

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

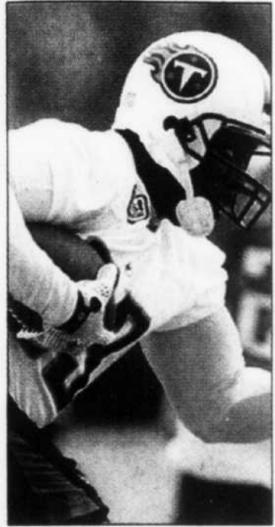
EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 29

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New life for Titans TE



Alge Crumpler has gone from the bottom of the league towards the top in one offseason.

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Sex education helps prepare teens for life

An alleged "pact" leaves 17 underage high school students pregnant.

OPINIONS, 2

Improvement needed from UL, FIU

Florida International and the University of Louisiana are next in our Sun Belt football preview.

COMMUTE

The intersection at Blue Raider Drive and MTSU Boulevard will be closed May 5 through August 20 for construction of a roundabout. The temporary detour by the Honors Building will be active for those who are traveling north on Blue Raider Drive.

There will also be a detour just past the Greenhouse for those who are traveling east on Blue Raider Drive. Detour signs will be posted.

For those who ride the Raider Xpress, please check mtsu.edu, under "Transportation" for the temporary changes to the routes.

MTSU hosts international education conference for Chinese, U.S. scholars

By JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER
Staff Writer

A prestigious workshop on mathematics and science education is being held on the MTSU campus this week.

The workshop began on June 22, and has consisted of four plenary lectures and several sessions that will be given by both United States and People's Republic of China scholars.

It was co-hosted by MTSU, the Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou and People's Republic of China. Bart Gordon, United States Congressman, delivered the opening address at a dinner event held Sunday.

Participation requires an invitation and 125 scholars were confirmed from various universities from both China and the United States.

The participating scholars were divided into research working groups, whose objective is to strengthen and understand the attributes of collaborative research.

The topic session papers cover six areas: curriculum, assessment, teacher preparation, professional development, integrating technology into the teaching and learning of mathematics, and science and strategies for reaching underserved populations.

"Mathematics and science



Photo By Michael Stone
Sidney McPhee (middle) converses with guests during the opening dinner on June 22.

education is important to the United States right now because there is a feeling here that high school and university students are not really majoring in mathematics, science, technology or engineering," said Diane Miller, co-chair contact. "When I use the words science, I am specifically focusing on biology, chemistry and physics. Believe it or not, China feels the same way."

Miller said that one of the most important units of the workshop is the research

working groups.

"These groups will be developing professional relationships that will sustain a collaborative research agenda over a period of time," Miller said. "The pros of this workshop are tremendous, in that this workshop is getting science and mathematics educators' together from two countries and cultures, and that is the theme of this week."

"This workshop will form personal friendships that will be long lasting and

professional relationships," Miller said.

During the week-long event, four guest speakers have given lectures.

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, division director of the National Science Foundation, who spoke on curriculum and assessment, professor Guo Shaoqing of Northwest Normal University who spoke on integrating technology into teaching and learning, Liping Ma of the Carnegie Foundation who spoke on

professional development, and professor Wan Minggang of Northwest Normal University who spoke on reaching underserved populations.

Several students and faculty members of MTSU served as translators and transportation for the Chinese visitors.

The NSF gave \$100,000 for the event. The money went toward food, lodging, materials and travel expenses for guest speakers.

Funded by Texas Instruments, MTSU's Offices of the President, Executive Vice President and Provost, the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences, the College of Education and Behavioral Science, the Department of Mathematical Sciences, the McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center and MTSU alumnus Paul W. Martin Jr.

According to Miller, the workshop will result more than just to further research and individual relationships.

"If these people develop personal and professional relationships, than America and China will develop these relationships as well," Miller said.

Committee interviews three candidates to fill position of vice provost for Academic Affairs

By TIFFANY GIBSON
News Editor

The search committee for the vice provost of Academic Affairs has narrowed down the national search for the position of vice provost to three candidates.

