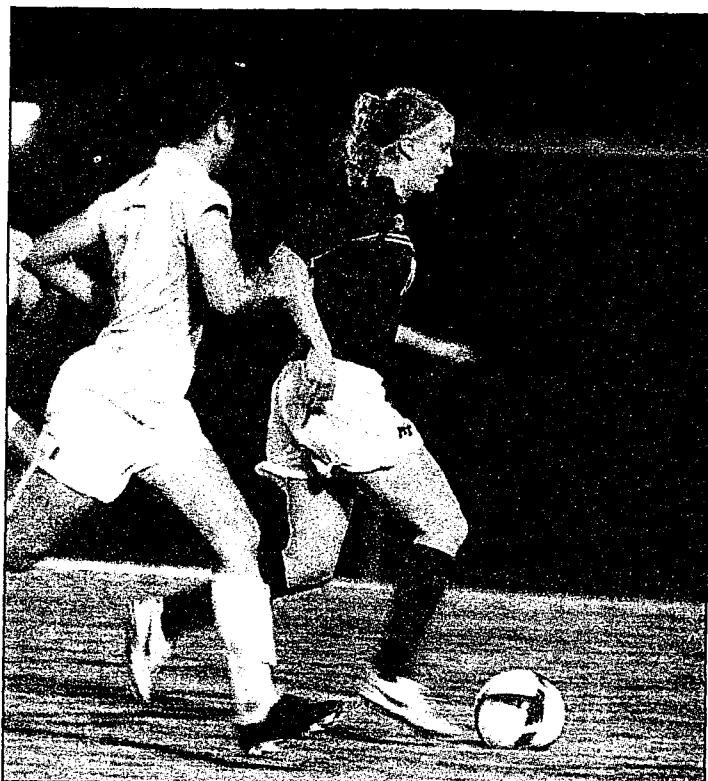


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Whitney Jorgenson, a freshman midfielder, drives the ball down the field against Florida International University. MT won the 2-0 match.

Defensive standout causes tie

MT soccer keeps match scoreless against Mean Green

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders and their North Texas guests reached a stalemate on Friday night after the double-overtime match at the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium.

The two teams battled back and forth for much of the game and eventually settled for a tie.

North Texas led the league coming into the match on Friday with an 11-4-2 record, (7-0-2 Sun Belt).

"We played a very good North Texas team," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "I

think we played a very solid first half and had our opportunities."

They played a very good second half and had their opportunities. We have to regroup and be sure to put two solid halves together."

The Blue Raiders took the lead in the first half, keeping much of the momentum through the first 45.

Senior forward Jen Threlkeld took a shot a 10:21, but that kick swung wide right of the goal. The team would continue the effort throughout the first period, with attempts by Thelkeld, freshman midfielder Whit-

ney Jorgenson and sophomore forward Shan Jones.

Jorgenson's cross, from the left side, was the best hope of the period for scoring. The ball was deflected off the back heel of a NT defender but was then saved by the Mean Green's goalie Mandy Hall to prevent the score with 27 minutes remaining in the half.

The second period showed a refreshed North Texas team. The Mean Green would attempt their first score at 51:45, with Julie Lackey taking a high shot that sailed over the nets.

The attack would continue at 58:11, with a shot from NT's Ellen Scarfone. MT goalie Rebecca Cushing was the only save for the Blue Raiders.

The main battle in the later period continued to be between the North Texas offense and the MT defensive efforts. The Mean Green's best chance came with 5:30 left in regulation, as Kelli Lunsford sent a corner flyer to the box, which found the head of teammate Kelsey Perlman.