Missouri’s most eccentric offensive lineman has a lot on his mind. This week, Copeland discusses his teammates, his decision to attend Missouri and how germs simply don’t exist.
### MU Offense

- **Wide Receiver**: Marcus Lucas (85), Bud Sasser (21), Dorial Green-Beckham (24)
- **Tight End**: Sean Culkin (2), Cheatham Norrils (52), Braxton Sauer (56)
- **Right Tackle**: Mitch Morse (65), Trent Voss (75)
- **Center**: Evan Boehm (60), Chase Murdock (40)
- **Left Tackle**: Justin Britt (61), Andrew Wilson (48)
- **Quarterback**: James Franklin (1), James Franklin (1)
- **Running Back**: Henry Josey (20), Henry Josey (20)
- **Left Guard**: Max Copeland (68), Matt Hoch (67)
- **Right Guard**: Connor McGovern (97), Chris Collins (53)
- **Defensive End**: Marquise Moore (89), Ron Johnson (61)
- **Defensive Tackle**: Lucas Vincent (52), Donovan Bonner (8)
- **Linebacker**: Chase Murdock (40), Andrew Wilson (48)
- **Cornerback**: Ross Madison (21), Chaz Whittaker (25)

### MU Defense

- **Wide Receiver**: Justin Olack (14), Nathaniel Reed (15)
- **Tight End**: Zac Rosenbauer (40), Jaleel Clark (57)
- **Right Tackle**: Greg Mancz (75), Robert Lisowski (2)
- **Center**: Zac Kerin (67), Zac Kerin (67)
- **Left Tackle**: Josh Hendershot (54), Jeff Myers (89)
- **Quarterback**: Terrance Owens (22), Terrance Owens (42)
- **Defensive End**: Michael Sam (31), James Franklin (52)
- **Defensive Tackle**: Lucas Vincent (52), Donovan Bonner (8)
- **Linebacker**: Chase Murdock (40), Andrew Wilson (48)
- **Cornerback**: E.J. Gaines (31), Randy Ponder (9)
- **Strong Safety**: Ross Madison (21), Braylon Webb (9)
- **Free Safety**: Chaz Whittaker (25), Matt White (17)

### Depth Chart // Missouri

#### Offense

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<tr>
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<td>LG</td>
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<td>Connor McGovern</td>
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<td>Mitch Morse</td>
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#### Defense

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<td>Randy Ponder</td>
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<td>SS</td>
<td>Braylon Webb</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Matt White</td>
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</tbody>
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### Special Teams // Missouri

- **Punter**: (92) Christian Brinser
- **Placekicker**: (99) Andrew Baggett
- **Holder**: (55) Braylon Webb
- **Long Snapper**: (86) Jake Hurrell
- **Kick Returner**: (6) Marcus Murphy
- **Punt Returner**: (6) Marcus Murphy

### Special Teams // Murray State

- **Punter**: (95) Vince Penza
- **Placekicker**: (95) Jeremiah Deimer
- **Holder**: (55) Vince Penza
- **Long Snapper**: (45) Matt Wall
- **Kick Returner**: (1) Bernard Ready
- **Punt Returner**: (1) Bernard Ready
### Inside

**Most Interesting Man at Missouri**
Max Copeland has an opinion on everything. See what he has to say about his recruitment and how germs are a lie.

**Dealing with all the Pressure**
While coaching at Missouri and Toledo, Gary Pinkel has had a few poor years. But history has shown his teams always bounce back.

**Ten Things You Didn’t Know**
The University of Toledo is home to a rocket, a silent bell tower and the world’s first Hippoquarium.

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### Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Military Appreciation Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>08/31</td>
<td>VS. Murray State</td>
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<td>09/07</td>
<td>VS. Toledo</td>
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<td>09/21</td>
<td>@ Indiana</td>
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<td>09/28</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Rush</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>VS. Florida</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homecoming</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>VS. South Carolina</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/02</td>
<td>VS. Tennessee</td>
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<td>11/23</td>
<td>@ Ole Miss</td>
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<td><strong>Blackout</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>VS. Texas A&amp;M</td>
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**Show Contents Page**

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**Show Advertisers Directory**
Max Copeland is an outspoken offensive guard for the Missouri Tigers. The former walk-on is majoring in physics and was named to the 2012 SEC Academic Honor Roll. This is his new weekly soapbox.

