

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDESTAINERS

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Rumble on the row

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant News Editor

MTSU police broke up an "un-sanctioned boxing event," which consisted of 30 people, including members of Sigma Chi and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternities, at the Alpha Gamma Rho house on Greek row on July 19.

The police report said that the three members of Alpha Gamma Rho who participated were all under the age of 21. The police report also said that several of the other participants admitted to consuming alcohol on campus. No citations or arrests were made during the incident.

"The occupants of the house were given warnings for the unsanctioned party/boxing matches and for hosting a party involving underage drinking," Adam Wortman, a field training officer for MTSU, said in his official report.

Wortman said he and Officer Jerah Richard were observing a gathering in the backyard of the Alpha Gamma Rho house and heard loud music and shouting. The officers entered the backyard through the Sigma Chi yard.

"Inside the house I observed a large table set up with red Dixie cups for beer pong, [and] inside the circle were individuals involved in a boxing match," Wortman said. "One person wearing red gloves and head gear and the other in blue head gear and gloves."

Wortman also said he showed the occupants of the house the recently passed law, TCA 39-15-404(a), that any owner



Photo illustration by Chris Carter, production manager

or occupant of real property, like the Alpha Gamma Rho house, who knowingly allows minors to possess or drink alcoholic beverages or who knowingly fails to stop a minor from doing so is in violation of the law.

"They [the occupants] stated they were not aware of the law and requested information about the law be e-mailed to them so they could educate their fraternity brothers about the law," Wortman said. Paul Fendley, noble ruler of Alpha

Gamma Rho, was out of town and unable to comment on the incident.

"The only thing that I know about the event was from the police report itself," said Byron Lightsey, coordinator of Greek Affairs. "I don't know if there was alcohol involved."

Lightsey also said that the other leaders of Alpha Gamma Rho would be unable to comment due their absence during the summer semester.

Chief of Police Buddy Peaster said that an investigation is under way to determine more information about the event.

"I don't know at this point if it was unsanctioned because there were people who were actually participating in an actual competitive event where they would declare winners or losers, or whether this was an actual fraternity event," Peaster said.



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Custer's attorney prepares to file appeal

By **DUSTIN EVANS**
Assistant News Editor

Two weeks after the delivery of the verdict, Joe Brandon Jr., the attorney for Starlett Custer, commented on the case, the troubles of his client and the potential for an appeal.

A jury of her peers found Custer guilty of reckless endangerment and reckless aggravated assault, two lesser charges than the original attempted murder and aggravated assault charges she originally faced. Custer now awaits sentencing on Feb. 4, which could result in two to four years in jail.

"She [Starlett] was disappointed," Brandon said. "Certainly the results could have been a lot worse than what they were."

Brandon said that while he and his client are relieved at the lessening of the charges, he is still unsure of how a guilty verdict could have been issued.

"I still cannot wrap my mind around [the fact] that a jury can return a verdict of guilty being that the other lady was not searched," Brandon said.



Custer

Brandon said the jury's main job was to be able to find the certainty in Starlett's "guilt beyond a reasonable doubt."

"The definition under the jury instructions that the judge read is that you have to let your mind rest easily as to the certainty of somebody's guilt," Brandon said. "And I cannot fathom how anyone could let their mind rest easily knowing that the other girl's car was never searched."

Buddy Peaster, MTSU chief of police, said the police on the scene worked as diligently as possible after the crime. He said that due to the chaotic nature of some scenes, some things are just not possible to do.

"The reality is that we look at situations like that and we go over them after the fact," Peaster said. "We may have done as good of a job as we could at the time, but now that we have gone through this we will learn something to try and be better

the next time."

Brandon said there were no limitations put on the MTSU Department of Public Safety during the crime scene investigation.

"There was absolutely nothing prohibiting the MTSU police, even though they had arrogantly turned the Murfreesboro police away because it was on their territory," Brandon said. "There was nothing to stop them from getting on the phone and calling the TBI [Tennessee Bureau of Investigation], or having the cars picked up and sent them off to the TBI to be searched."

Peaster said that it was a necessity for the MTSU Department of Public Safety to handle the crime scene, and that doing so helps the police's effort to protect the community.

"Several things were mentioned in court, the 'arrogance of police,' and 'incompetence,' and I just don't believe that," Peaster said. "The scene in the parking lot was MTSU property, and something we are responsible for - for us not to work that case,

would have been irresponsible on our part, not arrogance."

