RESPECT YOUR ELDER

INJURY DIDN’T KEEP ELVIS FISHER FROM RETURNING FOR HIS SIXTH YEAR

WHERE IS FORMER MU WIDE RECEIVER JARED PERRY NOW?

TEN THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
## SCHEDULE

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>BAND DAY</td>
<td>09/01</td>
<td>VS. SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA</td>
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<td>GOLD RUSH</td>
<td>09/08</td>
<td>VS. GEORGIA</td>
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<td>FAMILY WEEKEND</td>
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<td>VS. ARIZONA STATE</td>
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<td>09/22</td>
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<td>HOMECOMING</td>
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<td>AT TENNESSEE</td>
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<td>BLACKOUT // SALUTE TO AMERICA</td>
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#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW? JARED PERRY
The former MU wide receiver plans to play in the United Football League this fall.

#### ELVIS’ COMEBACK SPECIAL
A year after suffering a devastating injury to his left knee, Elvis Fisher returns to the place he belongs.

#### TEN THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW
Southeastern Louisiana’s has a history rich in cheerleaders, strawberry stadiums and magical oak trees.

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### EXHIBIT

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04 06 11
## Mizzou Offense vs. Southeastern Louisiana Defense

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<th>Missouri Players</th>
<th>Southeastern Louisiana Players</th>
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<tr>
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<td>James Franklin</td>
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<td>L'Damian Washington</td>
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<td>Center</td>
<td>Mitch Morse</td>
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## Mizzou Defense vs. Southeastern Louisiana Offense

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<tr>
<td>Free Safety</td>
<td>Matt White</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Special Teams // Missouri

- **Punter**: (97) Trey Barrow
- **Placekicker**: (97) Trey Barrow
- **Holder**: (28) T.J. Moe
- **Long Snapper**: (57) Brad Madison
- **Kick Returner**: (28) T.J. Moe
- **Punt Returner**: (6) Marcus Murphy

## Special Teams // Southeastern Louisiana

- **Punter**: (8) Beau Mothe
- **Placekicker**: (41) Seth Sebastian
- **Holder**: (8) Beau Mothe
- **Long Snapper**: (99) Rogers Mueller
- **Kick Returner**: (13) Robert Alford
- **Punt Returner**: (13) Robert Alford

## Missouri Injuries

- (18) Wesley Leftwich
- (20) Henry Josey
- (53) Travis Ruth
- (75) Jack Meiners
- (1) Kip Edwards
- (9) Braylon Webb
- (62) Taylor Chappell*

*Out for season

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
JARED PERRY

BY CAITLIN SWIECA

Former MU wide receiver follows wherever football leads him

On the Missouri football team, Jared Perry played alongside the likes of Chase Daniel, Jeremy Maclin and Sean Weatherspoon, all of whom went on to establish themselves in the National Football League.

In the meantime, Perry, a wide receiver, bounced around the continent looking for a chance to continue playing.

His opportunity finally came this season with the Chicago Rush of the Arena Football League, where his 33 touchdowns and 1,811 passing yards earned him the league’s Rookie of the Year award.

Perry’s breakout came after two years of unsuccessful tryouts. After graduating in 2010, he spent time in the training camps of the San Francisco 49ers and Philadelphia Eagles but was cut from both squads.

He played in two preseason games for a Canadian Football League team, but didn’t make the cut there either. Perry said his journey to the Rush both helped him improve his play against tougher competition and helped him adjust to the mindset of a professional player.

“He was a guy that came in with an attitude that he was the best guy on the field,” McMillen said. “That’s the kind of guy you want on your team, to come in and practice hard every day, contribute, keep their mouth quiet and go on the field. He does that day in and day out.”

McMillen said Perry stayed quiet but led by example. What he lacked in height, he made up for with good hands and accurate route-running.

While Perry, a Texas native, is currently training in Chicago, he will be moving to Omaha, Neb., soon to play for the Omaha Nighthawks of the United Football League.

After that, things get less clear. The Rush have the first rights to re-sign him in the AFL, but Perry hopes he might be able to open up some more doors.

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“When that time comes, I’ll be able to make that decision,” Perry said. “As of right now, I’m supposed to go play in the UFL and see if that takes me back to the NFL.”

McMillen said he hopes to re-sign Perry, a fan favorite next season, but would be happy to see him get another opportunity elsewhere.

“He’s a guy I love coaching because he wants to do what he can to be great,” McMillen said. “He’s a guy who has a bright future and deserves a chance in the NFL or CFL.”

As Perry continues to build his football career, he said he’s thankful for the foundation he built while at MU.

“I have friends in the league, and we keep in contact,” he said. “It gave me a chance to play professional football. I felt the decision I made to go to Miz-zou was a good one.”