By ALEXANDER SMITH

During summer and offseason training, I ate eight times a day. If you're hungry, you're a few hours too late on your meal. It sucks, but that's the rule. If you're serious about being big and strong, you should never ever be hungry. I hate eating. I eat about a dozen eggs each day.

You've got to wake up in the middle of the night. Every two hours you're eating something – 12 ounces of chicken breast, a cup and a half of brown rice and a cup of broccoli. And that's every couple hours. My diet is the primary dictator of my social life. Everything is revolved around getting back to the kitchen.

I called (an unnamed Montana school's) recruiting coach, or whatever, and I said, "Yeah, I decided I'm going to go to Missouri." And he was mad. It wasn't like, "OK, see you later." It was, "You're making the biggest mistake of your life." The next day, the dude drove six hours to pull me out of class. He pulled me into the guidance counselor's office and just chewed me out for an hour. I just sat there.

He told me, "You'll never play at Missouri. You're making a big mistake. They're not going to use you, and they don't have a plan for you." I just told him, "Well, I guess we'll see about that." It was kind of painful, dude. That decision was not well-received in most of the community.

We affectionately refer to (offensive lineman) Mitch Morse as "Dad," because he's the dad of the O-line. He'll wear sweaters and slippers, and he talks like a dad. His mannerisms are funny.

Billings, Montana, is a special, special place. Montana is just different, dude. Anyone will tell you. It's absolutely beautiful: mountains everywhere, constantly 70 degrees. The air is just cleaner. It's that Northwest air. It's all clean air coming from Canada.

We have this thing called "The Rims." It's a giant cliff that borders the north side of town. It was an ocean bed thousands and thousands of years ago. It's tall. If you fell off it, you would die. As kids, we'd go to "The Rims," sit on the edge and just hang out. When you go up there at night, you can see all of the lights. It's the prettiest place I've ever been.

Montana is like an island. You stay in Montana, and you don't leave. When you play football there, the greatest thing you could do is go play for Montana or Montana State. Those are the meccas, that's like "you've arrived."

I don't like being dictated by norms. So when I rejected (the Montana school's) offer and decided to go on my own path, there were people who thought that was a big mistake and weren't shy about letting me know. But I'm not bitter about that kind of stuff. I've got nothing but good things to say about Billings.

(Missouri captain) Andrew Wilson is a character, and you'll never know it because he hates the media. He is obsessed with being off the grid. If there was a zombie apocalypse, he could leave like that (snaps fingers) – no ties. He's got money ready. He's kind of nuts.

CONSPIRACY THEORY

Germs don't exist. They don't.

Have you ever seen a germ? No. You've seen pictures of germs created by the Dial Soap Company to sell soap. They're also in bed with the microscope companies, who make slides so you can see germs that don't exist.

Germs were invented by Dial Soap Company in 1921 to sell soap. That's why I live as dirty as I do, and I'm still walking around. I've always wondered, "How can I shower only a couple times a week and still be healthy?" Because they don't exist, man. I'm trying to get that theory mainstream.

We're all drinking the Kool-Aid. They've got all these soap dispensers around here, making you afraid to touch people. They don't want you connecting, because then there could be a revolt or an uprising. They want to keep us nice and separated.

I'm usually home alone thinking these crazy thoughts. I listen to heavy metal, eat chicken breasts and think about the Dial Soap Company. I'm watching the news like, "It's all paid for by the soap company!" I'm going to be that crazy guy with a whole bunch of cats. It's OK. I think it'll be a fun trip to senility.

PREGAME PLAYLIST

Copeland's pregame playlist has 61 songs to match his uniform number. Here is one of the essential tracks:

"Cities on Flame with Rock and Roll" by BLUE OYSTER CULT

My dad had this Blue Oyster Cult song on a CD called "Cities on Flame with Rock and Roll." That's one of my anthems. That's my theme song if I ever have a TV show after my WWE career. I was probably in third or fourth grade, and I would listen to that thing on repeat. That funky riff, dude. BOC is killer.

Missouri offensive lineman Max Copeland blocks during the first half of the Missouri football game against Tennessee on Nov. 10, 2012, at Neyland Stadium.
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COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM
Gary Pinkel has faced intense criticism before — at both Missouri and Toledo. This season, he’ll deal with the pressure the same way he always has.
Gary Pinkel stands behind a lectern at the University of Toledo Student Union, and everyone in the room is hurt.

