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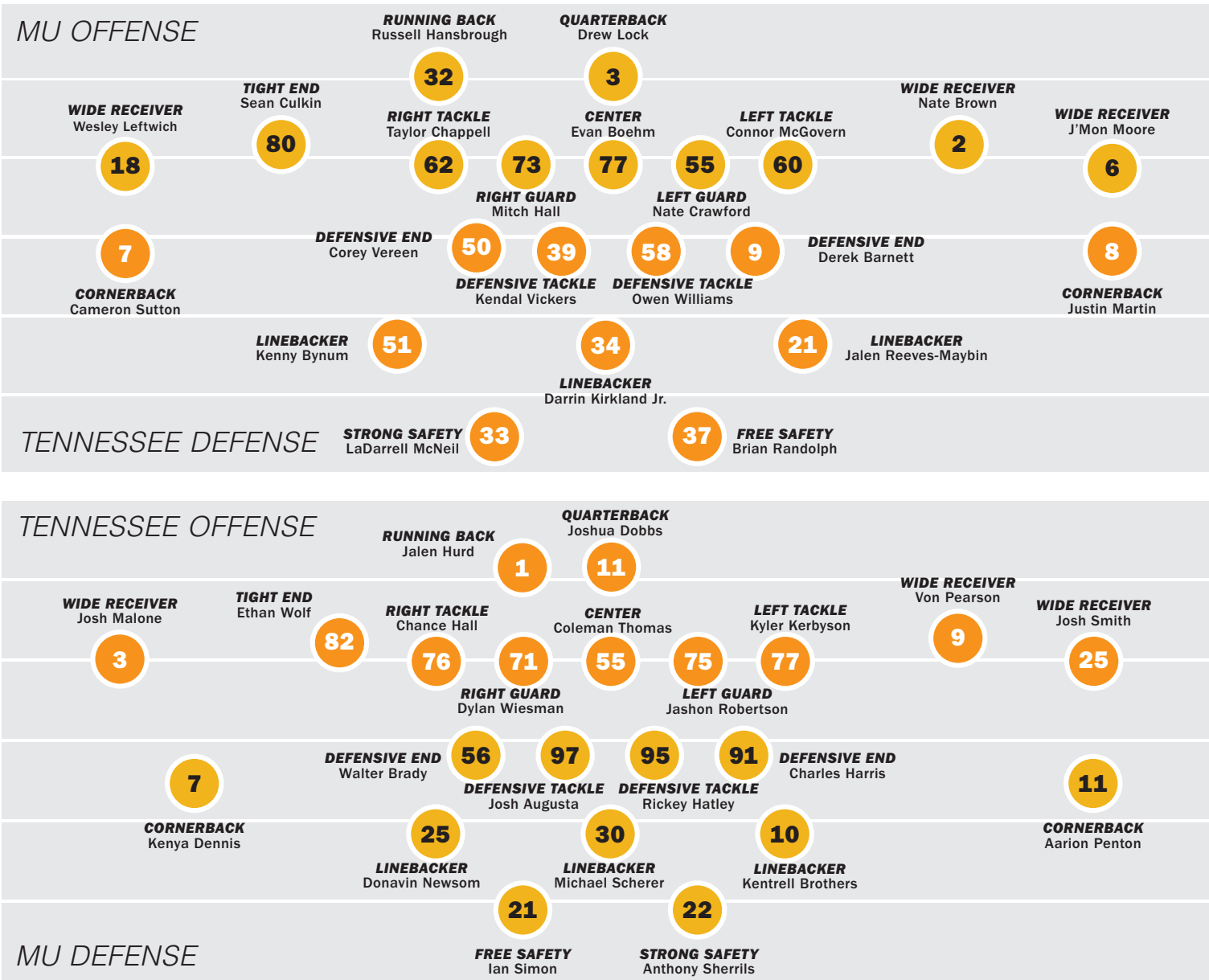
**PINKEL THROUGH
THE YEARS**
A CLOSER LOOK AT
GARY PINKEL'S CAREER
AS MISSOURI'S COACH
PAGE 8

THE BLACK ATHLETE

**THE DISTINCTIVE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK PLAYERS
ON MISSOURI'S MOSTLY WHITE CAMPUS**

STARTING LINEUPS

MISSOURI TENNESSEE



TIGER KICKOFF

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Tiger Kickoff is published every Friday before a home Missouri football game. Look for the special edition before home games and an expanded sports section before away games.

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DEPTH CHART » MISSOURI

OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
	1ST STRING	2ND STRING		1ST STRING	2ND STRING
QB	Drew Lock	Eddie Printz	DE	Walter Brady	Marcell Frazier
RB	Russell Hansbrough	Ish Witter	DT	Josh Augusta	Josh Moore
WR1	J'Mon Moore	Emanuel Hall	DT	Rickey Hatley	A.J. Logan
WR2	Nate Brown	Cam Hilton	DE	Charles Harris	Nate Howard
WR3	Wesley Leftwich	Keyon Dilosa	SLB	Donavin Newsom	Clarence Green
TE	Sean Culkin	Jason Reese	MLB	Michael Scherer	Brandon Lee
LT	Connor McGovern	Malik Cuellar	WLB	Kentrell Brothers	Joey Burkett
LG	Nate Crawford	Alec Abeln	CB1	Kenya Dennis	John Gibson
C	Evan Boehm	Sam Bailey	CB2	Aarion Penton	Logan Cheadle
RG	Mitch Hall	Kevin Pendleton	SS	Anthony Sherrills	Thomas Wilson
RT	Taylor Chappell	Paul Adams	FS	Ian Simon	Cortland Browning

SPECIAL TEAMS » MISSOURI

PUNTER (26) Corey Fatony
PLACEKICKER (99) Andrew Baggett
HOLDER (9) Eddie Printz
LONG SNAPPER (86) Jake Hurrell
KICK RETURNER (5) John Gibson
PUNT RETURNER (33) Cam Hilton

SPECIAL TEAMS » TENNESSEE

PLACEKICKER (25) Aaron Medley
PUNTER (93) Trevor Daniel
LONG SNAPPER (59) Matt Giampapa
KICK RETURNER (29) Evan Berry
PUNT RETURNER (7) Cameron Sutton
HOLDER (10) Patrick Ashford

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THE

IMPOSSIBLE

QUIZ

TENNESSEE EDITION

In the final home game of the regular season, the Missouri Tigers face the Tennessee Volunteers. The game is also the last hurrah on Faurot Field for coach Gary Pinkel, who announced that this season would be his last. Study up on the competition with a test of all things Tennessee, from its laws to its borders.

By MICHAEL MANDELL

1

Upon Tennessee's admission to the union in 1796, Knoxville was the state's first capital. In 1818, the capital was moved to where?

A Nashville

B Murfreesboro

C Clarksville

D Johnson City

2

Tennessee deployed more National Guard soldiers than any other state in which conflict?

A Bosnian War (1992-95)

B Persian Gulf War (1990-91)

C Vietnam War (1964-73)

D Iraq War (2003-11)

3

Which coach did NOT lead the Tennessee football team to a national title?

A Robert Neyland

B Philip Fulmer

C Doug Dickey

D Johnny Majors

4

How many national titles has Tennessee won in football?

A 2

B 3

C 5

D 6

5

How many states does Tennessee border?

A 6

B 7

C 8

D 9

?

?

?

TENNESSEE

?

6

In Tennessee, it is illegal to sell which of the following items?

A Bubble wrap

B Rat poison

C Hollow logs

D Your body parts

7

Speaking of weird laws, only one of these things is legal in Tennessee. Which one is it?

A Riding a horse while intoxicated

B Sharing your Netflix password

C Giving a tattoo to a minor

D Holding hands in school

8

Which Kansas City Chiefs player did NOT attend the University of Tennessee?