Photo courtesy of DAVE ERWIN

Former Missouri wide receiver Jared Perry breaks away from an Iowa Barnstormers defender during an Arena Football League game in May. He will play in the United Football League this fall.

CURRENT AND PAST STATS

2012 SEASON WITH THE RUSH:
1,811 yards receiving
133 receptions
31 touchdowns
100.6 receiving yards per game

2009 SENIOR SEASON WITH MISSOURI:
46 receptions
696 yards
6 touchdowns
FAST FIVE // L’DAMIAN WASHINGTON

BY RICHARD FERNANDEZ

1. What is it going to feel like being introduced in the first game?
   It’s gonna be a great feeling because, I mean, it’s been a long time coming, being a redshirt junior. I’ve waited on this moment since I got here, to finally be in the starting rotation. It’s just going to be a big deal ‘cause it’s been a long time coming.

2. Are you looking forward to wearing the new uniforms?
   Yeah. I mean, that’s going to be amazing. Especially the first game, wearing them in front of the home crowd. I think it’s going to be sweet. I like the gold, man. I like the gold. The gold on black is pretty sweet, with the combat helmets. The ones with the big tiger on the side, I think those are sweet.

3. Do you have an end zone celebration planned?
   Yeah, I got it planned out. I’ve been working on it. Hopefully I can get it going. Maybe it could be as big as like Aaron Rodger’s or Cam Newton’s celebration, where I got the whole world doing it. But you’ve got to get in the end zone a lot, though. I’m keeping it under wraps. It’s not even a celebration, something just real quick and simple.

4. Do you know anything about Southeastern Louisiana?
   They’re a great team. I mean, you can never sleep on any team from Louisiana. I’m from Louisiana. I think in ‘09 Southeastern Louisiana was just establishing a football team, if I’m not mistaken.* So we are just gonna watch film on those guys and see.

5. What is your favorite movie?
   (The) “Lion King.” Easy. The kid never leaves you. The kid never leaves your side. I grew up watching “The Lion King.” I love “The Lion King.” It came on ABC Family the other day, and I watched it, three time in a row.

*Football returned to the school in 2003, after an 18-year hiatus.
ELVIS’ COMEBACK SPECIAL

After suffering a devastating injury to his left knee in August 2011, Elvis Fisher had a choice: Fight to return to the field, or leave football behind. More than a year later, he’s back where he belongs.

BY MIKE VOREL // PORTRAIT BY BENJAMIN HOSTE

AUG. 15, 2011: ELVIS FISHER WON’T STOP SCREAMING.

The 6-foot-5, 300-pound offensive tackle seems suddenly destructible, lying on the practice field in a heap. He writhes on the ground, grasping at a left knee that won’t stop its searing pain.

Casey Hairston, an assistant athletic trainer, yells for head trainer Rex Sharp, who is observing practice on the next field. Michael Sam, the defensive end who had just challenged Fisher in a one-on-one pass rush drill, watches, helpless. His teammates do the same.

“That was probably the worst day of my college life, when Elvis went down,” Sam said more than a year later.

After being carted off the field, Fisher sits inside the treatment room at the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex. His kneecap, as he remembers it, “was all hanging to the side.”

“Hey, so am I out for a couple weeks, or what?” Fisher asks Hairston.

“No, a little longer than that …” the trainer replies.

The MRIs confirm what Sharp and Hairston already know. Fisher has torn his left patellar tendon, a ligament that attaches the bottom of the kneecap to the top of the shinbone. His season is over. His career is on the ropes.

Surgery is scheduled for the next morning.

AUG. 21, 2011: REX SHARP HAS HAD ENOUGH.

Fisher sits in Sharp’s office, five days after a successful surgery to repair the patellar tendon. The time since has been filled largely with Fisher asking questions.

Not of his trainers, or teammates, or anyone in particular. No one has the answers.

Why me? Why now?

He searched the Internet for cases similar to his, trying in vain to find a silver lining in the abrupt end to his redshirt senior season.

“There were very few cases, but the ones I did find didn’t turn out too well,” he said.

After five days of watching Fisher sink lower and lower into depression and inactivity, Sharp was fed up. Yes, Fisher had caught a bad break. Yes, his injury was a freak accident – one that Sharp had never treated in 32 years as an athletic trainer.

But none of that could be avoided or amended. Sharp, sitting across from the hulking lineman, sent a simple message:

“You can’t change the past. It’s time to move forward.”

In any rehab, Sharp says, the training staff can only do so much. They can provide you with the appropriate surgery, and then prepare a specific treatment plan designed to guide you through each step of the healing process. But in the end, the injured athlete needs to buy in – to truly believe in that plan and dedicate themselves to their future.

That’s something the training staff can’t force. You’ll either embrace your recovery, or you won’t.

In Sharp’s office on Sunday night, with a year’s worth of pain and sweat ahead of him, Fisher bought in.