The candidates are William Christie, president of the American College of the Building Arts, Diane Miller, interim vice provost for Academic Affairs at MTSU, and Munir Quddus, dean of the college of business at Prairie View A&M University.

"We started with 40 candidates and the first thing we did was review their curriculum and looked at who met certain qualifications," said Rebecca Fischer, chair of the vice provost for Academic Affairs search committee. "That narrowed the field down to eight people."

The search committee for the vice provost of Academic Affairs consists of Fischer, Clare Bratten, Jim Burton, Carol Clark, Robert Glenn, Faye Johnson, Connie Jones, Vic Montemayor, Pat Patterson, Mark E. Murphy, John Omachonu, Tracy Ring and Shamron Shaw-McEwen.

Fischer said members of the search committee then conducted a telephone interview, asking all of the candidates the same questions in order to give each candidate the opportunity to give their information or explain their position.

After the telephone inter-



Photo By Tiffany Gibson
The search committee for the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs interview William Christie.

views were completed, the search committee recommended three of the candidates visit the campus.

"I think we have had a very competent group of people who are accomplished in a lot of areas, and [we] have tried to pick out of those the best people who we feel will best fit out needs at MTSU," Fischer said. "We hope that the candidates we send to the president and the provost of Academic Affairs will be candidates who will fulfill this position and meet the faculty and administration's needs."

During the candidate's time spent on campus, each

underwent a full day process including open forums with faculty members and meetings with the Office of Executive Vice President and provost staff.

Miller, who currently serves as the interim vice provost of Academic Affairs at MTSU, said she thinks she has an advantage as an internal candidate.

"Particularly one who's had the position for three years as I have had, certainly can bring strength of experience and knowledge about the responsibilities of the position," Miller said.

Miller has been in education for over 30 years and

has spent 15 of them at MTSU. Previous universities she has served include Arkansas State University, Missouri State University, Louisiana State University, Curtin University, Pert University and Texas Tech.

"They look for a person with leadership skills, experience, good communication skills and can work with a diverse group of people," Miller said. "I think my experience at other universities strengthen me as a candidate for the position."

Even though the search committee for vice provost

Nashville Citizens back Gore as future candidate

By ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press Writer

If former Vice President Al Gore is serious about trying to rally voters behind Barack Obama's presidential bid, he might want to start in his hometown.

Supporters in the sleepy town about 50 miles east of Nashville witnessed Gore announce both his 1988 and 2000 presidential bids from the courthouse steps — and several express regret that he's not on the ballot this year.

"I don't know much about Al Gore other than that I wish he was president," said Carolyn Mofield, employee at Kim's Frame and Art across the street from the courthouse.

Mofield and others interviewed in the days before Gore officially endorsed Obama last week said they supported Hillary Rodham Clinton's failed bid — not least because of lingering fondness for former President Bill Clinton. And few seem eager to rally behind Barack Obama.

Gore's roots produced

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Breastfeeding battle begins; mom angry, cops weirded out

Most everyone has seen it at one time or another, looking around innocently then suddenly catching a glance of a mother nursing her child.

Most people just politely turn away, maybe clear their throat uncomfortably, then pretend it never happened.

This was not the case outside of a Rutherford County courtroom in Murfreesboro, where a young mother was nursing her child - allegedly for all the world to see.

A local officer asked the young lady to move to a "more discreet location," according to an *Associated Press* brief. The officer said that the lady's breasts were exposed and she was causing a ruckus - the likes of which only a person who has to constantly lug around a small child can.

The woman said that she was appropriately covered and her rights as a mother were violated. Tennessee law states that a mother has a right to breast feed a baby that is 12-months-old or younger in any location.

The mother was then threatened with arrest for the alleged "disturbance" she caused and is debating about

suing for discrimination.

To sue might be a little extreme, but at the very least, Heather Rankin, the mother in question, is deserved an apology for the incident.

Who knows if her breasts were actually out in the open or if the officers simply overreacted to what can be an embarrassing situation.

The point isn't about breasts. It's what's attached to them. Children need to be fed. Who knew?