A Eric Berry

B Zach Fulton

C Dustin Colquitt

D Derrick Johnson

9

Tennessee is a very wide state. How many miles is it from from Memphis (SW corner) to Mountain City (NE corner)?

A 435

B 475

C 545

D 590

10

Tennessee is one of four SEC teams to which Missouri has never lost since joining prior to the 2012 season. What are the other three?

A Arkansas, LSU and Ole Miss

B Auburn, LSU and Texas A&M

C Kentucky, Ole Miss and Texas A&M

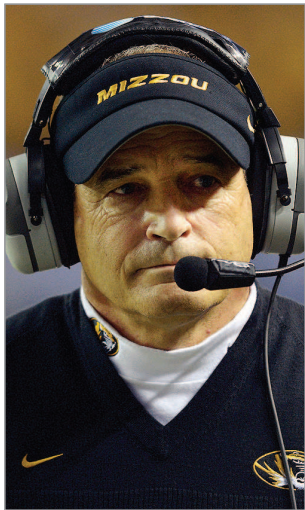
D LSU, Ole Miss and Texas A&M



Answers

1. B. In 1807, the small town of Kingston was also designated as the capital for a day when the Tennessee General Assembly moved there for a day to negotiate with the Cherokee Indians.
2. B. The Persian Gulf War lasted from August 1990 until January 1991 and pitted the United States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, France and others against Iraq.
3. D. Despite being the Tennessee coach for 16 seasons (1977-1992) and winning three Southeastern Conference titles, Majors never won a national title at Tennessee.
4. D. The team's most recent national title came in 1998, the first year the Bowl Championship Series was used to determine the national champion.
5. C. Missouri is the only other state in the SEC to have never lost to Tennessee since joining the conference, but the Tigers won their only SEC games against Arkansas (last season) and Ole Miss (2013).
6. C. But really, why would you want to purchase a hollow log anyway?
7. A. Although riding horses while intoxicated might not be the safest activity, you're free to do so whenever you travel to Tennessee.
8. D. Johnson graduated from the University of Texas. Although both schools refer to themselves as "UT," Tennessee's shade of orange is a bit lighter.
9. C. A drive would take you all the way from the Tennessee-Arkansas border to the Iron Mountains. It would last roughly 8 hours, 30 minutes.
10. A. Missouri hasn't played LSU since joining the conference, but the Tigers won their only SEC games against Arkansas (last season) and Ole Miss (2013).

WHAT'S INSIDE



WINNINGEST
Take a look at the record behind Missouri's most winningest coach, Gary Pinkel, before he says goodbye to the team this season.

8



FIRST BLACK FOOTBALL PLAYER
Norris Stevenson left his mark by leading the Missouri team to a win over Oklahoma during the 1960 season.

14



TODDLERS TO TIGERS
This future Missouri Tiger was "the epitome of having middle child syndrome," according to his mother.

15

SCHEDULE

09/05	VS. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	W 34-3
09/12	@ ARKANSAS STATE	W 27-20
FAMILY WEEKEND/TIGER STRIPE		
09/19	VS. CONNECTICUT	W 9-6
09/26	@ KENTUCKY	L 21-13
GOLD RUSH/MILITARY APPRECIATION		
10/03	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA	W 24-10
HOMECOMING		
10/10	VS. FLORIDA	L 21-3
10/17	@ GEORGIA	L 9-6
10/24	@ VANDERBILT	L 10-3
11/05	VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE	L 31-13
11/14	VS. BYU (ARROWHEAD STADIUM)	W 20-16
BLACKOUT		
11/21	VS. TENNESSEE	6:15 P.M.
11/27	@ ARKANSAS	1:30 P.M.



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Recent activism by student athletes

Here are a few points since 2009 when college athletes became activists for causes.

July 2009

O'Bannon vs. NCAA

Nearly a decade and a half after he led UCLA to an NCAA basketball national championship, Ed O'Bannon filed a lawsuit against the non-profit association for using his and others' likenesses in video games. While the NCAA makes billions in television revenue and licensing fees, players don't see any part of it. O'Bannon argued that players should receive compensation after they graduate. Last year, a judge ruled that the NCAA violated anti-trust laws. The NCAA appealed the ruling.



November 2014

Hands Up, Don't Shoot

When Arkansas' Jonathan Williams scored a touchdown at Missouri, he raised his hands in reference to Michael Brown, who was shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson the previous summer. The St. Louis Rams also made the "Hands up, don't shoot" gesture in support of Brown before a game that week.



March 2015

Oklahoma protests racist video

When a video of an Oklahoma fraternity member making racist chants went viral, the school's football team condemned it. They demonstrated instead of practicing. In a photo similar to ones we've seen from Missouri this month, the Sooners wore black T-shirts and linked arms. They used the hashtag #OUnited to brand their cause. This was in the spring, though. Six months before the season started.



2009

2015

October 2013 Grambling boycotts, forfeits football game

Grambling players, unhappy about having to take the bus to far-away games refused to travel for a game against Jackson State in 2013. Their angst was multi-faceted. The school had recently made other financial cuts, which left the team with shoddy facilities. And they were unhappy that their beloved head coach, Doug Williams had been fired. The team (0-8 after the forfeit) returned to the field the next week when the interim head coach was let go.



January 2014

Northwestern football tries to join labor union

Quarterback Kain Colter led Northwestern's bid to form a labor union, which would ensure them rights, such as guaranteed scholarships and medical care. NCAA President Mark Emmert griped that a union would throw off the entire system for college athletics. Last August, the National Labor Relations Board decided not to make a ruling on Northwestern's ability to unionize. While it wasn't a win for the players, Colter saw some positives: "Since we started this movement, a lot of positive changes have come from this — the introduction of four-year scholarships, increased stipends, possibly better medical coverage, the lifting of food restrictions," he said. "A lot of the things that we've been fighting for have been adopted. But there is a lot of room to go."



Coach Gary Pinkel
@GaryPinkel

Follow

The Mizzou Family stands as one. We are united. We are behind our players.
#ConcernedStudent1950 GP



November 2015

Missouri boycotts amid racial tensions on campus

More than any of these other instances of social activism, Missouri's, experts believe, is the strongest indicator of the power college athletes wield. Their threat to boycott a football game until UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned, and Wolfe's resignation two days later showed how football can rule a campus. The Tigers' boycott lasted roughly 40 hours before Wolfe was gone and the team resumed football activities.

WELCOME TO COLUMBIA

BLACK AND GOLD IS JUST THE BEGINNING

When the tailgating is over and the game clock expires, don't let the fun stop! Time and time again, visitors are delightfully surprised by what Columbia has to offer. From picturesque parks and clever cuisine to amazing art and superb shopping, visitors find that Columbia is 'surprisingly sophisticated.'

We like to think of Columbia as a cool neighborhood in a big city, with a young vibe, an active buzz and an engaged community. We're also a friendly and welcoming community, with a thriving downtown and an abundance of cultural opportunities.

We're Columbia... What You Unexpect!



COLUMBIA, MO
WHAT YOU UNEXPECT

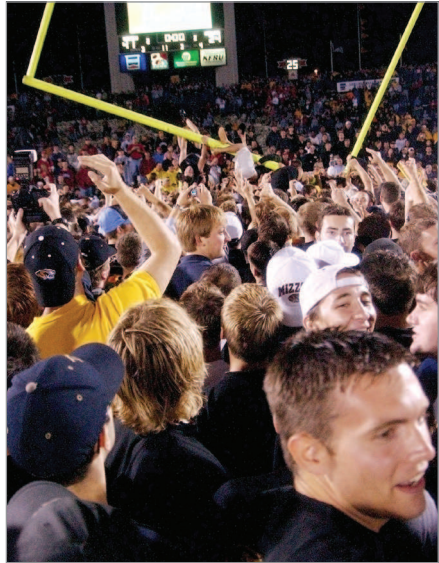
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9/1/2001
The Tigers lost Pinkel's first game as head coach at Missouri, 20-13 against Bowling Green. The Tigers notched just four wins that year, the fewest in Pinkel's tenure.