Brandon said that while he feels the MTSU Department of Public Safety did the best they could with their resources, he feels his client was hastily arrested and charged.

"The disappointing thing and the disgusting thing about this is that three Murfreesboro Police Department officers received the call before anyone, [and] MTSU was very adamant that they did not want the Murfreesboro Police Department involved in this investigation," Brandon said.

Brandon said his client was also expelled from MTSU just as hastily as she was charged and arrested.

To read more, visit us online.



College stores warn students of purchasing books online

By **ALEX MOORMAN**
News Editor

The National Association of College Stores is trying to make the fall semester less stressful by warning students of the potential threats of buying books online.

The NACS is determined to disprove the myths that buying textbooks online is always safe and more convenient.

Charles Schmidt, director of public relations for NACS, said that there are many other reasons besides low prices that should be taken into careful consideration when purchasing textbooks.

"Often the lowest price found online is misleading and may point a student to the wrong book, wrong edition, a book in poor condition or missing required supplemental materials," Schmidt said.

Schmidt said the standard for identifying the condition of a book is self reported on marketplace sites and a seller may identify a book as new, even if it is used. He said

such validation can only be made through a fair physical inspection of the product.

The Internet Crime Complaint Center's 2008 annual report said that complaints of online fraud hit an all-time high last year, increasing by 33.1 percent, which is more than the previous year. The report said that the average individual lost approximately \$931.

"By shopping on the college bookstore's Web site, you can combine the perceived convenience with the security of dealing with a legitimate place you know," Schmidt said. "College stores also stand behind clearly defined return policies in case you need to drop a course."

Amber Langford, manager of Blue Raider Bookstore, said she thinks it is more beneficial to buy textbooks in a bookstore.

"Books from online have trouble coming in on time, and in my opinion we [Blue Raider Bookstore] are no more expensive than any online store, but I hear of more and more people buying online

for that reason," Langford said.

Erin Bridge, senior journalism major, said she has purchased books online and that it was much more convenient.

"The book I purchased was half price and brand new when I got it," Bridge said.

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July 21, 12:47 p.m.
Traffic
Greenland Drive Lot B
 A subject reported a hit and run which damaged his beige Ford Expedition.

July 21, 2:19 p.m.
Theft
James E. Walker Library
 A bicycle was reported stolen from campus.

July 21, 6:17 p.m.
Theft
Peck Hall
 A personal laptop was reported stolen from campus.

July 22, 4:25 p.m.
Theft
Boutwell Dramatic Arts
 A red and silver Roadmaster bicycle was reported stolen two days prior to the report.

July 23, 5:19 p.m.
Theft
Recreation Center
 Personal property was reported stolen from the women's locker room.

July 23, 7:36 p.m.
Theft
MTSU Campus
 Mark Humes was arrested for more than \$1,000 in theft and evading arrest.

July 24, 2:27 a.m.
DUI
Rutherford Boulevard
 Chad Hanna was arrested for his first offense of driving under the influence.

July 24, 4:50 a.m.
Warrant
Parking and Transportation Parking Lot
 Tanner Phillips was arrested for outstanding warrants of violation of probation, vandalism and consumption of alcohol under 21 years of age.

July 24, 10:29 a.m.
Traffic
Old Main Circle
 Anthony Lamar Lansden was issued a citation for driving on a revoked license and driving in the wrong direction on a one-way street.

July 26, 1:31 a.m.
Traffic
Rutherford Boulevard
 Anthony Brown was issued a citation for driving without a license.

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Middle Tennessee State University
 1301 East Main Street
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 Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648
 Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
 Tiffany Gibson*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Features
 Katy Coil
sfeature@mtsu.edu

News
 Alex Moorman*
snews@mtsu.edu
slstate@mtsu.edu

Sports
 Richard Lowe*
slsports@mtsu.edu

Online
 Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

Adviser
 Steven Chappell
schappel@mtsu.edu

Opinions
 Andy Harper*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Assist. News
 Dustin Evans*
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Advertising
 Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

Photography
 Erin O'Leary
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
 Chris Carter
sldesign@mtsu.edu

Business
 Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Videographer
 William Swart
wrs2s@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports
 Stephen Curley
sports02@mtsu.edu

* denotes member of editorial board

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FEATURES

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DO YOU THINK GREEK LIFE NEEDS A FULL-TIME DIRECTOR?