It's Dec. 9, 2000, the night of Toledo's annual football banquet. But this ceremony is unlike any in Pinkel's 10 years as the Rockets' head coach. On this night, everyone has heard the news, but the players want to hear it from Pinkel.

They want to hear that Pinkel, the man who had just coached them to a 10-1 season, is leaving them. Not just leaving them, but leaving them for Missouri, a team that won only three games in 2000 and finished dead last in the Big 12 North two consecutive years. A new challenge.

Toledo's 2000 season wasn't a fluke, either. The Rockets will return the same core group of players in 2001, but a different coach will be on the sidelines. Pinkel will be taking on a new challenge 500-plus miles west and collecting a paycheck more than three times the size of what he was getting at Toledo.

"Why's he leaving this program for Missouri?" asks Andy Boyd, a junior safety during Pinkel's final season at Toledo. "You're leaving a program with a ton of players in it for a bottom feeder in the Big 12. You feel a sense of abandonment as a player. We felt disrespected a little bit."

Pinkel knows his players are upset. He stands and delivers his speech, closing the door on his Toledo coaching career.

Then Pinkel starts making his way around the room. There are 90 players on Toledo's roster. Each player gets a handshake, a message of gratitude and well wishes for his future from the coach that won't be there to see it unfold. The gesture doesn't satisfy every player, and some let Pinkel know it. But it doesn't change anything. Ten years of building, and Toledo is on the cusp of another Mid-American Conference Championship. But the team that won 10 games is looking for a new coach.

"He pulled the rug out from underneath us," Boyd says.

Pinkel built Toledo his way.


Saban was only at Toledo for one season, but he left Pinkel a winner. He waited to resign until after national signing day, taking a job as defensive coordinator with the Cleveland Browns.

But Pinkel wanted to make Toledo his own. He and Saban played together under Don James at Kent State, and while Saban had won the MAC, the program needed stability.

Pinkel provided that. He had spent 12 seasons as an assistant coach at Washington under James. He had roots in Ohio and was prepared to build the program the right way, with experienced players and an established chain of command.

"He had a plan, and he stuck to that plan," said Toledo assistant athletic director David Nottke, who was a student during the early part of Pinkel's tenure. "He had a specific way he wanted to build the program with specific types of kids he wanted to recruit."

The results didn't come right away, though. Pinkel failed to match Saban's nine-win, 1990 season during his first years with the Rockets. Patience in Toledo was wearing thin.

"There was a lot of pressure on Gary after what was perceived to be a disappointing season in 1994," said Mark Beier, the voice of the Toledo Rockets radio station. "1995 changed everything. Pinkel's recruits had aged and gained experience. His plan was starting to take shape, and under the pressure, Pinkel and his team responded.

Toledo didn't lose a game that year, going 11-0-1, finishing the season with a win in the Las Vegas Bowl. It was the first bowl win of Pinkel's career and a season that changed the attitude toward Toledo football.

"It brought back a lot of excitement," Nottke said. "Our students were fired up, the campus was excited about football again."

Pinkel was always professional, even on an early September weekend in 1998 that proved to be one of the most difficult of Pinkel's life.

It was the second week of Toledo's season, and the Rockets traveled two and a half hours south to Columbus to take on Ohio State, who was ranked No. 1 in the nation.

The 49-0 loss was hard enough for Pinkel and Toledo, but the day got worse when he left the stadium and immediately rushed to his mother's bedside. She was ill, and Pinkel wasn't sure how much longer she had to live.

The next morning, Beier didn't know whether to expect Pinkel at their weekly television broadcast. It started at 8:30 a.m., and Pinkel arrived right on schedule. His mother died four or five hours earlier, Beier said.

"His heart was broken, but he was still able to do what was supposed to be done," Beier said.

Pinkel has always overcome adversity. When the pressure was mounting in 1995, Pinkel led Toledo to an undefeated season. In 1998, Pinkel pushed past the death of his mother to post his fifth consecutive winning season as Rockets head coach. By 2005, Pinkel faced similar job scrutiny at Missouri. He got the Tigers to a bowl game and beat South Carolina to gain positive momentum for the program.

He's facing similar pressure in 2013 after Missouri's 5-7 record in its first season in the Southeastern Conference. But Pinkel doesn't drastically change his approach; he stays focused, and he remembers what his coaching mentor Don James told him before his introductory news conference at Toledo.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
“He looked at me and said, ‘Gary, when things get tough, and they’re going to get tough, you focus on doing your job,’” Pinkel said at 2013 SEC Media Days.