10/11/2003
After losing 24 straight games against Nebraska, Missouri finally took down the Cornhuskers, and then fans took down the Faurot Field goal posts in celebration.



12/30/2005
Pinkel (28-30 at the time) needed a win to protect his job. Quarterback Brad Smith and the Tigers came back from 21 points down to win the Independence Bowl 38-31.



11/24/2007
Missouri's win over No. 2 Kansas at Arrowhead Stadium vaulted the Tigersto the nation's No. 1 ranking...



12/1/2007
...But Missouri would lose its next game, the Big 12 Championship in San Antonio, Texas, to blow their chances of playing in the national championship.



10/3/2010
With a gigantic crowd attending pre-game festivities, Missouri topped No. 1 Oklahoma for the first time since 1998.



1/3/2014
Pinkel became Missouri's winningest head coach with his 102nd victory. The Tigers beat Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl to cap a 12-2 season.



11/28/2014
The Tigers beat Arkansas in the regular season finale to clinch their second straight SEC East title. That Missouri went back to back was a shock for onlookers who thought the program would struggle in the rugged Southeastern Conference. The Tigers did lose in both SEC Championship games, though.



11/14/2015
Pinkel announced to his team that he would retire after the season. He announced Nov. 13 that he has a type of Imphona cancer. It was just another emotional moment in a hectic week that included a team protest. The Tigers beat BYU 20-16, and Pinkel danced in celebration with his players afterward.

MISSOURI'S 15 SEASONS UNDER PINKEL

Gary Pinkel will retire at the end of the season after learning in the spring that he has cancer. Here's how the Tigers fared in his 15 years, in which he's amassed a school record 118 and 71 losses (.624 winning percentage) and the nine games (marked in gold) that defined his career.