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The Young supplies honest music to genuine crowds Knoxville band deals with hardship while trying to play the songs it loves

By KRISTINA OUTLAND
Staff Writer

The Young is truly a band that is fueled by love and lives for expressing strong emotion through music. Steven Miller, Eric Griffin and Trevor Greene have called themselves a band for three years now, but have practically grown up together and have been involved in each other's lives for a decade or more.

This All-American, Brit-Rock inspired band named after its mutual love for Neil Young is definitely one of the most promising bands to come from the mountainous Knoxville.

The Young's first EP, "Nylon April," was released in 2008, however, the band's first full-length album, dedicated and

created after lead singer Eric's brother passed away, is something beautiful to watch for, called, "After the Crash."

"It's about the things people think but never say," Miller says. "A story of love, death and the death of people we love."

The members mention the hardships of being a band and aren't afraid to tell what it's like being on the road.

Yet, the guys continue to work hard at winning the hearts of fans. Drummer Steve Miller recalls a story from a show the band played a while back in the small city of Morristown and the band's initial doubt of how audiences would react.

"It was a packed bar in a small town," Miller says. "We were scared because it was an older group of people; we had

to play two sets, and was the only band performing that night.

"It was cool because we gave them autographed CDs and it was the most genuine audience I can recall."

Being genuine and honest is an on-going theme for this talented group. Using John Darnielle as the perfect example for how its musical career should go, the band mentions that all it wants is to be able to play music and support the band members' family and each other.

The next two years will determine whether or not this endearing band will stay.

"The hardest part is the money," Miller says. "We aren't looking for fame, but would be thankful if we could find a record label to back us financially."

If the band continues to work and move as a single unstoppable unit, a label will be in its immediate future. The Young have grown and its listeners now stretch to places as far as Puerto Rico.

Apparently, the band's music found its way over there some time after the distribution of the first EP.

The Young's sound is catchy and appreciated by a vast group of people: its influences being the aforementioned Neil Young along with Blur, vocals resembling Radiohead and Travis.

Even though The Young consider its work to be mostly a group effort, lead guitarist and vocalist Eric Griffin admits his passion for music enables him to do

YOUNG, PAGE 5

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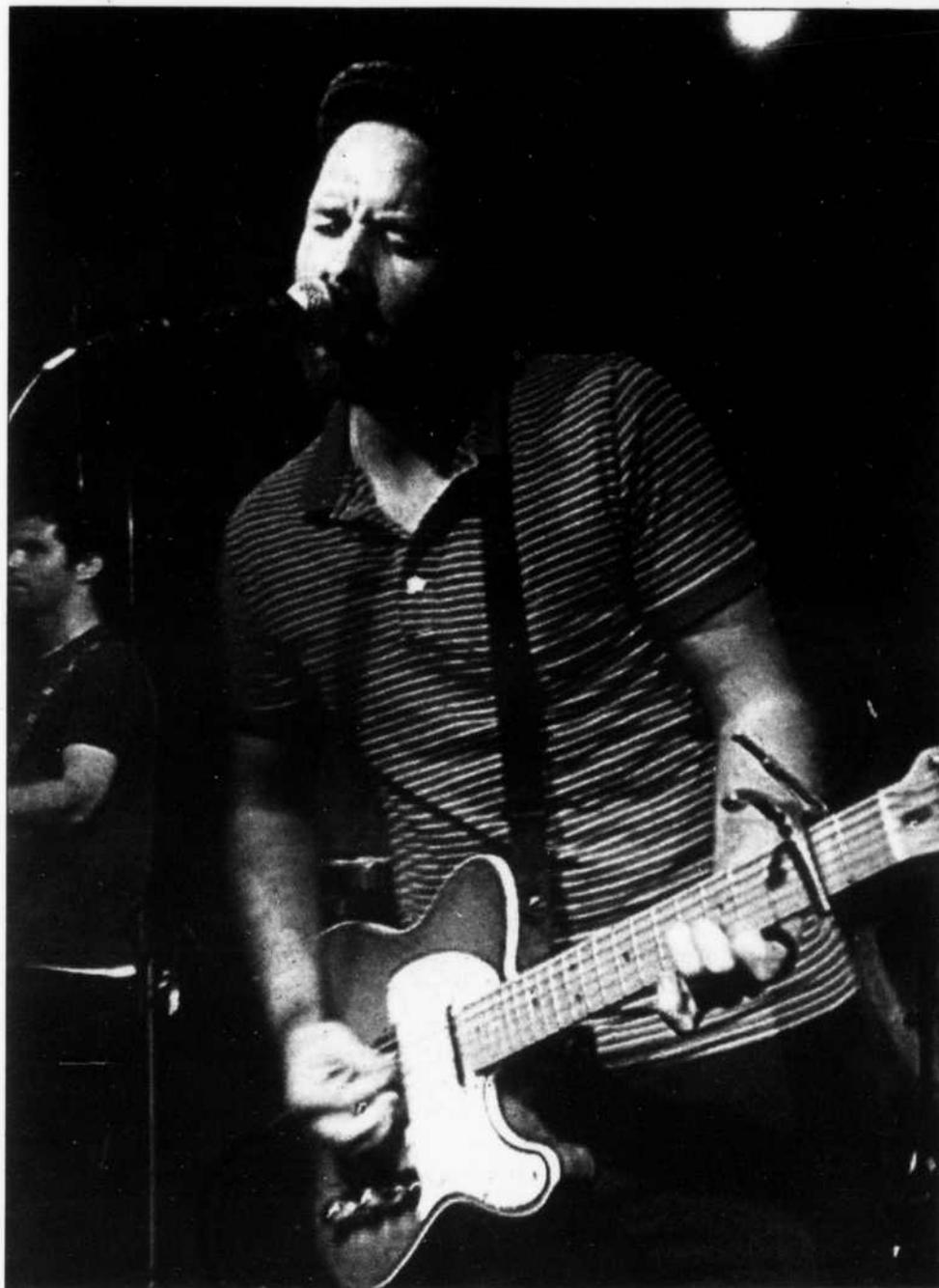