“That’s probably the best piece of advice I’ve ever gotten.”

Not much has changed for Pinkel since his Toledo days. He’s at a bigger program with higher expectations and has more zeroes on his paycheck, but he still sticks by James’ advice. He has a handful of the same coaches around him and runs the same program. It worked for James at Kent State and Washington, and it’s worked for Pinkel at Toledo and Missouri.

Boyd paid his old coach a visit and noticed the similarities between Missouri and Toledo. Same terminology, same structure and even the same weekly routines. Boyd pointed out that Pinkel still asked his players for “truths” at the end of the week to find out how many classes each player went to and how their grades were.

“He ran a program like a business. He was the CEO, and he was treated accordingly,” Boyd said. “I wouldn’t say he was a players coach.

“We didn’t have a whole lot of interaction with him one-on-one. He coached the coaches, and in turn the coaches coached the players.”

That approach worked at Toledo and has worked so far at Missouri. Pinkel is hoping 2013 won’t change the pattern.

O
n Saturday, Pinkel will be on the sidelines for a Toledo football game. But the man who won a program-record 73 games as head coach and was enshrined into the Varsity T Hall of Fame in 2009 will be on the opposite sideline this time.

But that’s not all that has changed for Pinkel. He’s a different man than he was at Toledo. He’s older, more experienced, almost hardened. A smile like the one Pinkel flashed after Toledo dominated Penn State at Happy Valley in 2000 is rare for the more guarded version of Pinkel that Missouri fans know.

He’s made as many headlines in recent years for things happening away from the field (his divorce and DUI arrest) than his coaching.

But those who have been at Toledo since the Pinkel era remember him as a loyal professional eager for a new challenge. Few have kept in close contact with him in the 13 years since he left the program, but a sense of pride remains over his continued success. They joke that it all goes out the window when the two teams meet on the field, though.

“He’s the enemy,” said Boyd, who served in coaching and recruiting roles at Toledo after his playing days before joining Beier in the broadcast booth.

Pinkel’s challenge extends beyond Toledo, though. His team stumbled in its first season in the Southeastern Conference, and Pinkel is feeling the pressure, like he has many times before in his career. But this is different, because he’s changing.

Rather than stick to the plan and let the results fall in place, Pinkel adjusted his pre-season practice plan and tweaked the offense. Still, his mentor’s words are fresh in his mind.

“Focus on doing your job.”

Former University of Toledo football coach Gary Pinkel stands on the sidelined at Penn State on Sept. 2, 2000.

University of Toledo Rockets football coach Gary Pinkel and player Michael Schaefer celebrate after upsetting Penn State 24-6 at Happy Valley on Sept. 2, 2000.
HERE ARE A FEW OF THE PLAYERS’ MOST HUMOROUS, THOUGHTFUL AND INTERESTING TWEETS

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EVAN BOEHM
Probably the best time last night is when @imthatnike scored his first touchdown and jumped in my arms! #Family
Sep. 1

@BrockBondurant
BROCK BONDURANT
So proud of my roommate @I_AM_HJOSEY20. Very emotional night for the family and I couldn’t be happier. Love you bro.
Aug. 31

@ElTorroOcho
DONOVAN BONNER
People always wanna get on Instagram and act like they having a good time. lol just chill I can tell you’re bored
Sep. 2

@I_AM_HJOSEY20
HENRY JOSEY
I love it man, thank you God for everything uve done for me and the things u still have in store for me I’m truly blessed man #FFF #GGG
Sep. 1

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10 THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT

TOLEDO

W hile the Missouri and Toledo football programs have been in existence for a combined 219 years, the schools will meet for the first time Saturday at Faurot Field. // From Kid Cudi to Franklin D. Roosevelt to John Denver, take a minute to learn a little more about the Tigers’ next opponent.

— Alexander Smith

10. Thanks to the school’s relationship with the U.S. Army’s Ordnance Corps, the university received a 1-ton rocket for display inside the football stadium in 1961. While it now rests outside the facility, the rocket is reputedly pointed 25 miles south toward arch-rival Bowling Green’s football stadium, and if launched, would land on the Falcons’ 50-yard-line.

9. The school’s football stadium — The Glass Bowl, named after the city’s heavy involvement in the glass industry — was built as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Work Projects Administration program during the Great Depression. The facility was erected in 1936 with a $272,000 grant from the federal government, while the city and university were only on the hook for $41,558.

