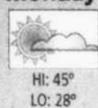
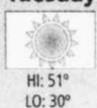


Monday

HI: 45°
LO: 28°

Tuesday

HI: 51°
LO: 30°

Campus royalty comes highly decorated

page 3



South Carolina romps Middle Tennessee

page 8

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

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Editorially independent

SGA may impeach at-large senator

By Kristen Teffeteller

Staff Writer

Richard: senators shouldn't be "coerced" to resign

By Wesley Murchison (Campus Administration News Editor)

The Internal Affairs Committee of the Student Government Association Senate was ordered last Thursday to look into the possible impeachment of Senator At-Large Ryan Richards for truancy.

If a senator misses two consecutive, unexcused Senate meetings or a total of three unexcused meetings, that senator can be subject to an impeachment and removed from office, according to SGA Senate bylaws.

In the past, senators that have made impeachable offenses are asked to resign quietly for the sake of SGA, according to Megan Flippin, vice president of Administration and Public Affairs.

Richards pleaded before the Senate to consider the circumstances of his absence. Richards explained, which was confirmed by Senator of Liberal Arts Stephen Disser, that the reason for his absences was his job campaigning during the recent midterm elections.

"I regret that I wasn't able to attend a few of our meetings due to that job, but I hope to think that since that job is now over and the election has passed I'll have much more time to do my job as a senator," Richards said. "And I ask that you

would please give me that chance."

To a question posed by Michael Crabtree, senator at-large, if he was aware that his absence would result in dismissal, Richards said that he was, but wasn't aware of how to have his absences excused.

Gretchen Jenkins, senator of Liberal Arts, praised Richards for his work during the election and his participation; however she said that the laws should be obeyed and the impeachment proceedings moved forward.

"I understand the bylaws [are] in place to keep stability and order just like any bylaws or set of regulations are," Richards said in response. "However, we are the voice of the student body,

"How many of our senators were basically coerced to have to resign due to our bylaws?" said Richards in reference to the resignation of four senators earlier this month.

Josh McKenzie, Executive Vice President and House Speaker, told Richards that the resignation of those senators were due to their personal choices, health reasons and conflict of scheduling with Senate meetings.

Resolution Number 21-06-F passed by a vote of 19 to 6 to create a committee of five senators, Bess Rickman, Megan Stacey, Monica Wiggins, Wil Shults and Jessica Turri, to investigate if Richards should be impeached.

The committee will report their results

to the Senate and decide whether or not to pursue impeachment. Gene Fitch, dean of Student Life and associate vice president for Student Affairs, said that the committee could determine that the impeachment is not necessary. Fitch is also the faculty adviser to SGA.

If impeached, Richards will be punished according to the guidelines in the SGA Constitution Article 9, Section 3, Letter C, which states that "Any officer who has been removed from office pursuant to Article IX, Section 2 shall not be permitted to hold any office or serve in any other capacity within the Student Government Association for the remainder of their attendance at this institution."

Movement rises to axe 'Forrest' from Hall



Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director Forrest Hall

Students petition to change name of Hall

By Andy Harper and Manda Turner

Campus Life Editor and Opinions Editor

Recently a group of students have named a petition to change the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest Hall, the building occupied by the ROTC program.

The Students Against Forrest Hall, began with a few students sitting in the Keathley University Center cafeteria, discussing political activism in college.

"Basically we were sitting in the KUC talking about how back in the day students would protest in college and how our generation has become apathetic and inactive," said Amber Perkins, senior sociology major. "We decided that instead of sitting there and talking, we wanted to do something."

Perkins said one of the students present, junior Lola Simpson, mentioned Forrest Hall was named after a Confederate general.

"She said that he was the first Grand Wizard of the Klu Klux Klan," Perkins said. "We immediately wrote a petition and started walking around the KUC to get signatures, we also started a Facebook group."

After starting a petition and gathering a base of students, the group was unsure about what to do, Perkins said. Rumors were that the university had no control over the naming of Forrest Hall, but rights to the name belonged to the United States Army.

"The building was built in 1954," said Lt. Col. Michael Walsh. "An agreement was made in the 60s between the university and the army. The contract specifies responsibilities between the university and the army in dealing with the building."

According to the contract, the university will provide janitorial services and maintenance to Forrest Hall. The army will commission officers and be responsible for equipment used with the ROTC program.

"It's not unusual that something is named after a soldier," Walsh said. "Having a building

named after a successful Confederate general is okay. I know to some folks there is a strong historical value and tradition."

However, according to the office of the senior vice president, there is no stipulation in the contract giving naming rights of the building to the department of the army. The rights then fall to the university and the naming committee.

A proposal for a building name is submitted to the university naming committee, headed by John Cothorn, senior vice president, and goes through the Tennessee Board of Regents for approval.

"I think some of the biggest problems that have been encountered is that many groups often have a problem with the symbols but don't offer up any solution beyond just removing the names," said Derek Frisby, history professor.

Frisby, who specializes in Tennessee and Civil War history, said a better idea would be to start an annual lecture series to discuss race, Civil War issues and symbolism.

"I respect the students for what they're trying to do," Frisby said. "I just don't think that at this point it's a feasible idea. I think it's much more feasible to start talking about it and engage students in a conversation about race and memory than just concentrate on just taking names off of buildings."

Students Against Forrest Hall thinks the name is a symbol of racism, despite historical significance, Perkins said.

"The name is negative and shouldn't be honored and revered as people do when they put someone's name on a building," Perkins said. "The fact of the matter is outside of the KKK, before he got

See Petition, 2

Policy for naming buildings at MTSU

General Statement for Naming Buildings:

"The naming of buildings, facilities, grounds and organizational units of institutions for individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to society is an honored tradition of higher education."

TBR controls naming of main buildings, like Forrest Hall, and MTSU controls naming of sub-buildings or building additions, like the Albert Gore Sr. Research Center, a section of Todd Hall.

Criteria for Naming Buildings:

Special consideration is given to:

- The historical significance of the contribution of the individual or group to the institution or area school.
- The association of the individual or groups with the building being named.
- Any financial contribution of the individual or group to the institution or area school.
- State, regional, national, or international recognition of the individual's or group's contributions and achievements.

Process for Naming Buildings:

President Sidney McPhee asks a committee, headed by John Cothorn, senior vice president, to decide what to name a building, in this case, Forrest Hall.

The committee will include students, faculty and administration and they will consider all of the above criteria and name suggestions.

Once approved, a proposal will be submitted to McPhee and to TBR for approval.

Information Obtained from TBR Policy 4.02:05:01

SGA passes Forrest resolution

By Wesley Murchison

Campus Administration Editor News

The Student Government Association overwhelmingly passed a resolution to rename Forrest Hall by a vote of 19 to 5.

Forrest Hall is the building used by ROTC and was named after the Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Along with his role in the United States Civil War, Forrest was a slave trader in Memphis, the first Grand Wizard of the original Ku Klux Klan and made his fortune by slave labor during the 19th century, according to Steven Disser, senator for College of Liberal Arts and sponsor of the resolution.

"I know a lot of people are going to say that it goes back to our history, but look at the other things he has attributed to his name," Disser said on the senate floor. "He was the first grand wizard of a terrorist organization."

The resolution came to SGA by a petition com-

plied by a temporary activist group called Students Against Forrest Hall. SGA policy states that any student can introduce legislation before the senate if it is backed by a petition of no less than 50 students. Students Against Forrest Hall had a petition of 205 students.

As one of the voters against the resolution, Gretchen Jenkins earlier asked the senate to consider the resolution to be presented to the student body as a referendum.

Jenkins said that she voted against the resolution because 205 students is not a majority percentage of the student body.

"But I don't think that this is something we should decide on today," Jenkins said. "I think if we are going to do this it should be a bill before the whole student body to vote on."

In response, Lauren Simpson, senator for Mass

See SGA, 2

Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Historical Perspective

though many in Washington D.C. used the story in order to convince President Abraham Lincoln to adopt harsher policies toward Southern readmission into the Union.

After the war, Forrest was left destitute. In 1867, the Ku Klux Klan elected Forrest its only Grand Wizard. What had begun as a social club for CSA veterans had evolved into a terrorist-like organization intent on disenfranchising voters, both white and black, and in removing former Union-sympathizers from power. In 1869, Forrest ordered the Klan be disbanded, stating it had accomplished its objectives, and its methods were growing increasingly, and inappropriately, violent. The Klan disbanded in 1871, though another, separate organization was created in 1915, and still exists today.

Forrest converted to Christianity near the end of his life and died in 1877 in Memphis.

ured the Murfreesboro garrison and its supplies in July of 1862, before fleeing it to the Union Army later that year at the Battle of Stones River.