The truth of the matter is, it never should have been made a big deal in the first place. Incidents like this probably happen quite frequently, but like most ordeals, such as this one, the situation seems to have been completely blown out of proportion.

The officer should have minded his own business, especially if no one in the vicinity seemed to mind Rankin feeding her child.

Besides, a breast isn't all that forbidden from people's eyes. Flip on cable and there's a breast. Look in the mirror and there's a breast. Everyone has them. Some just actually serve a constructive purpose.

'Pact' leaves Gloucester High teens unprepared for pregnancy, parenting

When I was in high school, I opted to take JROTC instead of gym. So while I was receiving an education in military protocol, my peers were going through sexual education.

Actually, it was more like STI education and the dangers of sex - nothing about the benefits of or how to have a healthy sex life.

Sexual education is one of the most important things we can teach young adults. Basic sex ed should begin in middle school with teachers discussing the dynamics of relationships, including how to maintain safe, stable and happy relationships and about the dangers and prevention of abuse.

In high school, teenagers should begin learning about the technical aspects of sex, including anatomy, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, pregnancy, abstinence, abortion, free clinics and sexual orientations.

The common arguments I've heard against sexual education usually revolve around the notion of not wanting to introduce children to sex for fear of either being too young or encouraging sexual activity. But sexual education is not about teaching a Kama Sutra curriculum, it's about helping children learn how to develop healthy, strong relationships that are fulfilling and sustaining.

It seems this type of education would have really come in handy for the young wom



Yeah, Whatever
Andy Harper

en of Gloucester High School in Gloucester, Mass. Seventeen girls all under the age of 16 are pregnant. Rumors of an alleged "pregnancy pact" among the teens has been circulating through recently through news venues including *Time Magazine*.

One article, appearing on Boston's WBZ-TV news network, quoted Christopher Farmer, superintendent of Gloucester's school system, as attributing the pregnancy pact to lack of self-esteem.

"The common threat is the lack of self-esteem and purpose in life, and a lack of a sense of direction," said Farmer. "Young women wanting and needing affection."

What could possibly cause a child to lack a purpose in life or require a sense of direction? A 13-year-old does not need to decipher their life's meaning and a sense of direction at that age. There only goal should be to survive growing up - which can be better done without a baby.

Granted not all teenagers have life so easily, especially when faced with drug addic-

tion, divorce rates, economic struggles and the standard awkward angst.

Despite these hardships, I've never met a teenager who thought, "Oh my God! I can't take this anymore! I've got to have a baby right now!"

The notion seems silly right - freaking out about teenage angst and having a child? Not according to Amanda Ireland, a recent graduate from the high school who has a 3-year-old.

"They're so excited to finally have someone to love them unconditionally," Ireland, 18, said. "I try to explain it's hard to feel loved when an infant is screaming to be fed at 3 a.m."

This raises questions about who parents these children - Mr. Freeze and Cruella DeVil? Could the connection with their parents be so frigid and uncaring that a girl, under the age of 16, wants to become pregnant with the child of a 24-year-old homeless man in an attempt to be loved?

Oh yes - Principal Joseph Sullivan told *Time* that the pact was not the most disturbing part of the entire ordeal, but that one of the girls was impregnated by a homeless man who is nearly a decade older than her.

Yikes - that's the only sentiment I can come up with.

Hopefully the young men of the school were smart enough to stay away from their pro-fertility peers. Which raises yet another interesting aspect

about the pact: what about the dads? Who are these men that either willingly or unknowingly impregnated these women? What happens to their lives?

Honestly, it's tough to take a stance in the case of the males. On one hand, if you can't pay the price, don't jump on the ride. On the other, it could be possible that they were unaware of the ultimate goal to get pregnant and even might have taken measures to try and prevent pregnancy. For all anyone knows, these girls could have said they were on birth control.

But the point isn't the males involvement or even whether these girls are ready to handle the parental lifestyle. The point is that these children, these misled and ignorant young adults were not taught about healthy relationships and of the reality of being a teenage mother. Something - the parents, the school system, the community - failed these kids and did not prepare them for life.

They should have been taught about forming and maintaining a relationship, the risks of sex, the biological process of pregnancy and the basic skills of parenting.