8. A 206-foot bell tower is the tallest structure on Toledo’s campus, but it has not held real bells since an electronic system was installed in 1986. That first carillon broke down in 2006, and while a new system was eventually donated, one of the school’s most prominent symbols became a major annoyance. “It has not been operating well,” curator Mark Walker told the Toledo Blade in 2006. “And when it does play, it sounds so bad that we decided it was better to not have it sound at all.”

7. The Toledo Zoo was the first zoo in the world to install a Hippoquarium, a 360,000-gallon attraction that has captivated visitors since 1955. The Hippoquarium (a trademarked name) was home to the second-oldest hippopotamus in North America until this May when Bubbles was euthanized at age 58.
Pop star Kid Cudi attended the Toledo Film School for one semester in 2004. He said he was punched in the face by a police officer after being cited for underage drinking. Other notable alums include “The Amazing Spider-Man” co-star Chris Zylka and former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snow. Actors Katie Holmes and Jamie Farr hail from the city of Toledo.

Missouri coach Gary Pinkel was Toledo’s head coach from 1991-2000, but he hasn’t found nearly as much success as the man he succeeded, Nick Saban. The current Alabama coach spent just one season (1990) at Toledo, but he has won three of the past four national championships with his Crimson Tide and snagged the 2003 national title while coaching Louisiana State University.

The football team was horribly unprepared for its first game in 1917. After Dean Brandeberry was chosen as coach — “Nobody else wanted the job,” said former player Charles Morgan — Toledo decided not to conduct any scrimmages before its inaugural tilt with Detroit, a 145-0 loss that left four players injured.

Randy Sparks wrote a song for John Denver titled, “Saturday Night in Toledo, Ohio” in the late ‘60s after a less-than-satisfactory visit to the city. Lyrics included “Saturday night in Toledo, Ohio, is like being nowhere at all / All through the day how the hours rush by / You sit in the park and you watch the grass die.” Denver returned to the city to play the song in front of a sell-out crowd at Centennial Auditorium in 1980.

Toledo mascot Rocky the Rocket has seen several costume changes since his inception in 1966. Various outfits have included a wastepaper basket with a pointed rocket top made of papier-mâché, bell-bottom pants, and from 1977-1980, an authentic spacesuit, helmet and boots donated by John Glenn, a former astronaut and Ohio senator.

The team didn’t even bother with a nickname until its seventh season. After a 32-12 loss to national power Carnegie Tech in 1923, Toledo student James Neal was so impressed with the players’ losing effort that he dubbed them the “Skyrockets.” The name was then shortened by other writers in the press box, according to the school’s football website.
FAST FIVE

JOHN GIBSON

Redshirt freshman cornerback John Gibson talks about the Junior Olympics, academic problems and the one thing he needs to get better at to be a star.

BY ALEXANDER SMITH

1. **You were a 4x100 gold medalist in the 2011 Junior Olympics. Why did you decide to play football over track in college?**

I really wanted to do track, but football is better for me. I’ve got a better chance of making it to the league (NFL) than I do in the Olympics. There’s tons of fast guys. That’s why I chose football.

2. **Was there something in particular about your recruiting visit here that swayed you?**

When I first got here, I was late, but it was a family atmosphere. I got along well with the guys like E.J. Gaines and Kip Edwards. They really showed me around.

3. **There was a bit of an academic blip with Arkansas that allowed you to become a Tiger. What happened?**

My SAT scores weren’t ready. They weren’t where they needed to be. Arkansas pulled off of me, but Mizzou came in and took a chance on me. They offered me late after my situation with Arkansas. They took a chance with me, and I couldn’t say no to them.

4. **Does facing a team like Toledo early in the season take some of the pressure off your performance?**

I don’t think it makes a difference, whoever we play. It’s all about how we play. It’s all on us, so it don’t really matter.

5. **You redshirted last season in your first year at Missouri. What’s the biggest difference between this season and last?**

Competing for a job. I have a better chance now than I did last year. That’s the biggest thing for me. I’ve got to work on my craft to get better. Tackling is one of my weaknesses, so that’s something I’m working on. Coach Ford stays on me about tackling. If I get tackling down, I’ll probably set myself apart from everybody.

Missouri wide receiver Wesley Leftwich tries to stop defensive back John Gibson after he intercepted a pass at the Spring Black and Gold game April 20, 2013, at Memorial Stadium.
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