In 1864, Maj. Gen. Forrest commanded CSA forces at Fort Pillow, a West Tennessee Union garrison. Forrest demanded the garrison's commander surrender, giving a guarantee that all men, including black soldiers, would be taken as prisoners of war. The commander refused, and Forrest ordered the attack. What happened afterward is still disputed. The Union Army reported that the CSA troops acted with unwarranted hostility, massacring the garrison's soldiers after they had surrendered. Confederate records indicate that the Union flag still flew over the fort, and that the Union troops feigned surrender to attack the Confederate troops again. An investigation by the U.S. War Department, led by Gen. William T. Sherman did not find any fault in Forrest,

Students competing in shrinking job market



Photo by Tasha Biddle | Staff Photographer
Calvin Mackie tells how he overcame educational deficiencies in reading and math to receive a doctorate degree in engineering.

By Wesley Murchison
Campus Administration News Editor

The real American Dream is the dream for parents to see their children do better than they do, but for African Americans that dream is becoming harder to provide in an increasingly competitive world, according to one engineer scholar.

"Right now, there is a little kid in China, a little kid in India, studying under the cloak of darkness waiting for the opportunity to kick your behind, and it is not even personal," Calvin Mackie said to a room full of undergraduate students last Friday at the Holiday Inn off Old Fort Parkway.

Mackie, who holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering and is the winner of the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, was this year's afternoon keynote speaker for the fourth annual Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Undergraduate Research Conference.

"Something's wrong when one generation in America is doing worse than the previous one, because that's the

whole meaning of America," Mackie added later in the speech.

The subject of focus this year was improving diversity in the fields of mathematics, science, technology and engineering. Students attending were encouraged to continue their education to the highest level of academia.

Mackie challenged the students to succeed so that others after them will have roll models to follow.

"There are a whole lot of kids in your neighborhood, a whole of kids in your family who need you to be the first example of what is possible," Mackie said.

TLSAMP is a statewide program to increase minority students in the math and sciences by 100 percent enrollment and graduation in five years. According to Barbara Knox, director of the MTSU Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance, TLSAMP has not yet met their goal and plans to ally for another grant to extend the program another five years.

In his speech, Mackie gave a bleary-eyed, realist's view of the challenges that black students face in a global economy as more international students are getting their education in the

United States.

"Ninety-Seven percent of students at Tulane [University in New Orleans] in my department are foreign nationals," Mackie said. "I can't even fight to get you in the door. Nobody wants you, [and] that's a hard pill to swallow."

He also pin-pointed the specific struggles that many black youths face when it comes to the allure of pursuing the glitz and glamour of celebrity success in music and film or the fame of sports.

He talked about his own loss when his shoulder was dislocated and he was told by doctors that he would never play basketball again. From then on, Mackie said he dedicated himself to a new dream of becoming an engineer.

Earlier that day, students listened to a speech by Charles Manning, chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents, who spoke about the significance of their success and the burden to strive further.

"Do you realize how special you are?" Manning said. "First of all, you are in Tennessee and in college. Beyond that you are in science, engineering or math - that's special. You're African

American - that's special. And if you are a male that is incredibly special."

Manning's remarks were not meant to be sexist, but spoke to the lack of black males in the science and engineering professions.

Along with Mackie's and Manning's speech, the audience heard from a panel of current graduate and doctoral students about why they chose to continue their education, the hardships they have endured and the rewards that have come from the experience.

"It has everything to do with it from the standpoint that you hear a lot about the lack of minorities, especially African Americans, in numerous fields - most of those fields have a science or technology base to them," said panelist Leonard Jameson, who is pursuing his doctorate in geophysics at the University of Memphis.

Other speakers and visitors to the conference included State Representative John Hood, Murfreesboro City Councilman Ron Washington and Executive Vice President and Provost for MTSU Kaylene Gebert.

New senators to take office immediately

Four of nine vacancies filled

By Wesley Murchison
Campus Admin. News Editor

Four new Student Government Association senators were approved Thursday in the first steps toward filling nine vacant Senate seats.

Tiffany Grey will be an at-large senator, Bradeon Kehoe will represent Basic and Applied Sciences, Vogan Thompson will represent undeclared students and Tripp Arnold will represent Graduate Studies.

One other potential senator, Felisha Cook of Education and Behavioral Science, was not confirmed due to her absence at Thursday's meeting.

SGA President Jay Cash nominated the appointees, and the Senate convened to confirm them Nov. 2, but agreed they could not make a decision without hearing from the candidates personally.

To satisfy the Senate's request, each candidate addressed the governing body in Thursday's meeting.

"When I work with you guys, I hope to be able to do more of this for the students," Grey told Senate about her experience with New Soul, a project that included Multicultural Affairs and guests from Memphis to encourage students to finish

there college education. "That is mainly my goal is to, in anyway I can, encourage the students, you know, to actually graduate."

The primary criteria used to select the appointees were their availability to attend Senate meetings, their willingness to work with the Senate and their experience with the university, Cash said.

"I would like to give them the opportunity to find out really what they want to do with their lives," said Vogan Thompson of why he wanted to be a senator for undeclared students. "[Because] I know I don't right now, and I would like to [give them] the opportunity to find out what they want to do."

The new senators replace four who resigned due to schedule conflicts, health issues and personal choices. An additional seat may be vacated if the Senate moves to impeach At-Large Senator Ryan Richards.

Cash did not attend Thursday's meeting, but mentioned in the previous meeting that he wanted these appointments to be approved before the semester ends.

There was very little debate or questions posed to the appointees except for general support and recommendations for the new senators.

Petition: Students call for change

Continued from 1

associated with it, Forrest was still a slave owner and a general for the Confederate Army.

A few suggestions on a new name for the building have been talked about amongst the group, Perkins said.

"Some people have said it should just be named the standards 'Veterans' Hall and others have suggested dedicating it to MTSU ROTC students who have died in war," Perkins said.

After a Student Government Association resolution to change the building's name passed Thursday with a vote of 19 to 5, Perkins said Students Against Forrest Hall is going to become more active with their campaign.

"The goal of our petition now is 3,000 signatures," Perkins said. "We plan on setting up tables in the KUC, to get more people to sign and send letters to school administration like the president

and Gene Fitch."

The group plans to try and solve the problem internally as a campus, Perkins said, without attracting major media attention.

"We are definitely going to go full force," Perkins said. "We might protest, though we don't really want to draw a lot of media and we don't want to make the campus look bad. Mostly we will try to work closely with the SGA."

Although the resolution was passed by the SGA, the process for a name change is still a long process involving campus administration and the TBR.

"You're traveling down a slippery slope when you start erasing history like this," Frisby said. "I think a better way, rather than erasing names off of buildings, is to use it in a more positive manner to promote understanding of racial issues and the idea of what the civil war means in terms of American memory."

SGA: Legislation passes Senate

Continued from 1

Communication, said that putting the issue as a referendum to the students would take too long and that the petition is evidence that the students at MTSU want the named change.

"Why wait so long when it has been on there long enough," Simpson said.

Resolution Number 19-06-F says that the name of Forrest Hall will be removed and that the new name should be decided on by university administration, and "should represent an individual whom has significant contributions to MTSU."

After being passed by the Senate, the resolution must be approved by SGA President Jay

Cash and reviewed by Vice President for Student Affairs Bob Glenn before being sent as a formal request to be considered by administrators.

The responsibility of naming buildings falls under the control of the Naming Committee that is headed by Senior Vice President John Cothorn. While there is no specific policy on removing a name, there is university policy, which is exactly the same as the Tennessee Board of Regents policy 4:02:05:01, that stipulates the criteria that a name must be before consideration by the committee.

"To preserve the integrity of all buildings named in the system, this honor must be reserved for individuals of recognized accomplishment and character," according to the TBR policy.

History of Confederate Symbols at MTSU

According to Lisa Pruitt, Albert Gore Sr. Research Center:

1968: A petition by students was done to have the song "Dixie" and the Confederate flag removed from sporting events and other campus activities.

Post 1968: Confederate mascot based on Nathan Bedford Forrest was phased out of "Blue Raider" logo.

1989: Bronze seal depicting a "Raider" believed to be Forrest was removed from the Keathley University Center and placed at the Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. Sam Ingram was president of MTSU at the time.

According to Derek Frisby, Tennessee history professor:

1943: Middle Tennessee Normal School became Middle Tennessee State College. The newly named college held a contest for a nickname to represent sporting teams. The win-

ning name was "Blue Raiders" modeled after the "Colgate Red Raiders" and had no connotation with Forrest.

1943 to 1968: Confederate flag was flown at sporting events and the school mascot was a student dressed-up as a "Raider" which became associated with Forrest.

1989: In addition to the large bronze seal, a bust of Forrest, believed to be located in the KUC, was also removed. Whereabouts of the bust are unknown.