2001 SEASON (4-7) <table><tr><td>9/1/01</td><td>Bowling Green</td><td>L 13 – 20</td></tr><tr><td>9/8/01</td><td>Texas State</td><td>W 40 – 6</td></tr><tr><td>9/29/01</td><td>Nebraska</td><td>L 3 – 36</td></tr><tr><td>10/6/01</td><td>@ Oklahoma State</td><td>W 41 – 38</td></tr><tr><td>10/13/01</td><td>Iowa State</td><td>L 14 – 20</td></tr><tr><td>10/20/01</td><td>@ Kansas</td><td>W 38 – 34</td></tr><tr><td>10/27/01</td><td>Texas</td><td>L 16 – 35</td></tr><tr><td>11/3/01</td><td>@ Colorado</td><td>L 24 – 38</td></tr><tr><td>11/10/01</td><td>Baylor</td><td>W 41 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>11/24/01</td><td>@ Kansas State</td><td>L 3 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>12/1/01</td><td>@ Michigan State</td><td>L 7 – 55</td></tr></table>	9/1/01	Bowling Green	L 13 – 20	9/8/01	Texas State	W 40 – 6	9/29/01	Nebraska	L 3 – 36	10/6/01	@ Oklahoma State	W 41 – 38	10/13/01	Iowa State	L 14 – 20	10/20/01	@ Kansas	W 38 – 34	10/27/01	Texas	L 16 – 35	11/3/01	@ Colorado	L 24 – 38	11/10/01	Baylor	W 41 – 24	11/24/01	@ Kansas State	L 3 – 24	12/1/01	@ Michigan State	L 7 – 55	2002 SEASON (5-7) <table><tr><td>8/31/02</td><td>Illinois</td><td>W 33 – 20</td></tr><tr><td>9/7/02</td><td>Ball State</td><td>W 41 – 6</td></tr><tr><td>9/14/02</td><td>@ Bowling Green</td><td>L 28 – 51</td></tr><tr><td>9/28/02</td><td>Troy</td><td>W 44 – 7</td></tr><tr><td>10/5/02</td><td>Oklahoma</td><td>L 24 – 31</td></tr><tr><td>10/12/02</td><td>@ Nebraska</td><td>L 13 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>10/19/02</td><td>@ Texas Tech</td><td>L 38 – 52</td></tr><tr><td>10/26/02</td><td>Kansas</td><td>W 36 – 12</td></tr><tr><td>11/2/02</td><td>@ Iowa State</td><td>L 35 – 42</td></tr><tr><td>11/9/02</td><td>Colorado</td><td>L 35 – 42</td></tr><tr><td>11/16/02</td><td>@ Texas A&M</td><td>W 33 – 27</td></tr><tr><td>11/23/02</td><td>Kansas State</td><td>L 0 – 38</td></tr></table>	8/31/02	Illinois	W 33 – 20	9/7/02	Ball State	W 41 – 6	9/14/02	@ Bowling Green	L 28 – 51	9/28/02	Troy	W 44 – 7	10/5/02	Oklahoma	L 24 – 31	10/12/02	@ Nebraska	L 13 – 24	10/19/02	@ Texas Tech	L 38 – 52	10/26/02	Kansas	W 36 – 12	11/2/02	@ Iowa State	L 35 – 42	11/9/02	Colorado	L 35 – 42	11/16/02	@ Texas A&M	W 33 – 27	11/23/02	Kansas State	L 0 – 38	2003 SEASON (8-5) <table><tr><td>8/30/03</td><td>Illinois</td><td>W 22 – 15</td></tr><tr><td>9/6/03</td><td>@ Ball State</td><td>W 35 – 7</td></tr><tr><td>9/13/03</td><td>Eastern Illinois</td><td>W 37 – 0</td></tr><tr><td>9/20/03</td><td>Mid. Tennessee State</td><td>W 41 – 40</td></tr><tr><td>9/27/03</td><td>@ Kansas</td><td>L 14 – 35</td></tr><tr><td>10/11/03</td><td>Nebraska</td><td>W 41 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>10/18/03</td><td>@ Oklahoma</td><td>L 13 – 34</td></tr><tr><td>10/25/03</td><td>Texas Tech</td><td>W 62 – 31</td></tr><tr><td>11/8/03</td><td>@ Colorado</td><td>L 16 – 21</td></tr><tr><td>11/15/03</td><td>Texas A&M</td><td>W 45 – 22</td></tr><tr><td>11/22/03</td><td>@ Kansas State</td><td>L 14 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>11/29/03</td><td>Iowa State</td><td>W 45 – 7</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">INDEPENDENCE BOWL (SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA)</td></tr><tr><td>12/31/03</td><td>Arkansas</td><td>L 14 – 27</td></tr></table>	8/30/03	Illinois	W 22 – 15	9/6/03	@ Ball State	W 35 – 7	9/13/03	Eastern Illinois	W 37 – 0	9/20/03	Mid. Tennessee State	W 41 – 40	9/27/03	@ Kansas	L 14 – 35	10/11/03	Nebraska	W 41 – 24	10/18/03	@ Oklahoma	L 13 – 34	10/25/03	Texas Tech	W 62 – 31	11/8/03	@ Colorado	L 16 – 21	11/15/03	Texas A&M	W 45 – 22	11/22/03	@ Kansas State	L 14 – 24	11/29/03	Iowa State	W 45 – 7	INDEPENDENCE BOWL (SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA)			12/31/03	Arkansas	L 14 – 27	2004 SEASON (5-6) <table><tr><td>9/4/04</td><td>Arkansas State</td><td>W 52 – 20</td></tr><tr><td>9/9/04</td><td>@ Troy</td><td>L 14 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>9/18/04</td><td>Ball State</td><td>W 48 – 0</td></tr><tr><td>10/2/04</td><td>Colorado</td><td>W 17 – 9</td></tr><tr><td>10/9/04</td><td>@ Baylor</td><td>W 30 – 10</td></tr><tr><td>10/16/04</td><td>@ Texas</td><td>L 20 – 28</td></tr><tr><td>10/23/04</td><td>Oklahoma State</td><td>L 17 – 20</td></tr><tr><td>10/30/04</td><td>@ Nebraska</td><td>L 3 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>11/6/04</td><td>Kansas State</td><td>L 24 – 35</td></tr><tr><td>11/20/04</td><td>Kansas</td><td>L 14 – 31</td></tr><tr><td>11/27/04</td><td>@ Iowa State</td><td>W 17 – 14</td></tr></table>	9/4/04	Arkansas State	W 52 – 20	9/9/04	@ Troy	L 14 – 24	9/18/04	Ball State	W 48 – 0	10/2/04	Colorado	W 17 – 9	10/9/04	@ Baylor	W 30 – 10	10/16/04	@ Texas	L 20 – 28	10/23/04	Oklahoma State	L 17 – 20	10/30/04	@ Nebraska	L 3 – 24	11/6/04	Kansas State	L 24 – 35	11/20/04	Kansas	L 14 – 31	11/27/04	@ Iowa State	W 17 – 14																																	
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11/27/04	@ Iowa State	W 17 – 14																																																																																																																																																																																		
2005 SEASON (7-5) <table><tr><td>9/3/05</td><td>Arkansas State</td><td>W 44 – 17</td></tr><tr><td>9/10/05</td><td>New Mexico</td><td>L 35 – 45</td></tr><tr><td>9/17/05</td><td>Troy</td><td>W 52 – 21</td></tr><tr><td>10/1/05</td><td>Texas</td><td>L 20 – 51</td></tr><tr><td>10/8/05</td><td>@ Oklahoma State</td><td>W 38 – 31</td></tr><tr><td>10/15/05</td><td>Iowa State</td><td>W 27 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>10/22/05</td><td>Nebraska</td><td>W 41 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>10/29/05</td><td>@ Kansas</td><td>L 3 – 13</td></tr><tr><td>11/5/05</td><td>@ Colorado</td><td>L 12 – 41</td></tr><tr><td>11/12/05</td><td>Baylor</td><td>W 31 – 16</td></tr><tr><td>11/19/05</td><td>@ Kansas State</td><td>L 28 – 36</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">INDEPENDENCE BOWL (SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA)</td></tr><tr><td>12/30/05</td><td>South Carolina</td><td>W 38 – 31</td></tr></table>	9/3/05	Arkansas State	W 44 – 17	9/10/05	New Mexico	L 35 – 45	9/17/05	Troy	W 52 – 21	10/1/05	Texas	L 20 – 51	10/8/05	@ Oklahoma State	W 38 – 31	10/15/05	Iowa State	W 27 – 24	10/22/05	Nebraska	W 41 – 24	10/29/05	@ Kansas	L 3 – 13	11/5/05	@ Colorado	L 12 – 41	11/12/05	Baylor	W 31 – 16	11/19/05	@ Kansas State	L 28 – 36	INDEPENDENCE BOWL (SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA)			12/30/05	South Carolina	W 38 – 31	2006 SEASON (8-5) <table><tr><td>9/2/06</td><td>Murray State</td><td>W 47 – 7</td></tr><tr><td>9/9/06</td><td>Mississippi</td><td>W 34 – 7</td></tr><tr><td>9/16/06</td><td>@ New Mexico</td><td>W 27 – 17</td></tr><tr><td>9/23/06</td><td>Ohio</td><td>W 31 – 6</td></tr><tr><td>9/30/06</td><td>Colorado</td><td>W 28 – 13</td></tr><tr><td>10/7/06</td><td>@ Texas Tech</td><td>W 38 – 21</td></tr><tr><td>10/14/06</td><td>@ Texas A&M</td><td>L 19 – 25</td></tr><tr><td>10/21/06</td><td>Kansas State</td><td>W 41 – 21</td></tr><tr><td>10/28/06</td><td>Oklahoma</td><td>L 10 – 26</td></tr><tr><td>11/4/06</td><td>@ Nebraska</td><td>L 20 – 34</td></tr><tr><td>11/18/06</td><td>@ Iowa State</td><td>L 16 – 21</td></tr><tr><td>11/25/06</td><td>Kansas</td><td>W 42 – 