Photo by Kristina Outland, staff photographer
Vocalist/guitarist Eric Griffin performs one of the songs he has written with the band.

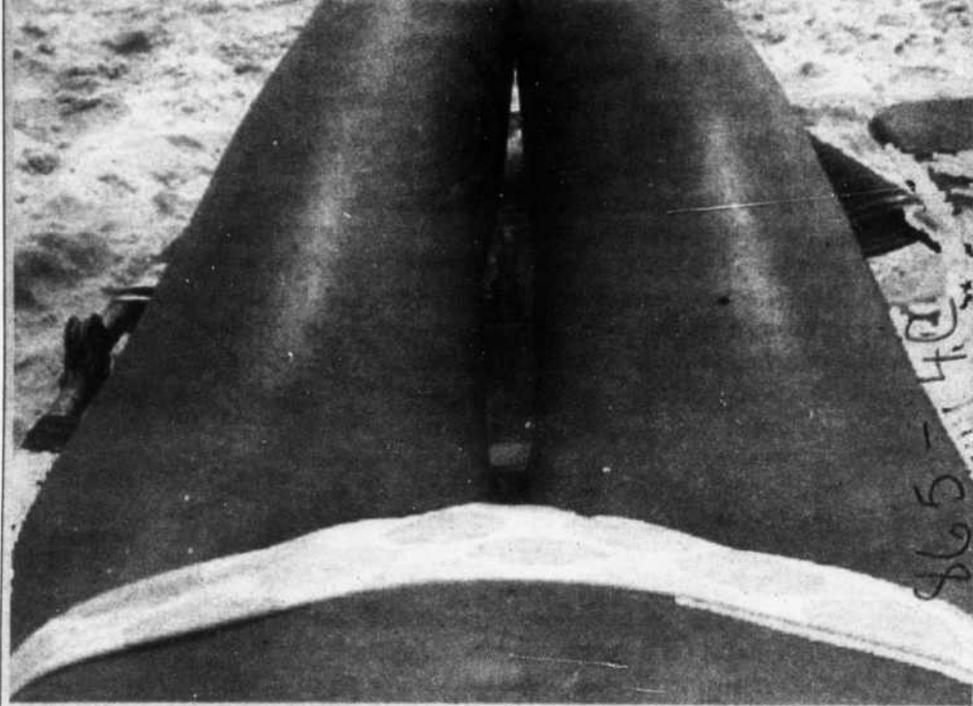
YOUNG FROM PAGE 4

most of the creative grunt-work. "Well, I mostly just write a lot of music and look for drink specials," Griffin says. "I'm not afraid for vulnerable situations to influence our music." This band offers, without a doubt, powerful performances. Mixing Eric's emotional vocals, Trevor Greene's steady pulse on the bass and Steve Miller's complex drum beats, an audience can't help being totally enamored after the show is over.