MTSU has had three mascots since being established as a state school: the "Raider," modeled supposedly after Forrest, "Ole Blue," a large hound dog adopted in the 60s after the "Raider" was changed, and "Lightning," established in 1998 to represent the advancement in athletic team divisions.

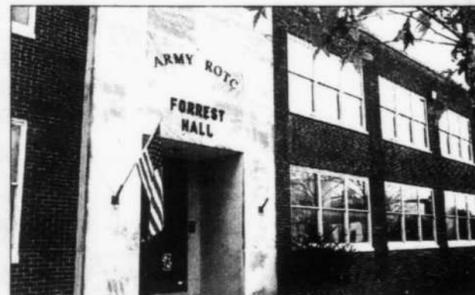


Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

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Center teaches job-networking over lunchtime

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Students can learn methods for networking and finding jobs in anticipation of graduation at the Brown Bag offered by the June Anderson Women's Center.

Meichelle Gibson, coordinator at the MTSU career and employment center, will be the guest speaker, said Terri Johnson, director of the JAWC. She will cover how to connect to the right people, job searches and how to find a job in your field.

"Students should attend because we will be discussing tools that will make their career search easier," Gibson said.

The theme of this month's Brown Bag is "Expand Your Sphere of Influence: The Nuts and Bolts of Career Networking," said Amy Lynn Larwig, senior child development and family child major and intern at the JAWC.

"I think by coming and meeting Meichelle, she can connect you to so many resources," Johnson said. "Why do things the hard way when you could get someone to help you?"

The Brown Bag series is here to give extra assistance said Gabrielle Williams, freshman mass communication major.

"You're here to find a career," Williams said. "I think the Brown Bag would give you a boost."

For seniors going out into the world an event such as this is crucial, Johnson said. It should appeal to those graduating in December.

"You can never learn enough about networking," Johnson said. "It's a small world but a very connected world."

In relation to your career, the size of your network increases the more "warm contacts" you have in your search for a job, Gibson said. In turn that decreases the amount of time it takes to secure a position.

A warm contact is someone you or someone else knows, Gibson said. A cold contact is finding a position in a paper.

The Brown Bag series has been around for several years said Mary Ann Guiliano, secretary at the JAWC.

"It's called Brown Bag because you can bring your lunch," Guiliano said.

The Women's Center works with the President's Commission to set up the Brown Bags, Guiliano said. They are created around three or four months in advance, she said. Events are given out and returned in order to find out what people would like to discuss.

There were about 10 to 15 people at the last Brown Bag, which covered the topic of crafts, said Ashley Scoby, freshman nursing major.

"It was interesting to see how different people do different crafts," Scoby said.

Most people that come to the Brown Bags are staff and students, Guiliano said. However, it is open for students, staff and faculty.

The Brown Bags are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month, Guiliano said.

This will be the last Brown Bag of the semester but there will be more next year, Johnson said.

The Brown Bag will be held in the SunTrust room in the James Union Building on Dec. 5 from noon to 1 p.m.

Students win prizes for quelling disputes

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, seven MTSU students made their way to Des Moines, Iowa for the National Interscholastic Mediation Tournament at Drake Law School, and received more awards than any other participating school.

MTSU's members of the Student Mediation Association received "All-American Honors" by being one of the top 10 mediators or attorney-client pairs. The seven included Andrea Borella, Brian Clifford, Robyn Diez, Ashley George, Jordan Sluder, Tessa Swartz and Marshall Weber. Also participating were Andrew Johnson and Candace Prewitt.

Jordan Sluder received recognition as the top mediator in the regular competition, and fourth in the championship round.

Brian Clifford and Marshall Weber took second place for the attorney-client pair in the championship round.

Mediation students study and practice skills that are needed to help people settle disputes in a non-confrontational manner

without going to court.

The students who are part of the MTSU Mediation Association not only learn the overall procedure of mediation, but they master the peace-making skills of a mediator and the special skills of an advocate for clients in mediation.

"[Mediation] taught me to resolve my problems and keep my cool," said Robyn Diez, a junior in political science. "Mediation prevents small claims courts from being filled [with cases] that could be resolved with the parties talking to each other."

Mediation also provides a way for people to express themselves adequately, which usually makes all parties concerned feel better.

During the events, judges rate individual



George

members of the team then all the scores are combined to decide the university's overall standing.

Mediation is "a good skill for everyone to have and it makes a great career," Diez said.

In seven years of national completion, MTSU students have received high recognition. They have taken first place, second place, third place and seventh place over the years.

The mediation team is for "anyone that is interested in law but, litigation does not necessarily appeal to them," said Ashley George, a senior political science major.

The department of political science, sponsors the MTSU student mediation association but membership is open to all students.



Diez

Lecture to examine disaster movies

By Josh Hudson
Staff Writer

In past months, honors lecture topics have focused on the devastation of nature and countries, and this week the effects of disasters in film will be examined.

Will Brantley, an English professor, will deliver the lecture titled "Celluloid Disaster in the 1970s."

"Disaster movies always seem to come along in times of social problems," Brantley said. "They are a way of dealing with them metaphorically."

Brantley explained that when one looks at disaster movies as a whole, it is easy to pick out the underlying political connotations of the films.

With this in mind, Brantley will provide an overview of the genre starting in the 1930s with the movie "San Francisco" and con-

clude with more recent releases such as "United 93" and "World Trade Center."

Brantley will also cover movies from the 1970s which include the "Poseidon Adventure," "The Towering Inferno" and "Jaws," a group of films, he explained, that all deal with class issues.

The lecture will also cover movies released around the turn of the millennium such as "Deep Impact" and "Armageddon."

According to Brantley, these two movies represent opposing perspectives in dealing with disasters.

"Armageddon" represents a more conservative approach with a man going up to the meteor as part of a military operation to destroy it, ultimately ending with the leader of the group sacrificing himself for the greater good of humanity. "It is a more

militaristic approach," said Brantley.

On the other hand, "Deep Impact" takes a liberal perspective, giving the United States a black president, sending a multi-cultural crew up to the meteor to destroy it, and ends with the earth in relative ruins. The ending is a sort of rise-and-overcome moral that shows people moving forward in their lives despite disaster.

In addition to this, Brantley will also touch on the story of the Titanic and the evolution of the genre of movies up to the 1997 film, which is the highest grossing movie ever released.

Disaster films originated in the 1930s from a need to document such events, as well as the spectacle associated with the films, Brantley said.

"Essentially, a disaster film involves nature somehow out of

control and an ensemble cast coming together to confront the disaster with scenes of destruction, self-sacrifice, and panic," Brantley said, explaining that the movies also tend to rely heavily on special effects.

Brantley holds a doctorate in English from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and has taught at Georgia Tech and the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is the author of "Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir," which won the 1992 Eudora Welty Prize and "Conversations with Pauline Kael." He recently edited an updated edition of "Now is the Time" by Lillian Smith.

The lecture will be held Monday at 3 p.m. in the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building, Room 103.

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Hasty Forrest decision causes more problems than it solves

A recent proposal passed in the Student Government Association that proposes to change the name of the campus ROTC building. The building, named for Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, recently came under fire from a temporary activist group called Students Against Forrest Hall. The group says it takes issue with the building being named after Forrest due to his role in the Confederate Army, as well as citing his involvement in the Ku Klux Klan and his ownership of slaves. The petition and proposal hope to pacify students who believe that the name and memory of Forrest represent racism and negativity.

The group managed to acquire the necessary 50 signatures to be considered on the SGA ballot, though the information circulated on their Facebook group was certainly less than accurate.

Forrest's name was chosen using the criteria set out by the building naming committee, and, therefore, has violated no rules. The building is a military building, and, as such, was named for a native Tennessean of historical importance, who was renowned for his brilliant military tactics and his dedication to his home. However, as Shakespeare wrote, "The evil that men do lives long after their deaths, and the good is oft interred with their bones." The students claim the negative association with Forrest far outweighs his positive memory.

However, when is it acceptable to begin removing history from campus based only on a few students' objections, which are themselves based on half-truths, misinformation, and the admitted desire to just get out and stir up controversy on campus? Is it fair to say, then, that these signatures truly represent the general ideology as a whole?

Perhaps a better answer would be to really discuss the issues the building may represent for some. The manner in which this decision was attempted and made was both hasty and unbalanced. When a decision is made with no debate and no discussion, it cannot possibly represent all of the viewpoints and emotions caught up in an issue this complex. It is a slippery slope, and opens up too many avenues of dissent, with no hope for a positive solution.



Frank Hasenmueller

Iraq nation's bad dream come true

President George W. Bush seems to be living in a fantasy land where Iraq is on the road to peace, the average U.S. citizen is prosperous and happy and candy canes grow out of the White House lawn. Nothing, not an election he helped run into the ground for his fellow Republicans, nor the line of individuals and groups Democrats have lined up on Capitol Hill to suggest new strategies for bringing Iraq's civil war under control, nor his dismal approval rating on his handling of the country, can seem to convince him to think otherwise.