17</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">SUN BOWL (EL PASO, TEXAS)</td></tr><tr><td>12/29/06</td><td>Oregon State</td><td>L 38 – 39</td></tr></table>	9/2/06	Murray State	W 47 – 7	9/9/06	Mississippi	W 34 – 7	9/16/06	@ New Mexico	W 27 – 17	9/23/06	Ohio	W 31 – 6	9/30/06	Colorado	W 28 – 13	10/7/06	@ Texas Tech	W 38 – 21	10/14/06	@ Texas A&M	L 19 – 25	10/21/06	Kansas State	W 41 – 21	10/28/06	Oklahoma	L 10 – 26	11/4/06	@ Nebraska	L 20 – 34	11/18/06	@ Iowa State	L 16 – 21	11/25/06	Kansas	W 42 – 17	SUN BOWL (EL PASO, TEXAS)			12/29/06	Oregon State	L 38 – 39	2007 SEASON (12-2) <table><tr><td>9/1/07</td><td>Illinois</td><td>W 40 – 34</td></tr><tr><td>9/8/07</td><td>@ Mississippi</td><td>W 38 – 25</td></tr><tr><td>9/15/07</td><td>Western Michigan</td><td>W 52 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>9/22/07</td><td>Illinois State</td><td>W 38 – 17</td></tr><tr><td>10/6/07</td><td>Nebraska</td><td>W 41 – 6</td></tr><tr><td>10/13/07</td><td>@ Oklahoma</td><td>L 31 – 41</td></tr><tr><td>10/20/07</td><td>Texas Tech</td><td>W 41 – 10</td></tr><tr><td>10/27/07</td><td>Iowa State</td><td>W 42 – 28</td></tr><tr><td>11/3/07</td><td>@ Colorado</td><td>W 55 – 10</td></tr><tr><td>11/10/07</td><td>Texas A&M</td><td>W 40 – 26</td></tr><tr><td>11/17/07</td><td>@ Kansas State</td><td>W 49 – 32</td></tr><tr><td>11/24/07</td><td>Kansas</td><td>W 36 – 28</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP (SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS)</td></tr><tr><td>12/1/07</td><td>Oklahoma</td><td>L 17 – 38</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">COTTON BOWL (DALLAS, TEXAS)</td></tr><tr><td>1/1/08</td><td>Arkansas</td><td>W 38 – 7</td></tr></table>	9/1/07	Illinois	W 40 – 34	9/8/07	@ Mississippi	W 38 – 25	9/15/07	Western Michigan	W 52 – 24	9/22/07	Illinois State	W 38 – 17	10/6/07	Nebraska	W 41 – 6	10/13/07	@ Oklahoma	L 31 – 41	10/20/07	Texas Tech	W 41 – 10	10/27/07	Iowa State	W 42 – 28	11/3/07	@ Colorado	W 55 – 10	11/10/07	Texas A&M	W 40 – 26	11/17/07	@ Kansas State	W 49 – 32	11/24/07	Kansas	W 36 – 28	BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP (SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS)			12/1/07	Oklahoma	L 17 – 38	COTTON BOWL (DALLAS, TEXAS)			1/1/08	Arkansas	W 38 – 7	2008 SEASON (10-4) <table><tr><td>8/30/08</td><td>Illinois</td><td>W 52 – 42</td></tr><tr><td>9/6/08</td><td>SE Missouri State</td><td>W 52 – 3</td></tr><tr><td>9/13/08</td><td>Nevada</td><td>W 69 – 17</td></tr><tr><td>9/20/08</td><td>Buffalo</td><td>W 42 – 21</td></tr><tr><td>10/4/08</td><td>@ Nebraska</td><td>W 52 – 17</td></tr><tr><td>10/11/08</td><td>Oklahoma State</td><td>L 23 – 28</td></tr><tr><td>10/18/08</td><td>@ Texas</td><td>L 31 – 56</td></tr><tr><td>10/25/08</td><td>Colorado</td><td>W 58 – 0</td></tr><tr><td>11/1/08</td><td>@ Baylor</td><td>W 31 – 28</td></tr><tr><td>11/8/08</td><td>Kansas State</td><td>W 41 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>11/15/08</td><td>@ Iowa State</td><td>W 52 – 20</td></tr><tr><td>11/29/08</td><td>Kansas</td><td>L 37 – 40</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP (KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI)</td></tr><tr><td>12/6/08</td><td>Oklahoma</td><td>L 21 – 62</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">ALAMO BOWL (SAN ANTONIO TX)</td></tr><tr><td>12/29/08</td><td>Northwestern</td><td>W 30 – 23</td></tr></table>	8/30/08	Illinois	W 52 – 42	9/6/08	SE Missouri State	W 52 – 3	9/13/08	Nevada	W 69 – 17	9/20/08	Buffalo	W 42 – 21	10/4/08	@ Nebraska	W 52 – 17	10/11/08	Oklahoma State	L 23 – 28	10/18/08	@ Texas	L 31 – 56	10/25/08	Colorado	W 58 – 0	11/1/08	@ Baylor	W 31 – 28	11/8/08	Kansas State	W 41 – 24	11/15/08	@ Iowa State	W 52 – 20	11/29/08	Kansas	L 37 – 40	BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP (KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI)			12/6/08	Oklahoma	L 21 – 62	ALAMO BOWL (SAN ANTONIO TX)			12/29/08	Northwestern	W 30 – 23
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21	10/8/09	Nebraska	L 12 – 27	10/17/09	@ Oklahoma State	L 17 – 33	10/24/09	Texas	L 7 – 41	10/31/09	@ Colorado	W 36 – 17	11/7/09	Baylor	L 32 – 40	11/14/09	@ Kansas State	W 38 – 12	11/21/09	Iowa State	W 34 – 24	11/28/09	@ Kansas	W 41 – 39	TEXAS BOWL (HOUSTON, TEXAS)			12/31/09	Navy	L 13 – 35	2010 SEASON (10-3) <table><tr><td>9/4/10</td><td>Illinois</td><td>W 23 – 13</td></tr><tr><td>9/11/10</td><td>McNeese State</td><td>W 50 – 6</td></tr><tr><td>9/18/10</td><td>San Diego State</td><td>W 27 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>9/25/10</td><td>Miami (OH)</td><td>W 51 – 13</td></tr><tr><td>10/9/10</td><td>Colorado</td><td>W 26 – 0</td></tr><tr><td>10/16/10</td><td>@ Texas A&M</td><td>W 30 – 9</td></tr><tr><td>10/23/10</td><td>Oklahoma</td><td>W 36 – 27</td></tr><tr><td>10/30/10</td><td>@ Nebraska</td><td>L 17 – 31</td></tr><tr><td>11/6/10</td><td>@ Texas Tech</td><td>L 17 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>11/13/10</td><td>Kansas State</td><td>W 38 – 28</td></tr><tr><td>11/20/10</td><td>@ Iowa State</td><td>W 14 – 0</td></tr><tr><td>11/27/10</td><td>Kansas</td><td>W 35 – 7</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">INSIGHT BOWL (TEMPE, ARIZONA)</td></tr><tr><td>12/28/10</td><td>Iowa</td><td>L 24 – 27</td></tr></table>	9/4/10	Illinois	W 23 – 13	9/11/10	McNeese State	W 50 – 6	9/18/10	San Diego State	W 27 – 24	9/25/10	Miami (OH)	W 51 – 13	10/9/10	Colorado	W 26 – 0	10/16/10	@ Texas A&M	W 30 – 9	10/23/10	Oklahoma	W 36 – 27	10/30/10	@ Nebraska	L 17 – 31	11/6/10	@ Texas Tech	L 17 – 24	11/13/10	Kansas State	W 38 – 28	11/20/10	@ Iowa State	W 14 – 0	11/27/10	Kansas	W 35 – 7	INSIGHT BOWL (TEMPE, ARIZONA)			12/28/10	Iowa	L 24 – 27	2011 SEASON (8-5) <table><tr><td>9/3/11</td><td>Miami (OH)</td><td>W 17 – 6</td></tr><tr><td>9/9/11</td><td>@ Arizona State</td><td>L 30 – 37</td></tr><tr><td>9/17/11</td><td>Western Illinois</td><td>W 69 – 0</td></tr><tr><td>9/24/11</td><td>@ Oklahoma</td><td>L 28 – 38</td></tr><tr><td>10/8/11</td><td>@ Kansas State</td><td>L 17 – 24</td></tr><tr><td>10/15/11</td><td>Iowa State</td><td>W 52 – 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<table><tr><td>9/1/12</td><td>Southeastern Louisiana</td><td>W 62 – 10</td></tr><tr><td>9/8/12</td><td>Georgia</td><td>L 20 – 41</td></tr><tr><td>9/15/12</td><td>Arizona State</td><td>W 24 – 20</td></tr><tr><td>9/22/12</td><td>@ South Carolina</td><td>L 10 – 31</td></tr><tr><td>9/29/12</td><td>@ Central Florida</td><td>W 21 – 16</td></tr><tr><td>10/6/12</td><td>Vanderbilt</td><td>L 15 – 19</td></tr><tr><td>10/13/12</td><td>Alabama</td><td>L 10 – 42</td></tr><tr><td>10/27/12</td><td>Kentucky</td><td>W 33 – 10</td></tr><tr><td>11/3/12</td><td>@ Florida</td><td>L 7 – 14</td></tr><tr><td>11/10/12</td><td>@ Tennessee</td><td>W 51 – 48</td></tr><tr><td>11/17/12</td><td>Syracuse</td><td>L 27 – 31</td></tr><tr><td>11/24/12</td><td>@ Texas A&M</td><td>L 29 – 59</td></tr></table>	9/1/12	Southeastern Louisiana	W 62 – 10	9/8/12	Georgia	L 20 – 41	9/15/12	Arizona State	W 24 – 20	9/22/12	@ South Carolina	L 10 – 31	9/29/12	@ Central Florida	W 21 – 16	10/6/12	Vanderbilt	L 15 – 19	10/13/12	Alabama	L 10 – 42	10/27/12	Kentucky	W 33 – 10	11/3/12	@ Florida	L 7 – 14	11/10/12	@ Tennessee	W 51 – 48	11/17/12	Syracuse	L 27 – 31	11/24/12	@ Texas A&M	L 29 – 59															
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THE BLACK ATHLETE