Listen to songs from The Young's EP online at MTSUSidelines.com

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Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

FROM THE EDITOR

Social networking sites deliver news

With the fall semester right around the corner, I thought I would talk about how incoming and transfer students can obtain information about what's going on around campus.



From the Editor

Tiffany Gibson

Students can pick up a copy of "Sidelines," listen to WMTS and/or WMOT and watch MTTV. They can also use online profiles and Internet sites.

Facebook is one way to do this. Many students only use Facebook as a social networking site, but it can actually be used to share information, pictures and videos. Organizations on campus have Facebook groups and send out event invitations to members. By befriending MTSU Counselors, Men's Basketball and other groups, students can keep track of events happening on and off campus.

Another social networking site exploding on the Web right now is Twitter. As a student, if you do not have a Twitter by now then you need to get one.

Twitter may appear to be similar to Facebook status updates, but it's so much more. Twitter allows people to follow news organizations and even MTSU news outlets. You can even change your profile settings and get "tweets" sent directly to your phone.

If "tweets" are a little too invasive for your taste then send direct messages that only you and the respondent can read.

If you are ahead of the pack and already have a Twitter account then consider following these MTSU outlets: @MTAthletics, @MassComm1, @MTSUSidelines, @MTSUNews, @MTSUSTudProg and @mtsulibrary.

Times are changing and these sites provide a new way to not only keep in contact with friends, but to keep up with what's going on in the world and on your college campus.

Students: push past apathy

So I was having trouble this week finding a topic to talk about in my column. But sitting down at my computer, I realized that this semester has mostly been about my opinions. That despite my better efforts and those of fellow editors, I could not grab a hold of anyone who had an opinion – or at least one they were brave enough to publish.

While manning the newspaper booth at CUSTOMS, I've seen the dull, disinterested looks adorning the incoming freshman. Despite the overexciting personalities of a small student minority, there just seems to be an overwhelming plague of "blah" around our campus – and it's infecting the incoming students.

A past editor in chief referred to the "blah" as the "apathy of the masses." We consistently wrote editorial boards geared towards the "apathy of the masses," in hopes to stir up some passion, some response – at the very least a pulse.

But our outreach to the apathetic stricken has always seemed to flat line faster than Michael Jackson getting shot up with Propofol. And honestly I'm just tired of preaching to deaf ears.

I've written too many columns and letters about students needing to get involved. I've sat through too many journalism classes and watched students cruise by, missing deadlines and



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper

writing (maybe) two stories a semester. I've watched too many editors come through the "Sidelines" office and have to deal with the same apathy.

But despite my common sense, I find myself, once again, at the mercy of the masses. But my target will be different this time.

For all incoming freshman and transfer students, my final "please get involved with your school" plea goes to you and you alone. If you want to be in mass communication – get involved with one of the campus media outlets immediately. If you don't want to be in Mass Comm, still get involved by writing letters, posting comments and leaving story ideas.

To the juniors and senior mass com-

munication majors who have never set foot in "Sidelines," MTTV, WMOT and/or WMTS – you are screwing yourselves. Get off your apathetic rears and actually start practicing what you came to school to do.

Ask any teacher – you will not get a job without a portfolio of published work. If you don't want to do any of the "hands-on" work – then go to another college.

And to the teachers – especially in the College of Mass Communication: kick a couple of your students over to the campus media outlets every once in a while. We'll publish their work. We'll help them develop their stories, and we will work with you on making sure students use everything you teach them.

The newspaper, the radio stations and the television station aren't going to run themselves. But the question remains – is anyone interested enough to participate in our First Amendment right?

Andy Harper is a senior journalism major and can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

View a special video podcast about this column at: MTSUSidelines.com



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Summer Football Preview

Defense looks to Kellelem for leadership

By ETHAN LANNOM
Staff Writer

Preseason All-Sun Belt Safety Jeremy Kellelem is leading the Blue Raiders' defense into the 2009 football season. However, preseason awards are not what he is focused on for the 2009 campaign.