The latest example of the president's candy-coated dream comes to us from Vietnam, known to most Americans as the last place our foreign policy blew up in our government's face. President Bush joins leaders from around Southeast Asia for an economic summit in Hanoi that is equal parts discussion of the economic successes and problems of the region and opportunity for the Vietnamese government to tell the world "Hey, we're not as bad as you think we are," as they prepare to become the 150th member of the World Trade Organization.

People have been making comparisons between the failed war to stop Vietnamese communists, led by Ho Chi Minh, and the current conflict in Iraq for almost as long as we've had troops on the ground there. President Bush took a moment after arriving in Hanoi to tell everyone that the lesson we've all learned is that Vietnam proves that it takes time for freedom to trump hatred.

Freedom? Where exactly in Vietnam is the president, anyway? The country's economy is certainly freer than it was 25 years ago. The communist government remains the sole voice of authority in Vietnam, however, and sweeps



Fair And Unalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

anyone who argues otherwise out of sight. Security in Hanoi has been increased for the conference to keep anyone who might want to start a protest from bothering the thousands of visitors pouring in to praise the country's successes.

Even setting the political situation in Vietnam aside, President Bush has little to draw from in his visit to spin in favor of the war. Not only is Vietnam a conflict we eventually lost all control of, but the situation in that country bears little similarity to the one in Iraq. In Vietnam, the communists overwhelmed the South Vietnamese government, uniting the country as one state under their rule. In Iraq, however, Shi'a and Sunni factions are pulling the country apart out of their mistrust of each other, destabilizing national unity.

In fact, the only constant in both conflicts is that the United States is seen as an invading enemy promoting the dominance of one faction over the other.

The president has done little to show that he is serious about changing strategies or developing a plan for completing the nation's goal of establishing a stable, strong and democratic government in Iraq. The military's leadership

had changed, but the president has essentially given the Iraq Study Group a 'wait and see' response, as have other members of his administration.

Developing a solution - or, at the very least, a better plan - to the problems we face in Iraq isn't something we should be sitting on our hands about. Withdrawing troops, partitioning the country or increasing our numbers in Iraq in order to more rapidly train their army may or may not be the right choice for what we should do next. Having an over-arching strategy at all, however, is much preferable to our current policy of staying the course, even if President Bush has decided not to use that phrase anymore.

There are often a number of benefits in looking to the past to see what should be done about the future. Wise people - and nations, for that matter - learn from their mistakes and pledge to do better. If we do look back, however, we must be willing to see the past for what it is and learn from all of our failures, however painful and humbling it might be to do so.

Freedom does indeed take time to triumph over hatred and division. Freedom cannot flourish, however, in an environment where one power is seen as dominating all others. The United States has managed to change regimes in Iraq; now, it must change attitudes. Accomplishing that will require President Bush to wake up from his fantasy and confront the reality of a broken policy.

Matthew Adair is a senior art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

Don't let divisions ruin holiday spirit

Is there really something so offensive about a jolly, fat man in a fur trimmed, red suit?

Some people think so.

For years, the debate over what is acceptable for stores and organizations to say or not say during the holiday season has been heated. Should they honor the majority of Americans who buy Christmas trees, fight over the latest video game consoles or Tickle-Me-Elmo knock-offs and sing "Jingle Bells" off-key after one too many glasses of eggnog? Or should they respect the religious minorities, venturing out into the merciless winter shopping season in a fruitless search for Hanukkah candles or Kwanzaa unity-cups?

After national obsession over political correctness, it seems our country is reverting back to its "Merry Christmas" roots. It's not called the nonspecific "holidays" it's Christmas, and stores want the right to say it.

This year, Wal-Mart abandoned its "happy holidays" policy. "We had so many people from different walks [of life] that we didn't want to leave anybody out," said Tim Fox, manager of the Wal-Mart SuperCenter on Old Fort Parkway. "But some people felt alienated, so we changed it back."

Understandable. After all, Murfreesboro's Christian population is the overwhelming majority. Chances are, nine out of 10 people checking out at Wal-Mart would expect a "Merry Christmas." They might even be a little offended if denied their well-wishes. However, why have a company policy at all? Why not just leave it up to the individual workers' good judgment to gage when a "Merry Christmas" or a more generic "Happy Holidays" is appropriate? Local Target's store leader, Janet Ellis has this same notion: "Whatever our team members feel comfortable with, they can say."

Last year, President George W. Bush sent out Christmas cards to 1.4 million of his closest friends and supporters. Contrary to what might be assumed of the self-proclaimed born-again, evangelical Christian, Bush wished them a "happy holiday season."

OK, maybe the president was feeling a little politically correct that day. Maybe, for once, he want-



Kvetch A Break

Sarah Lavery
Staff Columnist

ed to not single out those that might adopt different beliefs. Maybe his advisors told him it was a smart idea. Whatever his motivation, it's obvious such a seemingly minute problem can tap into a very touchy issue.

This clearly demonstrates that the Bush administration has suffered a loss of will and that they have capitulated to the worst elements in our culture," William A. Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, told the *Washington Post* last year.

Last year, pro-Christmas coalitions popped up all over the country. 800 attorneys formed the conservative Alliance Defense Fund to support the Christmas Project. Its slogan: "Merry Christmas. It's OK to say it."

Evangelical Christian pastor Jerry Falwell put the power of his 24,000-member congregation behind the "Friend or Foe Christmas Campaign," promising to file suit against anyone spreading what it saw as misinformation about how Christmas can be celebrated in public spaces.

I'm Jewish, and I'm a proud supporter of Chrismakkuh. Whenever the opportunity to unite people of differing faiths arises, I'm all for it. Why is there such a rush to divide people so harshly when it comes to this season? Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist - everyone loves a little holiday cheer. Why can't we, instead of bothering with the taxing mindset that only one belief is right, embrace every one and their differing traditions?

Next time you hear someone say "Merry Christmas," "Happy Holidays" or "Good Winter Solstice," maybe you should recognize that, deep down, all they're saying is "Have a great month!"

Is that really so bad?

Sarah Lavery is a sophomore mass communication major and can be reached at scl2s@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Consider what Forrest represents as symbol

To the Editor:

When we see a cross, we automatically associate it with Christianity, due to the correlation it shares with Jesus. We relate stars and stripes with the United States, and the confederate flag with the Confederacy. What do all of these symbols have in common?

They all have a history with what they epitomize. When we pay homage to someone we should bear in mind what they represent as well. Recently, I became aware that Forrest Hall was named after Nathan Bedford Forrest, one of the most innovative and successful Confederate generals. To many Southerners, I can see how that alone would be enough to revere Forrest. However, the battle of Fort Pillow is also part of the Forrest legacy. This battle tarnished the reputation of Forrest tremendously, due to the controversy of whether Forrest condoned or simply conducted the massacre of surrendered African American soldiers. Although, the fact remains that after the Fort Pillow Massacre, Abraham Lincoln, demanded the Confederates treat captured black Union soldiers as prisoners of war, which gives legitimacy to the claim.

In short, the question is this. What does Forrest represent? Since we have a building named after him, I think that it is imperative to discover the answer. We often know people by their history. Forrest has a history of being an innovative Confederate general, a slave trader and the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. Therefore, if you support the ROTC being named after this man out of reverence, be cognizant of just what you are supporting.

You are not just a proponent of Forrest, but what he symbolizes as well; the inequality, racism, immorality and oppression which Forrest imposed. If you advocate these qualities, by all means, keep the building as is - just be aware that by condoning it, you are condoning these qualities as well.

Torry Campbell
Junior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Name change would show a belief in equality

To the Editor:

What is a terrorist? A terrorist is an individual or a group who strives to put fear into the hearts of the innocent. Many people believe that extremists in the Middle East are the only face of terrorism, thanks to Sept. 11, 2001 and the media. Al-Qaeda and those like it are not the only terrorists around. Terrorism does not originate from a certain religion; it comes in various forms. Some are not aware that we have terrorists at home; in fact, we have a building named after such a person right here at MTSU.

This terrorist was a man named Nathan Bedford Forrest, and his name has graced the front of our ROTC building since 1958. Why is he a terrorist? He was the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan; a group known for threatening the lives of American blacks and non-whites. His acceptance into the Klan was not his only loathsome act. He had made some questionable decisions in his days as a commander in the Confederacy. He was viewed as a military genius, but his tactics were extreme and controversial. Forrest was believed to have massacred black troops in the Battle of Fort Pillow during the Civil War. Even Abraham Lincoln viewed the massacre as a violation of the rules of war.