SEPT. 3, 2011: JUSTIN BRITT HAS A NEW COACH.

After each series in Missouri’s season debut against Miami of Ohio, Justin Britt, the team’s new left tackle trots to the sideline, making a beeline for Fisher. He prefers his older teammate to some of the stern coaches, someone who has all of the knowledge but none of the excessive volume.

Fisher received the script of offensive plays before the first game, and was given a simple objective. Take Britt, who had previously trained as a guard, and help him to protect James Franklin’s blind side.

Nearly a year later, Britt says their relationship has hardly changed.

“He’s still helping me. When he went down, he was like the angel on my shoulder, telling me what to do. He gave me tips that he uses and techniques that he does, and with some stuff, I still don’t know how he does it,” Britt said, shrugging. “Never figured it out.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
During the opening game, a 17-6 victory, Fisher watches his teammates pull ahead and eventually pull away. He watches Britt, specifically, hoping the sophomore can make the best of a new situation.

That’s all he can do – watch. Despite embracing his job as a makeshift coach, Fisher knows where he belongs.

“It was weird, just because I’ve been on that field all my life,” he said. “It was tough to look at.”


In his office, Sharp gets a call from a member of Missouri’s compliance staff, who relays a decision made by the NCAA.

Fisher, who had applied for a medical hardship waiver months earlier, has been granted a sixth season as a Missouri Tiger.

Sharp says he will call back, and sets off in the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex to find his most dedicated athlete. The lineman, who is now capable of both running and lifting weights with his lower body, is in a meeting.

When he gets out, Sharp tells him little, wanting Fisher to hear it from a more official source.

“Hey Elvis, we got a call from compliance,” Sharp says.

“You did?” Fisher asks, his curiosity clearly piqued.

“Here,” Sharp responds, “let me get them on the phone.”

From Sharp’s cell phone, Fisher hears the same news his trainer heard minutes earlier. He hangs up and calls his dad. He won’t stop smiling.

His teammates, running through skill improvement drills that day, hear of the good news, too. They won’t stop smiling, either.


Sitting in a car outside Memorial Stadium, the sixth-year senior points a camera at himself and begins to rattle off a list of ways the Missouri staff can satisfy him.

He needs better soap. He needs his Twitter handle to replace the name on the back of his jersey. He needs to stop sweating so much.

In reality, he’s just happy to have another chance to experience fall camp. He aches to get started, to rejoin his teammates in 7:15 a.m. practices. He’s excited to compete in that one-on-one pass rush drill again, shoving smaller defensive ends out of the way of his quarterback.

A scar that runs vertically down his left knee is the only lingering reminder of that August day last year. His personality, jovial and light-hearted, is the same.

After being granted another year of eligibility, Fisher decided to embrace his seniority.

Although he always looked like the team’s elder statesman, with patches of dark brown hair scattered around the edges of his mostly bald head, now the 23-year-old is truly the team’s grandfather. Fisher has protected Chase Daniel, Blaine Gabbert and now Franklin. For some of his teammates, it feels like he’s been here as long as the columns.

Eventually, his age became a recurring joke over social media, as Fisher and his friends began ending tweets with the hashtag #6thYearProblems.

“My friend said to me that the NCAA is going to start looking at me for embezzling money or stealing money from the university for six years. That’s a sixth-year problem,” Fisher said, describing the birth of the hashtag. “I was like … sixth year problem! So we started tweeting some of these.”

Fisher still laughs about it, recalling the jokes that various fans and teammates sent in his direction.

“What was it like playing in the Big Eight? #6thYearProblem,” he rattles off.

Despite – or maybe because of – his age, and everything it took in the last year to get back on the field, Fisher doesn’t take life or football too seriously.

“When it comes down to the end of the day, this is a game. This is a game that you’re playing. It’s not life or death out there,” he said. “You have to go out there and have fun with it.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
In what is now certainly his final season, he isn’t holding anything back. When it’s time to do his job, he does it. And off the field, he is almost impossible to miss, both because of his size and his willingness to playfully tease anyone in his general vicinity.

After five years, 40 starts and a surgery resulting in a reconstructed left knee, there’s only one thing left for Fisher: The SEC.

**SEPT 1, 2012: ELVIS FISHER IS BACK WHERE HE BELONGS.**

This one hasn’t happened yet. It’s a dream, a goal, a conclusion six years in the making.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday night, Fisher will stand alongside his teammates on Faurot Field. As the sun sets around them, more than 70,000 golden-clad fans will cheer for something new, and something old.


Old left tackle.

“Just being able to see Elvis go out and take that coin toss – in a uniform – and then start at left tackle, that will be pretty cool. I’m looking forward to it. He means a great deal to me.”