And hopefully, the next time a teenager at Gloucester High wants to be loved unconditionally, they'll ask their parents for a puppy.

Andy Harper is a senior journalism major and can be reached at sah3u@mtsu.edu.

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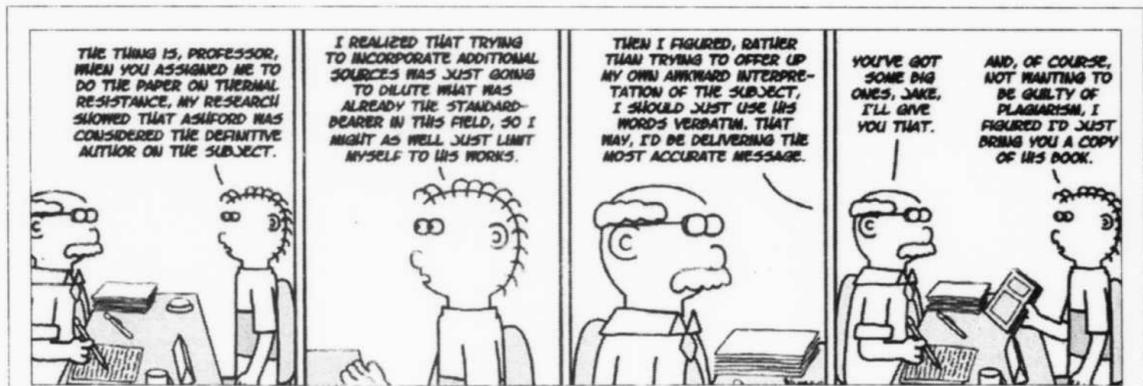
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COMICS



"Last-Ditch Effort"

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John Kroes



"Last-Ditch Effort"

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John Kroes

FACES IN THE CROWD

Do you think high school sexual education classes are beneficial to students and why?



Theus
"No, people are still having unsafe sex and kids are still getting pregnant. It's obviously not working."

Michael Theus, junior
slfeatur@mtsu.edu



Fisher
"No, because high school students have already figured out sex by the time those classes are taking place."

Fyke Fisher, grad student financing



Snow
"Yes. I am a parent of two children. I think that it's important for students to learn about sex."

Kim Snow, senior elementary education

DOES RACE STILL DIVIDE US AS A SOCIETY?

FEATURES



HOW OFTEN DO YOU CHECK FACEBOOK?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM

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Zach Kennedy brings diversity to campus

Race is not an issue for one man who decided to join an NPHC fraternity

By MICHAEL STONE
Features Editor

Some men join a fraternity for connections, some for popularity, and, let's face it, some join for parties. But every once in a while, a man will come along with a desire to join a fraternity for its true meaning—brotherhood.

Zachary David Kennedy is one of those men.

"To me, being in a fraternity is about knowing that my brothers would do anything for me, and them knowing that I would do anything for them," Kennedy says.

Zach started attending MTSU last fall. He knew he wanted to join a fraternity from the beginning, but he didn't want to rush into anything.

"When I first got up here, I didn't immediately go Greek because I wanted to get situated in college first," Kennedy recalls. "Things like getting situated financially and with classes and things was very important to me when I started college."

And once Zach did get situated, he began to look into Interfraternity Council fraternities—ones who have historically consisted of white members—over the National Panhellenic Council fraternities—ones who have historically consisted of black members.

"There's nothing that says one fraternity is white and one fraternity is black," says Carrie Youell, coordinator of Greek Affairs. "It's just history, with things like the founding and the purpose of that founding, that seems to lead certain races to certain fraternities."

Zach had met Jose Becton, a member of the Iota Mu chapter of the NPHC fraternity Phi Beta Sigma, during his first semester at MTSU.

"I was helping out with We Haul for freshman mov-

ing into the dorms," Becton remembers. "I was giving Zach's friend a hand with moving his stuff and Zach came up and we just started talking. We really connected from the start and grew to become good friends. He just has this aura about him of sincerity and compassion."