Whether with the Confederate army or the Klan, Nathan Bedford Forrest was definitely not an advocate for civil rights. He manifested his hate by aligning himself with those who did not believe in coexisting with minorities.

If we are against terrorism and its ideals, than Nathan Bedford Forrest's name should be removed from the ROTC building. His removal will be proof that we believe in equality.

Terrorism has many faces and Forrest is one of those faces. His face is gone, but the name remains. Our government does not know where to start as far as combating evil; let us show them how it is done.

Andre Sterling Kgosy Cauty
Junior, College of Liberal Arts

There's still time...

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FEATURES

Monday: *Campus & Community*

Campus royalty comes highly decorated



Recently-crowned Homecoming king Chassen Haynes and queen Meagan Flippin show off just a few of the multiple recognitions they have received for their tireless involvement on campus. Photo by Blake Arnold | Art Director

Hometown ties, family support give Flippin formula for success

By Lemon Keith
Contributing Writer

Many college students go through a routine of classes, work and being social, but to a few it becomes a lifestyle and not just a routine. With little makeup and shoulder-length blonde hair, chocolate eyes, and a radiant smile, Meagan Flippin has made helping others a priority instead of a list of things to do.

Dressed in jeans and a red sweatshirt, her southern hospitality and charismatic personality give a glimpse into the sweet "Daddy's Girl" and enthusiastic side of Flippin.

It's easy to see her natural beauty, but once Flippin starts talking about her goals and life as an MTSU student, it immediately becomes apparent that she is everything but ordinary.

As Homecoming queen, Flippin has a vibrant and compassionate side that extends far beyond popularity or stereotypes of what it is to win by the vote of her peers.

"I was honored to be nominated by my sorority to represent our organization and as a candidate to represent MTSU," Flippin says. "I think there is a misconception that once someone is elected to the Homecoming court it is about what they are going to do for the school, but it is really about what they have been doing all along in addition to what they will do by representing MTSU's values and being a good role model."

"She does a lot of work for the community and MTSU beyond our sorority," says Jacki Gowan, a sophomore and fellow Alpha Delta Pi sister of Flippin. "Meagan cares about everybody and doesn't single anyone out. She is so warm [that] you don't have to know her to walk up and talk to her."

Over the years Flippin has participated in school activities, including acting as the vice president of administration and public affairs of the Student Government Association for the past two years. She is also the president of Alpha Delta Pi and has taken on an assistant role in Up "Til Dawn, helping to raise money for St. Jude Hospital.

Her school participation goes beyond taking up space on a resume and extends to touching the community through consistent volunteering and voicing student concerns with her position in SGA.

"I like to stay busy. Ever since I was young I've stayed busy with various sports and running from one practice to the next," Flippin says. She views her activities as a privilege and not an obligation.

"I played a lot of sports, including soccer, softball and flag football," she explains. "In the summer my mom wanted me to get out of the house and involved; she actually sent me to camps for sports I did not even play, so I am used to multi-tasking."

She laughs as she reminisces over her childhood,

admitting she was spoiled with affection.

Flippin's parental support and involvement is motivation to her today. Daughter of MTSU alumni and an Oakland High School graduate in 2003, she has always been a Blue Raider fan. With a vibrant yellow painting given to her by her mom's friend and colleague in the background, it is apparent that Flippin has strong friendship ties to the community.

"My dad played football for MTSU all four years in college and my mom is a teacher, so I was always at events," says Flippin, whose grandparents also live in the area. She grew up community-oriented and the values her parents instilled in her are still with her today, she bashfully admits.

As a winner of the MT 2005 Greek Life "Daddy's Girl" award, Flippin is proud to admit that her father is her role model.

"His family was not well off, so he played sports to carry himself through college financially, but was drafted into the Vietnam War. He was determined and started college two years late, but finished. He has always been very supportive of everything I do." Her eyes twinkle as she tugs on her ears and reveals that he still comes and watches her play intramural sports.

Flippin also cherishes her friendships and tries to enjoy all facets of life. With pictures of smiles, laughter and friends her wild side prowls through her office bulletin board. Her book shelf has pictures of water rafting, awards of sky diving and Spanish keepsake cards that show Flippin's adventurous side.

"I have a really wacky sense of humor and I like to eat out with friends I do not get to see everyday," she says. Her cheeks turn pink as she chuckles and admits she also loves to shop.

Flippin tries to balance life's pressure and expectations with the essentials in life – laughter, happiness and friendship. She expresses her intent to captivate all her desires in her career.

Still uncertain about her ultimate destination after her graduation in December 2007, Flippin is a public relations and business double major with Spanish, political science and leadership studies minors at MTSU. She is currently doing her practicum as part of SGA and working as a football hostess helping with game day and special events.

"I'm bad about changing my mind, because I have so many interests that it is hard to decide on a job to encompass them all," Flippin says. "Hopefully, by the time I graduate I'll have a better idea."

Her indecisiveness may be a common characteristic among college students thinking about their future. However, her sensational personality, great networking skills, and love for involvement makes her a polished diamond among ordinary gems.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer
Flippin and Haynes pose for the camera shortly after being crowned Homecoming queen and king at the MT-FAU game Nov. 4.

By Michaela Jackson
Editor-in-Chief

In the Haynes family, Homecoming is a family affair. Newly-elected King Chassen Haynes is following in the footsteps of his older sister, Candice, who was elected Homecoming Queen a few short years ago.

Candice joined Chassen on the field in Floyd Stadium during the crowning of Homecoming King and Queen Nov. 4.

"I think she was probably the most excited person on the field that day," Chassen said. "Whenever they called my name, she started jumping up and down. . . . She's like four[-feet]-[-11]-[-inches]. It was really funny seeing a little girl jump around."

Haynes was nominated for king by his brothers in the Sigma Nu Fraternity, but he said he never expected to win – he just hoped to get on the field that November day as a thank you to all the people who helped him campaign.

"Honestly, I didn't think I stood a chance of actually winning," he said. "People came up to me and were like, 'Are you nervous, are you nervous?' And I said, 'No, not really.'"

"[The announcer] actually called my name and I just stood there because I was like, 'They didn't really call my name.'"

Throughout his campaign, he said, his sister, with whom he is very close, was at his side giving him advice and encouraging him.

"Whenever I was running, she was really sup-

Haynes carries family torch, follows in footsteps of older sister

portive," he said. "She's always been there for me."

Haynes is set to graduate in May 2008 with a degree in finance, but he's not getting any just yet.

"I'm not looking forward to [graduating]," he said. "I don't wanna grow up."

He says running for Homecoming king will help him in his career when that black day does come, though, because he learned about budgeting by managing his campaign fund.

"I can't just run around throwing money around I don't have," he said. The experience helped him grow personally, as well.

"It helps you be more personable," he said. "I just walked up to people I didn't even know and just started talking to them, and got to know some people."

Though Haynes said he really enjoyed running his campaign, he wasn't above being the victim of sabotage – by the wind.

Students walking or driving past Greek Row may have seen Haynes' 24-by-40-foot banner hanging on the side of the Sigma Nu house. What passersby may not have seen was that the banner tied to 40-pound dumbbells just inside the house's windows.

The wind was so strong, though, that the banner whipped against the side of the house, and pulled one of the dumbbells out the window – bringing the window with it.

"It just ripped the whole window out," Haynes said. "It just pulled the dumbbell completely out of the window."

Aside from reigning as Homecoming King, Haynes was also the Homecoming Chair for his fraternity.

"I was really happy when Homecoming was over," he said. "I stayed up really late [many nights]."

Haynes is also involved on campus as the corporate sponsor chair for the fundraiser Up "Til Dawn.

Through it all, though, Haynes said the busyness doesn't get to him.

"You [just] have to work on time management," he said. "I actually enjoy meetings because it gets you experience that can help you out in the future, especially having to deal with people."

Homecoming, though, was a particularly memorable endeavor for Haynes.

"It's an experience that I'll obviously never forget," he said. "Thanks to everybody who voted or campaigned for me."

SPORTS

MT volleyball sweeps SBC Tournament

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders beat Florida International 3-0 (30-28, 30-20, 30-22) on the Sun Belt tournament in Denton, Texas on Saturday. For the first time in 11 years the Blue Raiders are Sun Belt champions and receive a berth in the NCAA tournament after defeating Florida International in the SBC tournament title game.

The last time that MT volleyball tournament crown was in 1995 when the Blue Raiders were in the Ohio Valley conference, which is the second time in school history. Sophomore Ashley Adams was voted SB tournament MVP, as she had 17 kills against FIU and ended the tournament with 63 kills overall. Adams averaged 6.30 kills a game.

Senior Jessica Robinson and Quanshell Scott were both named Sun Belt All-Tournament. Scott had 24 kills and Robinson finished with 39 kills. The Blue Raiders had swept FIU this season and hold a six game winning streak.