The life of today's black athlete, and how it influenced a movement at Mizzou

BY AARON REISS AND JACOB BOGAGE

Anthony Sherrills volunteered first.

He and hundreds of fellow Missouri student athletes had just sat through a panel hosted by Men4Men, a Missouri athletics initiative that holds one event per semester. All male Tiger athletes are required to attend. The event took place in the lounge area of club seating at Memorial Stadium, where fans pay big to watch guys like Sherrills play. But this event wasn't for fans. It was for athletes to listen and learn and discuss their feelings. The topic of the panel, as it was advertised on a flier handed out to the athletes: Why are race and racism so hard to discuss?

When the time came for an open discussion among athletes, Sherrills spoke for about five minutes, according to another Missouri athlete at the meeting, who remembers Sherrills telling his peers that he felt steered toward an easier degree because he's a black student athlete. His comments kicked off a discussion that, at times, became contentious. An hour into the discussion, Missouri football's strength coach, Pat Ivey, told the athletes they were having a good conversation. Ivey told them to take action.

Sherrills and his roommate, wide receiver J'Mon Moore, went home that night and talked about the culture at MU, according to Sherrills. They considered becoming more involved with the general student body. "That's where it first came to our mind, some of the things that were going on," Moore said. "There was kind of a snowball effect after that."

That was Oct. 26. Nine days later, on Nov. 4, Moore was driving his car past the picturesque Mel Carnahan Quadrangle when a small village of tents and nearby signs piqued his interest. So he parked his car. He walked to the tents and read the signs about a hunger strike. He met a graduate student named Jonathan Butler, who, as part of the student activist group Concerned Student 1950, refused to eat until former University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned.

"That's when I really got concerned," Moore said of the first time he met Butler. The wide receiver said he

made "some promises" to the man on the hunger strike. And three days later, he and 29 other black Missouri football players announced over Twitter they were boycotting all football activities until the president resigned. A local story became a national one, and by now you probably know how it played out. Missouri coach Gary Pinkel tweeted a photo that Sunday showing the Tigers — both black and white — in solidarity. Wolfe resigned Monday. And Butler ate. The Tigers resumed football activities after missing only one practice, and then beat Brigham Young in Kansas City a week after announcing their boycott.

Through it all, the power of today's black student athlete emerged. Black athletes constitute much of the rosters in the revenue college sports, football and basketball, and their actions carry serious weight.

Still, they exist in a separate orbit from other students. Their experiences — both as being black and as athletes — differentiate their lifestyles. It's these differences that have made black athletes influential but often unwilling candidates to show defiance. Until now. The Tigers risked their status as Southeastern Conference football players and threatened forfeiting a game. Why now?

On the day Wolfe resigned and the football boycott ended, athletics director Mack Rhoades met with Missouri student athletes from multiple sports at Harnes Center. Athletes asked questions about the boycott. Defensive end Charles Harris answered some of them, according to an athlete at the meeting. Earlier that day, Harris stood on the Carnahan quad in front of the Concerned Student 1950 encampment and said what the Tigers had done was a testament to the power all student athletes hold. At Harnes, a female golfer asked Harris why the players needed to get rid of Wolfe — who was, if nothing else, a casualty to the athletic department's message that the boycott would continue until Butler ate.

The athlete at the meeting remembers Harris saying the boycott wasn't about Wolfe, it was about addressing a systemic issue. The athlete remembers Harris' next comment vividly: "If you cut the head off," Harris told his fellow student athletes, "the whole dragon will fall." ➤



'You feel like a foreigner, an alien on campus'

The assignment seemed simple. Non-offensive. Scott Brooks told his "Introduction to Black Studies" class to go to Memorial Student Union, a hub for campus activity, and observe. Take notes of what's going on around you, the way people interact.

Brooks is an associate professor of sociology at MU. He also is black. This assignment came during the Fall 2012 semester, his first at the university. He had two football players in his class, and when he sent his students out for the exercise, the players — including one whom Brooks said most people on campus would recognize — sat next to each other in one spot of the student union. Brooks could sense they were reluctant to truly put themselves out there.

After the observation period ended, Brooks huddled with his class. "Man, I didn't like this," the recognizable player said. "You had us go in there, and we look like a bunch of inner city kids from the Y on a field trip." He told Brooks students looked at him and his teammate uncomfortably. Some moved their tables and bags away from the group. It didn't matter that the players wore their team's logo; students in Memorial Union treated them like other black students.

"Don't you find it interesting that you're being cheered by 50,000 plus, (and) here we are today and you feel like a foreigner, an alien on campus?" Brooks asked the player. "You got a slice of life of what a regular black student goes through, and now you're offended? You've



Missouri football players, from left, corner back Logan Cheadle and defensive back Kenya Dennis attend the graduate student and faculty walkout at Carnahan Quad at MU on Nov. 9. On Nov. 7, players boycotted all athletic participation until UM Systems President Tim Wolfe resigned.

KAYLA WOLF/Missourian

had this privileged status."

There are markers that separate black athletes from other black students. Official team gear. Backpacks with name tags. Access to resources — such as a weight room and cafeteria at the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex — other students don't get to use. And often that's enough to create a significant difference between the experience of black athletes and non-athletes on campus. The disgruntled football player in Brooks' class typically didn't go to the student union

because it wasn't part of his routine as an athlete. When he left his element, he became exposed to the realities of black students.

The seeming lack of awareness to this reality, or general lack of exposure to it, is athletic privilege. It's not that black athletes don't encounter racism, they just don't encounter it as "intensely," Brooks said. Football players also experience hero worship, which makes it easier to deal with racial slights or micro-aggressions. When a store employee not-so-discreetly checks on ➤



HOURS

North -
M - W 11am - 10pm
Th - Sa 11am - 10:30pm
Sunday 11am - 8pm

Downtown -
M - W 11am - Midnight
Th - Sa 11am - 2am
Sunday 11am - 8pm

South -
M - W 11am - 10pm
Th - Sa 11am - 10:30pm
Sunday 11am - 8pm



NORTH

3890 Rangeline St. 115
573-228-9844

DOWNTOWN

33 North 9th Street.
573-449-8788

SOUTH

2513 Old 63 South
573-397-6486

www.lasiestamex.com

a black athlete in an aisle or when someone makes a racial slur, these actions aren't enough to prompt activism, typically. Black student athletes tend to care more about protecting their "most salient identity" — their athlete identity, Brooks said.

Brooks and Harry Edwards, a University of California-Berkeley sociologist who's one of the first to study the sociology of sport, said black athletes experience two realities. A mostly white crowd of 70,000 at Memorial Stadium might revere a black man for catching a touchdown on a Saturday. A cop might pull over that same black man on Sunday for a phony reason while he's driving down Providence Road. The bubble around athletes is not all-encompassing, Edwards said.

Moore said 95 percent of the student athlete's time is spent on football. It's an environment filled with athletic privilege. Also, causing a stir and drawing attention to yourself takes courage — the courage to jeopardize what means most to many big-time athletes: winning games and getting noticed by professional scouts.

But something gave the Tigers an itch.

When captain Ian Simon delivered a statement on behalf of his teammates the day Wolfe resigned, he showed an awareness to his athlete privilege. "Though we don't experience everything the general student body does, and our struggles may look different at times," he said, "we are all Concerned Student 1950."

'Athletes are growing into their voice and into the power'

When Missouri football players refused to take the field, they began a new chapter in athletic activism, one that emphasizes the power athletes — and black athletes in particular — hold in the sporting world.

Missouri's brief boycott is the latest and perhaps most forceful example of athlete activism in recent years.

The Miami Heat posed wearing hoods after Florida teenager Trayvon Martin was shot and killed while wearing a hooded sweatshirt in 2012. The Los Angeles Clippers refused to wear their team's warm-up shirts after team owner Donald Sterling made racist comments caught on audiotape in 2014. St. Louis Rams players took the field with their hands in the air to signify "Hands up, don't shoot," after the death of Ferguson teen Michael Brown earlier that year.

Those actions have drawn attention to the topic of racism, but haven't resulted in measurable change.

Missouri's players, according to people who study athletics and organized labor, upped the ante for coming generations of athletes because the Tigers' boycott transcended symbolism. It provided an ultimatum and backed administrators into a corner. It's a lesson in leverage other teams can follow.