In the middle of Zach's freshman year, he felt the pressures of deciding what fraternity he would join. At this time, he wanted to join a specific IFC fraternity.

"He pretty much had his mind made up about what fraternity he was going to join," Becton remembers. "I told him to just keep an open mind about things."

Zach took what his good friend had said to heart, and did keep an open mind. And this open mind led him to make what he considers one of the best decisions of his life.

"Once he looked into it, Zach ended up wanting to join an NPHC fraternity really bad, but he couldn't," Becton says. "I said 'And why can't you?' and he said 'Because I'm not black.'"

So I explained to him that we accept you for who you are, and that we're not exclusive, but inclusive."

With members like Jose, Zach's liking of NPHC fraternities, specifically Phi Beta Sigma, emerged.

The process and the people are two other reasons Zach attributes to his desire to join the fraternity. "The process of becoming a brother in Phi Beta Sigma is more conducive with my personality than that of IFC fraternities," Kennedy describes. "The brothers were



Photo courtesy of Zachary Kennedy. Zach poses with a group of his fraternity brothers and some friends at a Phi Beta Sigma function.

“TO ME, BEING IN A FRATERNITY IS ABOUT KNOWING THAT MY BROTHERS WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR ME, AND THEM KNOWING THAT I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR THEM.”

ZACHARY KENNEDY
MEMBER OF PHI BETA SIGMA

down to earth and didn't try to hide behind their letters. They were never elitist or condescending at all."

Zach made up his mind. He was going to join Phi Beta Sigma. And Phi Beta Sigma made up their mind about letting him.

Soon after Zach began the process of joining, he made



Photo courtesy of Zachary Kennedy. (Left) Zach with his brothers at his going away party. (Right) Zach with line brother Nick Gordon.



another huge decision in his life—the decision to transfer to West Point Military Academy for the remainder of his undergraduate career at the end of the academic school year.

"I knew soon after I started

the process that I wasn't going to be coming back to MTSU," Kennedy recalls. "It didn't discourage me at all because once you become a Sigma, you're always a Sigma. Now that I'm going to be at another school, I'm not going to look back and say 'I was a Sigma.' I'll simply say 'I am a Sigma.'"

And his chapter will miss that Sigma.

"It was a big loss to the chapter when we found out Zach was going to be leaving us," says Nick Gordon, a member of Phi Beta Sigma, who was on Zach's "line"—the term that NPHC fraternities use to refer to the IFC word "pledge." "He's such a great guy and he played a big role in our chapter in his short time here."

At 7:28 p.m. on March 16, Zach Kennedy went from "the line" to a full brother of Phi Beta Sigma, just weeks before he would be leaving MTSU.

And Phi Beta Sigma isn't the only thing Zach will be leaving at MTSU. He was also

a freshman senator for the Student Government Association, a member of Up "Til Dawn's recruitment committee, a justice for the court of traffic appeals and a member of the homecoming committee.

"He wanted responsibility from the very beginning," Becton says. "Most freshman get here and just want to hang out, but Zach got really involved from the start."

And now, as his MTSU days are behind him, Zach looks to his future.

"When I graduate from West Point, I'll be serving my 8-year term in the army," Kennedy says. "From there, I'd like to get married and start a family, and maybe pursue a degree past my bachelor's. I'd like to study law or political science and maybe get involved in politics later on in life." And no matter what Kennedy does, he says he will always be a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma.

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**GORE
FROM PAGE 1**

a convincing win in his home county in 2000 but weren't deep enough to carry the state, and Tennessee's 11 electoral votes helped put George W. Bush in the White House instead.

Clinton won the state's Democratic primary by 13 percentage points in February. In Smith County, a rural area about 45 miles east of Nashville, she took 2,385 votes to Obama's 343.

Gore has campaigned worldwide to draw attention to climate change, which led to the Oscar-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth." He shared the Nobel Peace Prize with a U.N. panel of scientists last year.

Memories of the Gore family run back for generations in this town of about 2,200. Arliss Gibbs, who used to work on the Gore family farm, said he remembers a young Al Gore just home from his military service ignoring his advice not to work shirtless on a hot summer day — and getting a severe sunburn.