In their first game MT and FIU traded scores as MT trailed 17-13, before the Blue Raiders started to rally after FIU committed two costly errors. With the match tied at 24, Ashley Asberry got a kill giving MT a 25-24 lead. After two service aces by Leslie Clark and Ashley Waugh put MT ahead 29-27. FIU pulled within one point, but lost the game after a kill by Scott.

Game two was a game of streaks as MT got four service aces to lead by one point 11-10. Scott got a service ace to put MT up by two and senior Theresa Slowik got two back-to-back errors to give the Blue Raiders a 2-0 match lead going into the half.

MT recorded its best hitting percentage of the night with .343 and made only four errors in game three. The Blue Raiders had 11 service aces and hit .275, with 18 block assist. Robinson finished with 16 kills and Asberry had 11 kills. Clark finished with 39 assists and Scott finished with four aces. Alicia Leamu'u finished with 13 digs.

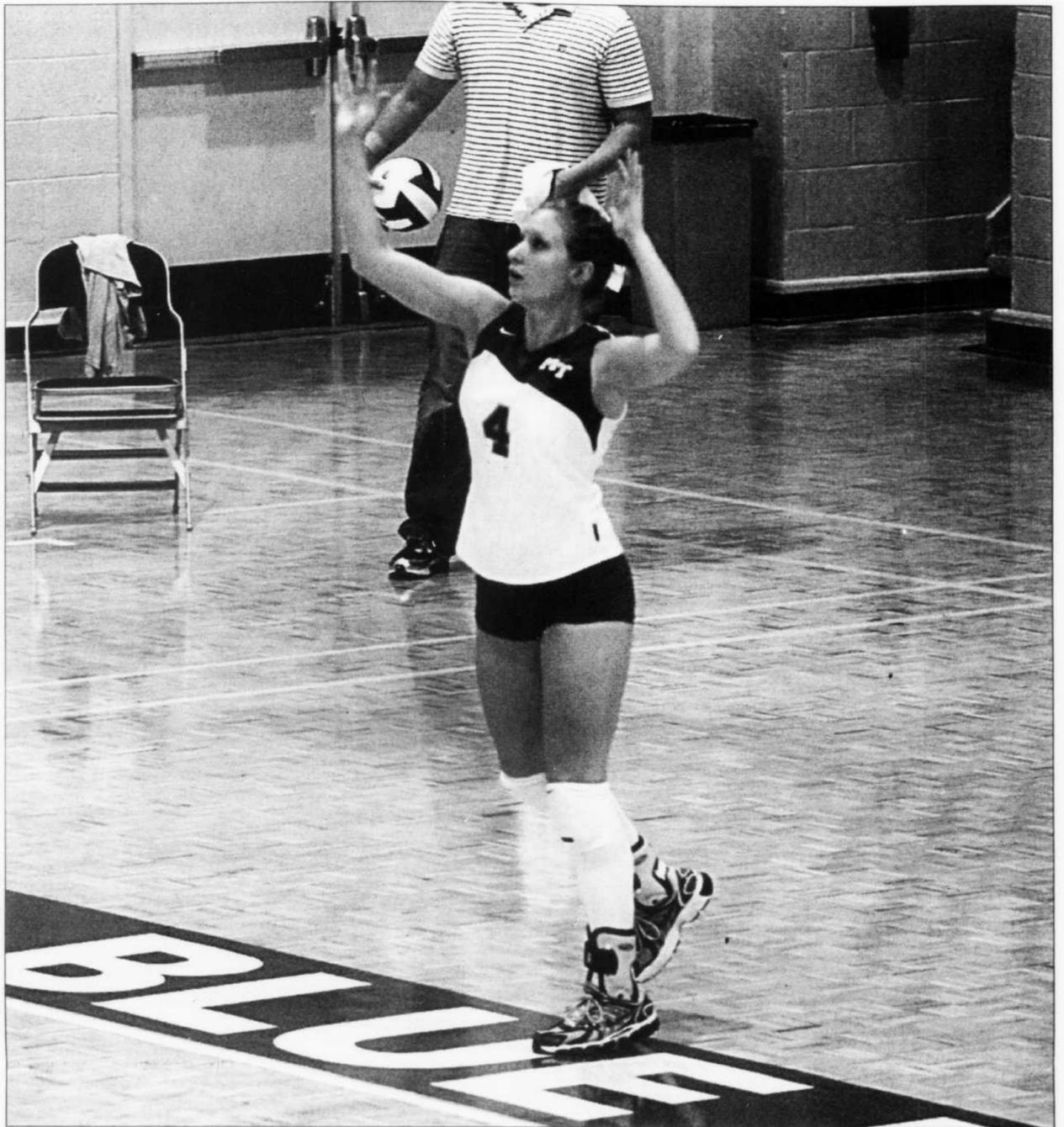
Recapping the games Middle Tennessee defeated North Texas 3-1 (30-20, 23-30, 30-25, 30-27) to move into the finals on Friday. Middle Tennessee breeze through game one with a .484 percentage and committed only three errors. The Blue Raiders held UNT to a .156 percentage. Adams had six kills and one error.

"I think one of the bad things that happened in this match was we came out and played our best game of the year almost hitting .500," MT head coach Matt Peck told MT Media Relations. "I think we got a little complacent, thinking they [North Texas] was going to roll over. Our transition from game one to game two was unbelievable."

In game two MT struggled unbelievably .067 percent, as UNT took advantage of some mistakes made by Clark. Adams had only two kills and three errors. With both teams tied 1-1, the Blue Raiders came out at half time looking to take control of the game.

The lead changed twelve times until the Blue Raiders came up with the lead 15-14 of an error by UNT. Clark went out with an injury and was replaced by Megan Sumrell after that MT never trailed again. Adams closed out game three with a kill and Clark returned in game three.

"When we had to put Megan in I knew we would be okay and wouldn't miss a beat," Peck told



Freshman Megan Sumrell, shown here, and the other Blue Raiders won the Sun Belt Conference tournament after defeating FIU 3-0 on Saturday.

Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

MT Media Relations. "She is a senior and been here before."

Middle Tennessee held off an aggressive UNT team in game four to win as the Blue Raiders hit .268 percent in the match and had eight service aces. MT record 10 blocking assists and Adams finished with 22 kills and eight errors. Adams hit .312 percent.

Adams wasn't the only Blue Raider in double digits as Scott finished with 17 kills and four aces. Robinson had 12 kills.

Clark finished with 49 assists to bring her total to 1,013, and became the first freshman setter in school history to have over a 1,000 assists in a season and moving her up the list into sixth place for assists in a season.

Earlier in the SBC tournament Middle Tennessee beat Florida Atlantic 3-0 (31-29, 30-20, 30-25) on Thursday of last week. FAU lead early in the first game 5-1, but MT rallied after committing 11 first game errors. The Blue Raiders chipped away at the lead and pulled within one point 21-

20. MT took the lead 27-24 and thought they had a chance to put the game away, but FAU fought back to tie the game at 28. The Blue Raiders came back to win the final two point of game one off an FAU error.

Middle Tennessee will waiting to find out where the will be playing in the NCAA Tournament on Sunday, November 26.

MT gets romped upon by South Carolina

Saturday, Nov. 18

MT 7
So. Carolina 52

Next Game Troy,
November 25

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

All good things come to an end, and Middle Tennessee's win streak can now be counted among them.

The Blue Raiders ran into a buzzsaw at Williams Brice Stadium Saturday as a South Carolina scored 52 unanswered points in a 52-7 rout of MT.

With next week's showdown with conference foe Troy looming ahead, many felt that the Blue Raiders would play conservatively to avoid the risk of injury or fatigue.

"We approached it like every game, and that was to prepare ourselves to win," MT head coach Rick Stockstill said. "Obviously, the Troy game means a lot more to our program and season than the South Carolina game, but we still went down with the mindset of winning the game."

The Blue Raiders indeed appeared prepared to challenge the Gamecocks early.

On the game's first play, quarterback Clint Mark surprised the USC defense with the home run ball, finding a streaking Desmond Gee in stride with a perfect strike for a 73-yard touchdown just thirty seconds into the game.

When wide receiver Kenny McKinley fumbled and the Blue Raiders recovered on USC's first offensive play, the crowd of 70,422 in Columbia fell silent. However, the ensuing MT drive resulted in a three-and-out, and the Gamecocks would begin to take over.

The Blue Raiders were unable to move the ball throughout the rest of the contest, partly as a result of uncharacteristic mistakes.

"We made too many mistakes and had too



Junior Damon Nickson runs for a short gain after catching the ball against USC. MT lost 52-7 to USC.

many penalties," Stockstill said. "In a game like this you can't be behind the chains, and that is what hurt us the most."