Missouri athletes, without the formal ties of organized labor, harnessed a union's power when they threatened a boycott, said Kain Colter, a former Northwestern quarterback who led his football team's unsuccessful push for unionization in 2014.

"When you have a bunch of the black athletes stand up for something and threatening to boycott," he said, "it really can take a big hit."

At Missouri, the Concerned Student 1950 group, which began with 11 black students, demonstrated on behalf of graduate students' rights and the university's



L.G. PATTERSON/Missourian

St. Louis Rams players, from left, Stedman Bailey, Tavon Austin, Jared Cook, Chris Givens and Kenny Britt raise their arms on Nov. 30 in awareness of the events in Ferguson, Missouri.

severed ties to Planned Parenthood. It fought anti-Semitism after someone drew a swastika of human feces on a dormitory bathroom wall. Concerned Student 1950 slowly gained recognition and support, and once the football team joined the cause, it reached a new level of empowerment.

Suddenly, when the football team boycotted, the stakes rose. On the line for MU was lost ticket sales, concession and merchandise sales, a possible \$1 million cancellation fee owed to BYU and, most importantly, a reputation.

Now that college sports are so high-profile and lucrative, players have the ability to generate waves. In 1970, a group of black football players at Syracuse University — known as the Syracuse Eight — boycotted for equal treatment from the coaching staff. The result of that boycott was the university admitting the players had reason to gripe. But not much changed.

Activism in athletics is nothing new, of course. Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in 1947. Muhammad Ali crusaded for civil rights inside and outside the ring. At the 1968 Olympics, American track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos extended gloved fists into the air on the medal podium in solidarity with the civil rights movement. Black football players from Wyoming in 1969 were kicked off of the team for asking to wear black armbands during a game against BYU — a form a protest against The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' then-policy preventing black men from being priests.

"There's a time in everybody's life ... where you are faced with something so monumental that you cannot do nothing," said Mel Hamilton, a member of the Wyoming Black 14. "You have to do something. You didn't want it. You didn't call for it. But it is such a profound moment that you must take action — and that's what

we did."

These moments in the larger civil rights movement provided mentors for modern athletic activists like LeBron James or Kain Colter or Missouri's J'Mon Moore. The atmosphere for activists today appears far more receptive.

"I think this is a new age," said Ellen Staurowsky, a professor of sports management at Drexel University in Philadelphia. "Athletes are growing into their voice and into the power that they have available to mobilize in ways that help their communities."

A half century ago, the NCAA enacted legislation that helped police athletes amid social unrest. In 1967, it passed an act that allowed for an athlete scholarship to be taken away if a player quit the team. In 1973, in response to the introduction of women's sports as part of Title IX, the number of football scholarships was capped for the first time, and scholarships were limited to one year.

Leverage was in the schools' hands, so athletes were quiet for a while. They played by the rules of the NCAA and its powerful institutions. Even if those rules made life uncomfortable.

'That's the way most athletes deal with it. We stick with our athlete group'

Keyon Dooling didn't have white friends. He barely knew white people. More than 80 percent of the residents in his ZIP code within Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is black, according to U.S. Census figures.

His junior year at Fort Lauderdale High School, someone shouted the N-word at him out the window of a moving car.

A day before he left for college at MU, where he became a star basketball player, police at a shopping mall accused him and some friends of trespassing and stealing. When a friend argued with the officers, ➤

Dooling says, they beat up the group and threw them out of the mall.

Then in 1998, he came to Columbia, a city that was roughly 80 percent white. Instead of trying to meet new people when he arrived at college, Dooling retreated to the athletic bubble. He roomed with a basketball teammate, and he only left the dorm to go to class in the mornings or to Hearn Center in the afternoon for practice and training. He stayed there to do his homework, receive medical treatment and watch film. Then he went home.

Dooling didn't hang around the general campus. Too many white faces, or, more accurately, too few faces that looked like his own.

"I isolated," said Dooling, who later enjoyed a 13-year NBA career. "That's the way most athletes deal with it. We stick with our athlete group. We miss out on those relationships with the business people and other friends and people that can help us get to the next level because we don't want to deal with all that."

"It's not until we finish playing and the athlete career is over that we realize how disconnected we are."

After a year of college, he finally developed relationships with his white teammates. He says now they changed his life.

He started eating team dinners with them and going out with them on the weekends. He met their friends and families and introduced them to his. Some freshmen come to college knowing a university is a place for cultural exchange, to challenge preconceived notions of race, religion, social class and more. Dooling didn't

take part in that until late in his sophomore year.

Then he left for the NBA.

By the time he was ready to see outside the athletic bubble, the college sports world had "cycled him out," he said.

Dooling's experiences are typical for athletes.

"What coaches have done is to deem everything that is outside of football and athletics as a distraction," said James Satterfield Jr., a Clemson professor who studies race and sport. "So in a sense, what has happened is your athletic life has become your social life."

College sports shouldn't be that way, said Dooling, who now works for the NBA advising current players on finances, mental health and life after the game. Sport is about inclusion, he says, and breeds great leaders because of qualities inherent to the game. It makes sense that athletes are progressive and forward-looking, that they wield social power and can command the winds of change. That's hard to do in college, though, with such a thick barrier between athlete and student athlete.

Slowly, athletes are beginning to realize their own power and influence. And they're getting more protection: Conferences and schools are shifting back to four-year scholarships.

The gain in power, experts say, coincides with the rise of social media — something that wasn't around in Dooling's days. Players might live in a bubble, but that bubble, thanks to social media, is somewhat plugged into the outside world.

Consider how Missouri's black football players first

announced their boycott: on Twitter.

'In a very, very regulated environment, (social media) provides that one potential window into the outside world'

Social media now keeps players more aware of their campus surroundings. It makes athletes more accessible than ever before. It pokes holes through the barriers athletic departments erect to separate athletes from "distractions."

"There's other ways that you're harvesting and collecting information," said Staurowsky, the Drexel professor. "In a very, very regulated environment, (social media) provides that one potential window into the outside world."

Many Missouri football players are active on social media, which allows them a view of MU's campus and Columbia, even if they don't experience it close up.

That's how the football team and Concerned Student 1950 united.

After Moore met with Jonathan Butler and other protest group leaders, Concerned Student 1950 received even more exposure on Twitter.

Tweets mentioning the group's hashtag reached 5.5 million users' timelines through the duration of the seven-day hunger strike, according to data from the online service Hashttracking. Butler gained 10,000 followers on Twitter.

While football players convened to decide whether to boycott, their social media profiles were flooded with messages in support of Concerned Student 1950, players said. ➤

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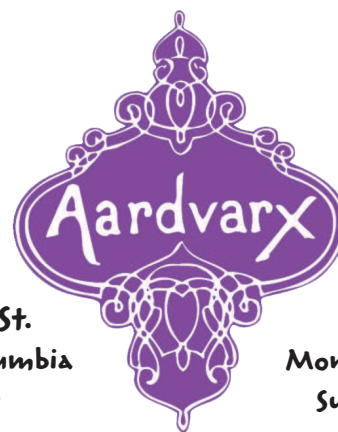
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And on Nov. 7, when black players announced their strike, they did so by tweeting out a photo and brief message, which is telling, academics say, because the players used the medium of communication that best connects both the athletics universe and the student's world.

'We have a big journey ahead of us'

The game was significant for its surrounding story lines. Missouri's 20-16 win over BYU in Kansas City last weekend happened a day after Pinkel announced he will retire after the season so he can deal with cancer. And it was seven days after Missouri announced its boycott.

The Tigers played and snapped a four-game losing streak. They mobbed their coach during a post-game interview. The stadium chanted his name. The 63-year-old Pinkel couldn't help but smile and dance.