Gibbs also supported Clinton and said he isn't certain he'd now heed advice from Gore to vote for Obama.

"I just don't know how I feel about that," said Gibbs, citing inflammatory remarks by Obama's former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

Charlie Carter, who runs Charlie's Barber Shop in downtown Carthage, said he hopes Gore runs for president again in 2012 but vowed to stay out of this year's election regardless of Gore's role.

"I wouldn't vote for my momma if she was a Republican, and I won't vote for this black guy either," said Carter. "I just don't like him is all."

**VICE PROVOST
FROM PAGE 1**

of Academic Affairs evaluates the candidates, they do not make the final decision.

"After we review input from campus we will make a list of strengths and weaknesses [for each candidate], but the final decision is up to the Provost of Academic Affairs and the president," Fischer said.

Fischer said the search committee is looking for someone who can link the faculty with the administration and has the ability to lead them in new directions.

One of the focuses that the search committee brought attention to is the internationalization of the curriculum. Fischer said they are seeking someone who has previous experience in that as well as someone who has experience with diversity.

"Diversity is important and is someone we are committed to on campus and we want the Vice Provost to share that interest as well," Fischer said.

During Christie's interview with the search committee, he said his understanding of diversity is very broad and in order to change diversity in the office he would be patient and create an opportunity.

"I describe [my leadership and management style] as max ability [and] max freedom," Christie said. "I'm a team builder."

To better exemplify his leadership abilities, Christie said when it comes to budget cuts he has had to make mid-year cuts before, but has tried to not affect the students in doing so.

As of now, the new Vice Provost of Academic Affairs has yet to be chosen, but Fischer said that the search committee will get their evaluation lists to the Provost of Academic Affairs within the next week with an announcement to be made in early July.

"We've been very fortunate to have a search committee that is committed to this process, and I think they have been very diligent in their work," Fischer said. "I would like to thank them and the provost staff."

Crumpler likes connection with taller QB

New Titans tight end adjusting to catching passes from Vince Young

By TERESA M. WALKER AND RICHARD LOWE

AP Sports Writer and Sports Editor

Tight end Alge Crumpler, who knows the importance of a good relationship with a quarterback, thinks he has found something splendid working with Tennessee's Vince Young.

"I'm definitely excited about it, and I know he's excited about it too, especially when we get in two-minute situations, and he takes command of the offense and is able to move our team down the field so easily. He does such a good job. I'm able to point out a couple things here and there ...," Crumpler said.

"It's just been a match made in heaven thus far."

Call it a welcome fresh start for a man looking to escape Atlanta and the mess he had endured last year with coach Bobby Petrino, who abruptly left before his first NFL season had ended.

"I love those fans in Atlanta. The situation that was last season, I'm just glad it's over with and I'm glad I have a fresh start somewhere else. I ... sure don't want to be there right now," said Crumpler, a four-time Pro Bowler.

To make sure he didn't make a mistake moving onto a new team, the seven-year veteran did his homework and chose Tennessee because he felt the Titans are a contender.

"I thought coming in here would be a good situation for me, and it's (done) nothing but met my expectations, above and beyond my expectations thus far," he said.