Quarterback Blake Mitchell and star receiver Sidney Rice terrorized the Blue Raider secondary all day. Mitchell completed 21 of 28 passes for 388 yards and four touchdowns.

Mitchell's performance was the best statistically against MT all season, and ranked as the seventh-best single-season effort in Gamecocks history.

All-American candidate Rice, meanwhile, caught six passes for 90 yards and two scores, including a spectacular leaping grab over cornerback Bradley Robinson in the endzone to extend the USC lead to 28-7 just before half.

Numerous other players had a successful days statistically, as running back Cory Boyd rushed for 76 yards and caught a 51-yard touchdown pass. McKinley finished with five catches for 86 yards.

"We were facing a very hot quarterback and a couple of receivers that were just too good for

us," Stockstill said. "Most of the SEC can't cover those guys, and that could see why."

The coach still stressed that the defense had done little to help its cause, however.

"We have to do a better job of keeping things in front of us and not miss so many tackles," Stockstill added. "We helped them out a lot."

An inability to keep the defense off the field also hurt the Blue Raiders, as MT was held to just 200 total yards, with only 70 coming in the second half. The visitors had just 12 first downs to USC's 25.

Despite the disappointing performance, Stockstill is confident that his team will be ready for next Saturday.

"We put this behind us as soon as we walked out of the locker room," Stockstill said. "Our focus is on Troy, and with everything that is on the line I expect this team to play well."

MT will host the Trojans with a Sun Belt Championship and New Orleans Bowl bid on the line this weekend. Kickoff is at 2:30 p.m.

USC not an issue for Blue Raiders



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

As far as I'm concerned, MT the battle against South Carolina. In a world where perspective is everything, lets put some things into perspective.

First play of the game Clint Marks hit Desmond "Ping-Pong" Gee for a 73yard jaw dropping TD. Just a few plays later, the already hushed USC crowd went totally silent as Sean Mosley pounded Gamecock receiver Kenny McKinley so hard that he fumbled the ball and had a hard time getting up.

Our first offensive possession? All Good. First defensive stand? Impressive. The rest of the game? A non-issue and here is why. Going into the game I knew a few things were playing against MT that pretty much ruled out a win.

Coach Rick Stockstill admitted injuries concerned him and made it somewhat plain that he wanted to give some key guys a chance to heal. While everyone would have loved an upset, this wasn't a must win game for MT.

On the other hand MT's entire season rests on their ability to defeat Troy next week. I'm not trying to say that MT sat this one out. They wanted the win. Of course they did. But if it came down to losing five or six players, and putting their necks on the line to win a game that will have absolutely no significance for MT in the long run or playing it somewhat safe and not leaving it all on the

See Sportacus, 7

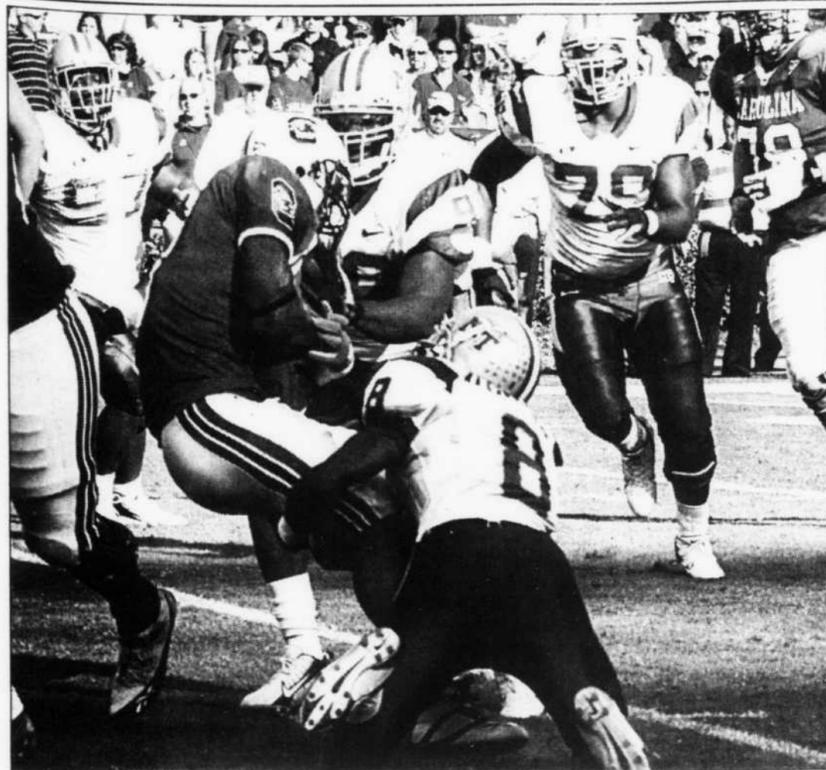


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Senior Jonathan Harris tackles the South Carolina punt returner during the game. MT lost 52-7 to USC on Saturday.

MT falls in Paradise Jam tournament

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders fail to upset Toledo 75-69 after leading by 19 points in the second half at the Paradise Jam Tournament in Virgin Islands on Saturday.

Middle Tennessee (1-3) lead by 19 points with 12:29 to go in the game as Toledo rallied to beat them in overtime. The Rockets (1-2) are projected to win the Mid-American conference this season.

Tim Blue scored 14 points along with Kevin Kanaskie and Nigel Johnson each got 13 points, respectively. They shot a combined 8-of-11 from the field, while Kyle Young had 10 points.

"It is a very disappointing loss. They had two great players that made shots and that's all you can say. I thought for the first 20 minutes it was the best half we have played," Middle Tennessee coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations. We guarded defensively, we ran great offense and all we talked about at half-time was to come out with a presence and physicalness, and we did, but when the game got to 10 we stopped guarding and we got into a rut offensively. It's just a tough loss."

Johnson had the chance to win the game for Middle Tennessee with seven seconds left in regulation when he was given a chance to make a couple of free-throws. The Blue Raiders were leading 61-59, before Johnson was fouled. He made one of his free throws and missed the second.

Toledo's Justin Ingram got the ball and made a 26-foot 3-pointer to tie the game 62-62 and forcing overtime. The Rockets outscored Middle Tennessee 13-7 to complete their overtime comeback.

"This one hurts and it's tough to take," Johnson told MT Media Relations. Who scored 13 points and collected five steals. "Missing that free throw hurts because it could have sealed the game."

After Blue made a layup to put the Blue Raiders up 53-34, the team fell into a scoring slump. Toledo suddenly sparked and started hitting 3-pointers. MT was unable to score a goal for seven minutes in the game. Toledo's Ingram could not miss a shot and finished the game with 32 points, while teammate Kenota Howell finished with 21 points. Both of them combined for 11-of-22 from 3-point range.

Middle Tennessee loss was a heartbreaker for the best shoot-

ing nights in school history as they shot 72.7 percent in the first half. They were 16-of-22 in shooting from the field. That was the third-highest field goal percentage in school history.

The Blue Raiders shot 58 percent in the game, but turned the ball over 21 times. The Rockets scored 26 points off of the turnovers and shot 42 percent from 3-point range. The Rockets were shooting 87 percent from the free-throw line with 20-of-23 from the field; MT shot 59 percent going 10-of-17.

Middle Tennessee on Friday night lost a close game to No. 10 Alabama 71-62 in the first game of the Paradise Jam. The Blue Raiders pulled within five points of tying the game 62-57. Alabama's Ronald Steele hit a three-pointer sending the game out of reach 65-57.

Blue scored 13 points and had six rebounds. Kanaskie scored 12, five assists without turning the ball over. Young scored nine points and was 4-of-5 in shooting from the field. Johnson has seven points and seven rebounds.

Middle Tennessee finishes the Paradise Jam tournament against their final opponent Charleston at 12 p.m.

ULM fall in the final seconds against Kentucky; Troy falls to Arkansas State

By Greg Hohwald
Contributing Writer

Arkansas State: 33, Troy: 26

Cedric Wilkerson scored on a one-yard touchdown run with 17 seconds left to play to end Troy's four game winning streak and hand Troy its first conference loss of the season. Arkansas State began their drive trailing 26-25 with just under 4 minutes to play, but ASU quarterback Corey Leonard scampered for an 11-yard run and a first down to keep the drive going. Wilkerson's touchdown finished the comeback as his score capped a 12-play, 70 yard drive and kept Arkansas State's slim bowl hopes alive. For Troy, Omar Haugabook was not as sharp as he was last week, throwing for 267 yards with two interceptions and only one touchdown. However, Troy still has a chance to win the conference with a win over Middle Tennessee State next week, and a win against Florida International the following week.