"It does mean a lot to me to get recognized like this," Kellelem said. "I am thankful and honored to have this award."

"However, it is just a preseason prediction on the season, [and] it does not really have any bearing on my actual play for the upcoming season."

Kellelem was selected to the second team All-Sun Belt in 2008 with a solid freshman year. He earned his place on this year's first team by ranking third on the team with 72 tackles, including 3.5 tackles for a loss and a sack. Throughout the year, he also had two interceptions, two fumble recoveries, three forced fumbles and a blocked kick. Looking at the schedule, Kellelem thinks

one game in particular will be vital for MT's defense.

"Of course, we will need to prepare fully for all of the offenses in the upcoming season," Kellelem said.

"Specifically though, I would have to say Clemson. Jacoby Ford and C.J. Spiller are both explosive players on the ground. We are going to need to gang tackle them because if they get loose, they are gone."

Kellelem said he believes that the 2009 defense is better equipped to handle the Sun Belt offenses than last year's version.



Photo courtesy: MT Media Relations
Kellelem was the only MT player on the All-Sun Belt conference preseason team.

"Except for the linebacker core, this year's defense has more experience coming back," Kellelem said. "Since spring, we have been gelling and communicating better as a defense."

"Everybody is not only learning their own position and job, but everyone else's as well."

As MT nears the start of the season, Kellelem will not be satisfied with just a good defense. He has one goal specifically in the back of his mind.

"Since I have been here, we haven't had a shutout yet," Kellelem said. "That has been

are options at the position, though, with multiple players having seen action in 2008 and contributing significantly.

"Any time you lose somebody it's difficult," Franklin said. "But that's a position where we have several talented bodies that can play."

"To me, to be successful in this offense you have to have 10 receivers who can make plays, and we're right around that number." Franklin said the completely rebuilt offensive line made progress in 2008, coming together into a cohesive unit by the season's end. Franklin said he will look to continue that maturation process once lingering injuries from the spring are out of the way.

"There's two or three guys that I haven't even seen," Franklin said. "And we need them; you usually need eight guys that can play to get through a season."

"It's nice to have 12 but at this level it's very difficult to have that many." Franklin returns to the Sun Belt Conference after an unsuccessful year at Auburn

Franklin tabbed as new Offensive Coordinator

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Assistant Sports Editor

New offensive coordinator Tony Franklin will be faced with the challenge of building an offense that had its ups and downs in 2008.

Franklin has built his reputation on the play of his quarterbacks and successful execution of the spread offense. His next task is furthering the development of junior QB Dwight Dasher, now the presumptive starter.

"It's his job right now," Franklin said. "As long as he continues to improve the way he did in the spring he'll be the starter."

Primarily used as a runner throughout his college career, Dasher only attempted 44 passes in 2008, with only 17 of them completed. Franklin said Dasher has been working hard throughout the spring and summer to improve that part of his game.

"He's got a lot of talent to throw the ball," Franklin said. "The first two weeks



of spring I wouldn't let him scramble to run. He had to change his mentality from running the football to being a pure thrower."

Senior running back Phillip Tanner is coming off a productive year for the Blue Raiders in which he rushed for 718 yards and 15 touchdowns. He was hurt most of the spring, allowing sophomore D.D. Kyles to get a lot of work in. This is something Franklin said should give the team some depth at the position.

"He's extremely fast," Franklin said. "I think that position is pretty solid with those two guys, and hopefully some of these freshmen can come in and do a good job as well."

Leading receiver Eldred King was cut from the team after repeated run-ins with law enforcement, leaving a 51-catch, 598-yard and four-touchdown gap to be filled by the remaining receivers. There

University, and is happy to be back, having turned Troy University into an offensive powerhouse in the 2006-2007 season.

"I love the Sun Belt," Franklin said. "To me it's a very competitive conference."

"It's similar to the SEC in that every week you can lose."

After his dismissal from Auburn, Franklin said that the Middle Tennessee area convinced him to take the job.

"My wife and I made a decision that we wanted to live in this area," Franklin said. "We're originally from Western Kentucky and both of our families are getting up in age, so if we had a choice to live in this area, that's what we were going to do, regardless of coaching."

"When this position became open, it was a no-brainer."

Franklin got his first chance to showcase his new offense Sept. 5 when the Blue Raiders travel to Clemson University to take on the Tigers.