After the game, there were still questions about

the brief protest.

"It's not really about power," Missouri defensive end Walter Brady said. "It's about bringing awareness to a cause that has plagued our country. We were able to make some changes, as far as society goes, we have a great deal, a big journey ahead of us."

Multiple Tigers said they now feel more connected to the general student body after the boycott. Simon said he and teammates must continue to bridge the gap.

Simon, Sherrills, Harris and Moore all plan to remain involved with Concerned Student 1950. Their focus has returned to football, they said, but they're willing to help as they can. They'll use their platform when needed, and stay informed of campus issues.

That's the next step, said Harry Edwards, the sociology professor at Cal: Black athletes assimilate more and more into the black student body, rather than simply helicoptering into an issue. They

become part of a movement. They broker power, demand a meeting with a university president if they wish.

"It's inescapable," Edwards said, "and everyone is going to have to make the adjustment."

What happened on campus this month might be the start.

"We just weren't aware of a lot of the things that were going on," Moore, speaking after the BYU game, said about the Tigers' response to Missouri's race issues. "Once we got aware, we just stood for it. We had a belief. We came together as a team and made that belief stronger."

The wide receiver stepped off the media room podium, off his platform. Back to the locker room. Back to football.

With football, black athletes are powerful. Without football, maybe even more so.

Supervising editor is Mark Selig: markselig@mail.missouri.edu, 882-5729. 

Missouri's first black player broke barriers

Norris Stevenson broke numerous barriers with the Tigers. In one particular game against Oklahoma, he cemented his legacy.

By MICHAEL MANDELL

The film is grainy, but Norris Stevenson is easy to see.

He's the one cutting between two defenders, sprinting down the left sideline and leading the Missouri football team to a win over Oklahoma, a school the Tigers hadn't defeated in 15 years.

It was the 1960 season, and Stevenson was a senior on Missouri's football team. The Tigers were 8-0 and ranked No. 2 in the nation. Against Oklahoma, Stevenson zipped around the field to help the Tigers to a 22-point victory.

And today, amid racial unrest on this campus, Stevenson is significant for how he looked.

He was the first black player to accept a scholarship to play at Missouri. The running back from St. Louis did so in 1957, and as a black athlete at that time, Stevenson faced his share of difficulties in a country experiencing heightened racial tensions. This was still six years before Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington and "I Have a Dream Speech."

When the Tigers played a road game against Texas A&M his freshman season, the waiting staff at the team's hotel refused to serve him and a fellow black teammate, Mel West, in the dining room.

Stevenson is gone now — he died of colon cancer in 2012 — but his story is instructive of how far race relations have come, even if society hasn't mastered them yet.

In a 2013 reader submission to the Missouriian, Norris Stevenson's brother, Gerald Stevenson, said some of the running back's friends in St. Louis thought he'd "lost his friggin' mind" when he accepted a scholarship to play football at Missouri. Columbia had a negative reputation among young black men who came to the city for various sporting events.

Nevertheless, it was a risk Stevenson was willing to

take. Although he accepted his scholarship offer in 1957 as a senior from Vashon High School in St. Louis, he didn't actually see the field for the Tigers that fall. In 1958, Stevenson ran for 307 yards on 77 carries in Dan Devine's first season as head coach.

Although Missouri enrolled its first black students in 1950, as the Concerned Student 1950 movement's name honors, seven years passed until Stevenson became the first black player to receive a football scholarship. True, athletics scholarships were handed out much more infrequently in the 1950s than they are today. However, that still doesn't explain why it took the Missouri football team seven years to offer a black football player a scholarship.

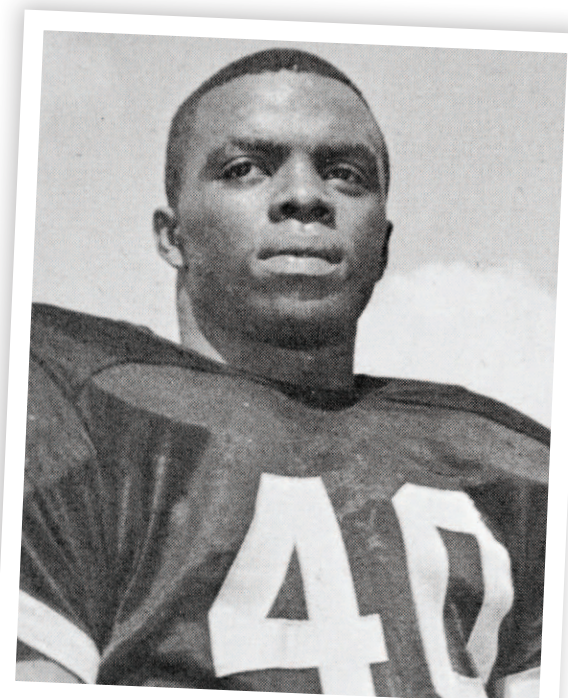
Missouri wasn't alone in that regard. Alabama, which first admitted black students in 1963, didn't sign a black player until 1970. At Ole Miss, where black student James Meredith's 1962 enrollment spurred riots, the football team remained entirely white until Ben Williams got a scholarship in 1971.

Giving scholarships to black athletes proved fruitful on the field. During that 1960 season, Stevenson and West ran for a combined 1,260 yards and nine touchdowns. Stevenson in particular was impressive, averaging 7.2 yards per carry and leading the team in yards from scrimmage.

In the win against Oklahoma, there was one type of run that made him unstoppable.

"Norris Stevenson, oh how he ran the sweep that day," former Missouri coach Dan Devine said in a video review of the Tigers' 1960 season.

After 15 years of losing to the Sooners, Stevenson knew it was time for the Tigers to beat them. Missouri's run-heavy offense — the team passed only



Former Missouri running back Norris Stevenson was the first black player to accept a scholarship to play at Missouri..

72 times that year — put the onus on him to make plays when the Tigers had the ball.

The sweep play, in which Stevenson received a pitch from the quarterback and ran parallel to the line of scrimmage and around his blockers rather than behind them, was the perfect play that day.

"Coach asked me, and I said, 'That play is open. Even though they stop it sometimes, it'll break (for a big gain),'"

Stevenson said in the video. Stevenson was elected to the MU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001. That same year, Missouri dedicated the Norris Stevenson Plaza of Champions, the plaza just outside Memorial Stadium, in his honor.

Supervising editor is Mark Selig: markselig@mail.missouri.edu, 882-5729.

TODDLERS TO TIGERS

Jason Reese's reckless side died down in sixth grade, after he climbed out of a window at school. **By AARON REISS**

Cassandra Wallace slipped on her hardwood floor while her son stood by and watched.

Soon, the then-3-year-old Jason Reese, now a tight end for Missouri, confessed. He'd sprayed WD-40 all over the dining room floor in Wallace's Dayton, Ohio, home. He was proud of it. The toddler spent his time touching everything and taking apart whatever he could — and he saw the WD-40 incident as an accomplishment.

"We were all slipping and sliding over the floors," Wallace said.

Luckily, Wallace slipped fairly

soon after Reese covered the floor with the multi-purpose spray, and she addressed the problem before it destroyed the hardwood. Her son was in "big trouble."

"He was the epitome of having middle child syndrome," Wallace said. "I've always been accused of showing favoritism toward him. It wasn't really that. He required a lot of attention."

As a boy, Reese's new toys wouldn't stay new for long. Fascinated with how they worked, he'd disassemble them and then put them back together. He was both curious

and reckless. Only the curious element has survived today, Wallace said.

Reese's reckless side died down in sixth grade after he climbed out of a window at school. Soon after, he straightened up — but not until sapping much of his mother's time and attention with shenanigans.

"He's not the kind of kid that minded getting in trouble for what he wanted to do," Wallace said.

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