REX SHARP
HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER
TIGER TWEETS

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE PLAYERS’ MOST HUMOROUS, THOUGHTFUL, AND INTERESTING TWEETS

@ian_21ydh
IAN SIMON
Blessed to see another glorious day, it's game week I'm excited dreams can come true
Aug. 27

@TJMoe28
T.J. MOE
The speedometer & gas gauge both broke on my scooter. No idea how fast I'm going. No idea how much gas I've got left. This ought to be good
Aug. 27

@tigerbrittt68
JUSTIN BRITT
All I wanna do is go play Madden lol.. Smh let's get ready for Game 1 though. #MIZ
Aug. 28

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\[Image\]
10 Things You Didn’t Know About Southeastern Louisiana

With the 2012 college football season looming mere hours away, the Missouri Tigers are preparing to embark on a lot of new territory. // New conference. New jerseys. New home turf. And probably, a new definition of what makes a “successful season.”

The football-crazed SEC Conference lies in wait, like the T-Rex in Jurassic Park waiting patiently to devour the sacrificial goat being lowered slowly into the jungle. It’s a conference stock-full of usual suspects.

You have Alabama, winner of two of the last three national championships; LSU, a perennial power which continues to reload despite losing the Honey Badger, who apparently don’t care about team rules; Florida, a Will Muschamp-led athlete factory whose most noteworthy player is still, somehow, Tim Tebow; and Arkansas, who landed a motorcycle crash and a mistress short of legitimate title hopes.

Thankfully for the Tigers, Southeastern Louisiana isn’t on that list. The Lions, pride of Hammond, La., play Missouri for the first time on Saturday, with expectations about as high as anyone running beside Usain Bolt in the 100-meter dash.

Still, as the ’07 Michigan Wolverines can attest, no game can be taken lightly. We at Ten Things prepared as such this week, charging up our laptops and researching with unbridled enthusiasm. And so, we proudly bring you 10 things you didn’t know about Southeastern Louisiana … as if you knew anything before.

— Mike Vorel

10
Southeastern Louisiana University came from humble beginnings, created in 1925 as Hammond Junior College. Its first president was Linus A. Sims, and from 1925-27 the school operated out of two rooms inside Hammond High School.

9
SEL had a cheerleading squad before it had an athletic team. A pep squad was introduced upon the school’s inception in 1925. Because the group didn’t have any Hammond Junior College athletic programs to cheer for, they instead turned their spirit fingers toward Hammond High, attending the high school’s sporting events and displaying some very fake but very loud school spirit.

8
Hammond, the town where SELU resides, was home to the most prominent Confederate shoe factory during the Civil War. The factory, owned by Charles Emery Cate, shipped nearly 45,000 shoes to Confederate soldiers during the war. It failed to survive, however, as Union soldiers eventually discovered the factory and destroyed it.

7
In the middle of SELU’s campus sits a large oak tree, which has been affectionately named “Friendship Oak.” The tree does more than spark friendships, however, as it is said that whoever kisses under the tree is destined to get married.

6
Southeastern Louisiana is one of the few schools in the country that allows students to rent all of their textbooks, saving them heap-loads of money and eliminating the need for an accordion-playing gorilla that tells you where to sell back your books. I know what you’re thinking. It came as a shock to me, too. But apparently, somehow, a college can survive without charging their students five times the retail price for each and every textbook. Who would’ve thought?
The Lions play their home games at Strawberry Stadium, aptly named because Hammond considers itself the “strawberry capital of the world.” When it was first built in 1937, Strawberry Stadium also housed a cafeteria, student union, post office and dormitories to go along with the football field. Basically, it was as if Missouri decided to play its games inside the Student Center.

Southeastern Louisiana’s nickname is the Lions, meaning the Lions and Tigers will be going at it on Faurot Field on Saturday.

Southeastern Louisiana offers two unique traditions for its food-loving faculty and students, “Gumbo Ya Ya” and “Strawberry Jubilee.” “Gumbo Ya Ya,” a fall pastime, involves over 3,000 students devouring gumbo, bread, soft drinks and cakes in the school’s Student Union Park. “Strawberry Jubilee,” the spring alternative, also features lots of hungry students and loads of strawberry cake.

Hammond is also home to Kliebert’s Turtle and Alligator Farm, home to 47,000 turtles and over 300 alligators. Families can tour the “Swamp People Trail,” viewing the gators in their natural habitat. There are also a few 55-year-old alligators, which were hatched on the farm in 1957.

SELU’s mascot – a lion – was previously unnamed before a panel of judges got together, probably had a few drinks, and decided to confuse everybody in 1964. The panel decided to name the lion “Lobo,” which is the Spanish word for “wolf.” Now that clearer heads have prevailed, the lion goes by “Roomie,” a tribute to former Southeastern Louisiana football player and biology professor Hollis “Roomie” Wilson.
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