Florida Atlantic: 17, North Texas: 16

Florida Atlantic held on to a 17-10 halftime lead to win 17-16 in Texas on Saturday, surviving two second half field goals by Denis Hopovac and a career best 201 yards rushing by Evan Robertson. North Texas had a 10-3 lead late in the second quarter, but two turnovers, an interception and then a fumble on consecutive pos-

sessions, led to two Florida Atlantic touchdowns in a span of three minutes and gave the Owls a 17-10 lead going into halftime. North Texas' second field goal of the half brought the mean green within a point early in the fourth quarter, but Taheem Acevedo's second interception of the day off of Matt Phillips clinched the victory for the Owls.

Louisiana-Lafayette: 17, Louisiana International: 7

Louisiana-Lafayette ended its three game losing streak and in the process, kept FIU winless as the Ragin' Cajun's won 17-7 in Miami on Saturday. ULL used stout defense to secure the victory, holding the Golden Panthers to just 52 yards rushing, and 190 total yards. Trailing 7-3 at the half, ULL took its first possession of the second half right down the field, but fumbled and lost possession at the FIU 4-yard line to give the Golden Panthers the ball. The Ragin' Cajun defense stepped up, however, and forced the Golden Panther's to punt. Jerry Babb then drove the ULL offense 80 yards down the field on the ensuing possession to take the lead 10-7. FIU had a chance to take the lead late in the fourth quarter after forcing ULL to turn it over on downs inside FIU's 20-yard line, but, the ULL defense made another big play, as Gerren Blount intercepted a Josh Padrick pass on the FIU 28-yard line. On the ensuing possession, Tyrell Fenroy's second rushing touchdown of the game with 3:30 left made it 17-7, and put the game out of reach for the

Panthers.

Kentucky: 42, Louisiana-Monroe: 40

Keenan's Burton's three touchdown receptions were almost not enough as Kentucky overcame their own porous defense and survived a scare from Louisiana-Monroe 42-40 on Saturday. They also clinched at least a third place finish in the SEC East for the first time since 1992. Andre Woodson, the SEC's top passer, continued his dominance as he threw for 359 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions. Unfortunately, he doesn't play defense, as ULM's running game dominated Kentucky's 115th ranked rushing defense, racking up 351 yards. 179 of those yards belonged to Calvin Dawson, who also scored three touchdowns. It seemed as though Kentucky would pull away, as they got out to a 28-10 lead midway through the second quarter. However, a quick 10 points by ULM cut the Wildcat lead to eight going into halftime. ULM then used their opening possession of the third quarter to cut the lead to 28-27 on Calvin Dawson's first rushing touchdown of the day. The two teams continued to trade scores throughout the second half, culminating in Kinsmon Lancaster's 1-yard run with 54 seconds left to play. After failing what would have been the game-tying two-point conversion, Kentucky recovered the ensuing inside kick, and held on to win.

Lady Raiders sweep Subway Classic tournament

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders season got off to an inauspicious debut last week. However, this week the Lady Raiders quickly showed why they garnered attention in the preseason polls.

Middle Tennessee won the Subway Classic this past weekend, after soundly defeating Maine 87-60. Chrissy Givens and Amber Holt lead the way with 23 points, respectively. Coach Rick Insell credited the team with their effort and their ability to bounce back with a rough last week. Insell believes this could be what the team needed to get on a winning streak and continue their solid play.

"We shot the ball better in the first half and really hit the boards hard, one of things we've been working on in practice," Middle Tennessee head coach Rick Insell told MT Media Relations. "We came out with more focus, especially early. We turned up the heat in practice

and these young ladies responded well."

The victory over Maine was the first in school history against Maine after two previous meetings for the Lady Raiders, as the team continued its trend of forcing turnovers. Middle Tennessee forced over twenty turnovers for the third time in as many games this season.

Middle Tennessee held a huge rebounding edge in this game and that was the difference in the second half according to Coach Insell. The Lady Raiders out-rebounded Maine 48-24 and that was key in thwarting a comeback attempt by Maine late in the second half.

In the second game of the Subway Classic, Middle Tennessee defeated the University of Minnesota, 79-61. The Lady Raiders continued their defensive tenacity as they caused 31 turnovers against the Minnesota Golden Gophers. Chrissy Givens led the way with 25 points.

Starr Orr and Amber Holt

also reached double digits. Hot shooting allowed the Lady Raiders to coast in the second half outscoring the Lady Gophers 38-24 in the first half. As a team Middle Tennessee shot 54 percent for the evening. They limited Minnesota to 38 percent for the game.

Coach Insell said that depth and experience got them through the tournament. He said that these were the keys to winning the tourney.

"Our depth was really a factor as well," Insell told MT Media Relations. "We got in some foul trouble in the first half, but this year we're able to bring Chelsia [Lymon], Jackie [Pickel], LaCondra [Mason] and LaToya [Brown] off the bench at the guard spots and even Brandi [Brown] if we need her."

The season record for the Lady Raiders is now even at two wins and two losses. Middle Tennessee tips-off this Friday at 7PM against Chattanooga.

Intramurals

PLAYOFF GAMES TUESDAY NIGHT

IFC B 6 p.m.

PIKE C VS. Sigma Chi Field 1
Sigma Nu B VS. PIKE B Field 2
SAE B VS. Sigma Pi Field 4

IFC A & B 7 p.m.

Pi Kappa Phi VS. Field 1 Winner Field 1
SAE C VS. AGR Field 2
Sig Ep VS. Sigma Nu Field 4

Sorority & IFC B 8 p.m.

A D Pi VS. Kappa Delta Field 1
A O Pi VS. Delta Zeta Field 2
Field 2 VS. Field 4 Winner Field 4
Winner

IFC A & B 9 p.m.

Kappa Alpha VS. Field 4 Winner Field 1
BETA VS. PIKE Field 2
Winner VS. Field 2 Winner Field 4
Field

Sorority & Open A & B 10 p.m.

SORORITY CHAMPIONSHIP (Field 1)
MEN'S A OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP Field 2
MEN'S B OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP Field 4

IFC A & B 11 p.m.

IFC A CHAMPIONSHIP Field 1
IFC B CHAMPIONSHIP Field 2

Results from the playoff games from last week

Women's B League

SEMI-FINALS
Kappa Delta (2) (W) VS. Chi Omega (2) (Forfeit)
Tightends (W) VS. Alpha Omega (Forfeit)

CHAMPIONSHIP

Tightends 38 VS. Kappa Delta (2) 0

Women's A League

QUARTER-FINAL
Delta Zeta 12 VS. Alpha Chi Omega 6
Kappa Delta 7 VS. Chi Omega 0

Men's B League

SEMI-FINAL
Team Soul Train 19 VS. Kappa Sigma 6
Prime Time 12 VS. Shake n Bake 6

Men's A League

SEMI-FINALS
Dem Whyte Boyz 14 VS. Team (1) 13
Showtime at the Apollo 14 VS. Make it Rain 13

Sportacus: "USC"

Continued from 6

field... Well, anyone could make that decision.

With a chance to go to a bowl, lock up the conference, and assert themselves as the best in show (in the SBC), they might as well have Ohio State on the schedule next week. The Troy game is HUGE. Steve Spurrier aside, South Carolina is just a team on the bottom of a conference that we aren't in. You can't look at it any other way.

While we are on the subject of Steve Spurrier, he likes Coach Stock, and Coach Stock likes him. That's super. But it had no effect on how either of them coached this game. What truly mattered is that Steve Spurrier may coach for fifty years and never lose 4 straight games. And he will never lose a game against a Sun Belt team with bowl eligibility in doubt. Conversely, no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't see this game as a way for MT to assert themselves.

The days of hanging an entire season on one upset are over. Upsets don't sell tickets, they don't bring in recruits, and they don't earn bowl bids. Coach Mac was incredible against Vandy, but he never once beat North Texas. At this point in Rick Stockstill's short career as a head coach he has never lost a game to a Sun Belt opponent. What matters most to Stock, his staff, and even the seniors who won't be able to play next year is building a winning tradition here. As one of the best recruiters in the nation Stockstill knows a bowl game is more important to MT's future.

A few sidenotes:

The last time MT faced Spurrier they lost by 55 points. Oddly enough, Saturday's 52-7 defeat is actually an improvement of 10 points. At that rate, I'm predicting a win against Spurrier five games from now by a score of 35-25.

When Stockstill started at MT everyone touted him as a recruiter, but he took over what was supposedly one of the least talented squads MT had fielded in years. Look what he did with them. They may have always had the ability to play, I think just needed to be shown how. Take that into consideration and imagine an MT squad with actual depth (two or three players who could start at every position) and just a few more stars.

Desmond Gee is smaller than most cheerleaders, and he has had a touchdown in the last five straight games. In a game of Shaquille O'Neal size players, he is the sole Muggsy Bogues of College Football.



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