What makes Crumpler so happy? Finding himself on a

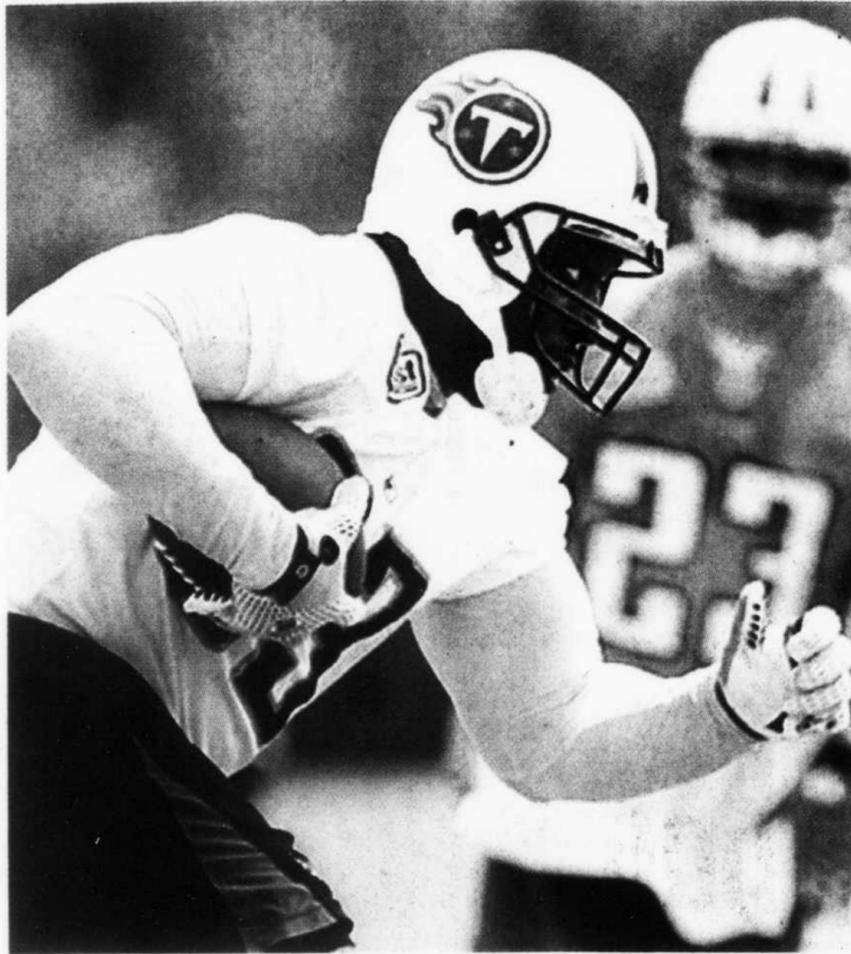


Photo Courtesy Mark Humphrey/AP Photo
Former Atlanta Falcon Alge Crumpler, now with the Tennessee Titans, has done well this offseason.

team filled with players who push themselves to work harder.

The feeling has been mutual for a team whose biggest offseason catch was Crumpler with his 316 receptions for 4,212 yards and 35 touchdowns. Even in 2007 when Crumpler missed a couple games with a sore knee, he still caught 42 passes for 444 yards. His five TD catches

would have led the Titans, who had only nine TD passes in 2007.

"Alge fits in very nicely," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "He's been a pro. He's been here, he's working and has a good sense and feel for what we're doing."

The Titans didn't try to keep onetime draft pick Ben Troupe, who caught only five passes last season, or Ben

Hartsock. Instead, they went after Crumpler and fellow Falcons' teammate Dwayne Blakley to give Young better help at tight end.

Bo Scaife, the tight end who played at Texas with Young, has welcomed Crumpler to the team. The two played for the same position coach while in college, and Scaife said he thinks the potential is endless for the tight ends now.

Crumpler's connection with Young has been obvious this offseason and especially in the minicamps, which conclude Friday. Young likes the big target he has in the 6-foot-2 Crumpler who sees everything the quarterback finds at the line of scrimmage.

"I feel he's going to help me out a lot because he's been in the game a long time, and he knows where to be at the right time, especially in certain coverages. If I don't get my receivers, he knows where to be so I can find him and get the ball to him," Young said.

It's easy to assume Crumpler picked up with the 6-foot-5 Young the kind of relationship he enjoyed with 6-foot Michael Vick. Crumpler says it's not the same.

"They're two totally different quarterbacks. Everyone has lumped them in the same category," Crumpler said. "With Vince being so tall and being in the pocket, I can kind of see him more when I'm running my route and get a feel for where he wants me to be."

It also doesn't hurt that Titans offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger likes to use his tight ends down field in the passing game.

"I love getting down the field. When I get going, I get to running, it's kind of hard to bring me down. I just love playing the game," Crumpler said.

These days, he really means it again.

The first chance for Titans fans to see Crumpler in uniform will be their first pre-season game, Aug. 9, at LP Field. Single game tickets go on sale July 12.

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