Time to shine

Senior tailback kendial lawrence is ready to prove himself in his final season at missouri.

How are fans reacting to the new uniforms?

10 things you didn’t know about Arizona State.
NEW UNIFORMS GET RAVE REVIEWS
Two weeks into the season, Missouri’s sleek uniforms have caught the eye of fans and recruits.

TIME TO SHINE
After missing three games early last year due to injury, senior tailback Kendial Lawrence is ready to prove himself in his final season at Missouri.

TEN THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW
Other than the fact that Arizona State beat Missouri last season, what else do you know about the school?

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Two weeks into the season, Missouri’s sleek uniforms have caught the eye of fans and recruits

For all the talk of Missouri’s new cutting-edge uniforms, Don Barnes thought the Tigers opened the season with a pretty classic look.

“The black uniform, when I first saw it and pulled it out of the box, I thought, ‘holy cow, this is a 1960s look: very subtle, looks like a one-color number on a jersey,’” he said. “Really old-fashioned looking, yet it's got all the newest technology.”

Barnes, Missouri’s equipment director, collaborated with Nike over the past two years to design the new uniforms. The new look has been on the field for two weeks, and Barnes is pleased with both the fan reception and the new technology.

The new uniforms, along with the new field design at Faurot Field, are part of a larger rebranding effort to give Missouri a distinct and nationally recognizable look.

The designs incorporate elements pulled from past Missouri uniforms and other state traditions. Although the Block M was removed from the helmet, the yellow stripe around the middle remains.

The anthracite gray on the road uniforms, which was first featured on Missouri’s uniforms for its game against Kansas in 2009, was worked back into the uniform to represent the stealth bombers at the Whiteman Air Force Base, Barnes said.

While Barnes thinks the black home uniforms are a classic look, the Tigers' gold alternates, which they wore for their Southeastern Conference opener against Georgia, present a flashier option that scores well with recruits.

“Maybe once or twice a year you wear something like that,” Barnes said. “I think we had 500 or 600 recruits in the stands (for the Georgia game), but every recruit in the country that we’re going after was watching that game on TV.”

Barnes said it took his staff about 20 minutes to put on each helmet decal for the Georgia game because the intricate logo needed to be laid just right.

While he has had some backlash from fans of the traditional look, Barnes said the feedback has been mostly positive, especially once fans understand the rebranding mission.

The Tigers’ captains and seniors have already laid out which uniforms the team will wear each week, though Barnes says they won’t be revealed until the team takes the field.

While the aesthetics of the uniform are the main concern of fans, Barnes emphasized their updated Nike technology. The material does not hold moisture, which means players will be lighter because it won’t carry their sweat.

“Let’s say we could cut out a full pound in our uniform, which we’ve done in our basketball and football uniforms,” Barnes said. “In the course of a game, our skill guys are going to take 800 steps a game. That’s almost a thousand pounds less that our guys have carried as opposed to the guys across the ball from them.”

The material wasn’t perfect during the Georgia game, and some players had visible sweat stains. It’s one of the challenges posed by the unfamiliar technology.

But with Missouri facing a new level of competition in the SEC, Barnes said the hassle is worth it.

“I can’t quantifiably say ‘We affect this or that, because he was lighter,’” he said. “If there's a chance of giving them the advantage, we’re going to do that. We're not going to take a chance.”
FAST FIVE // GAHN MCGAFFIE

BY CAITLIN SWIECA

1. What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not playing?
   I like to go fishing, hang out and go to the movies, and play ping pong with quarterback James Franklin and my roommate Kentrell Brothers. James is pretty good. Going from top to bottom, it’d probably be me and James, and then Kentrell last.

2. What’s your favorite meal?
   Steak is my favorite of all time, but steaks back home in Houston, Texas are the best. No specific steaks, just any kind. My brother makes a pretty good steak.

3. Do you have any pregame rituals?
   Not really, I just have a playlist that I listen to and I just try to visualize myself making plays. The playlist has a little bit of Lil Wayne, Jadakiss, Lloyd Banks. A few artists here and there.

4. Of all the games you’ve played in, which is your favorite?
   I’d probably say the Oklahoma game, because that was my first touchdown of my college career. That’d be on the top of my list so far.

5. What’s something people don’t know about you?
   They’ve got a very small preview of what I have to bring to this team. I feel like once I start getting more opportunities, everybody will see what I can really do out on the field. I’m looking forward to this upcoming game, to get more opportunities to showcase my abilities.

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TIME TO SHINE

Kendial Lawrence, senior tailback from Rockwall, Texas, is playing his final season at Missouri. After breaking his left fibula and missing three games early last season, Lawrence returned with a record 76-yard touchdown in the opening game against Southeastern Louisiana.

BY RICHARD FERNANDEZ // PORTRAIT BY BENJAMIN HOSTE

KENDIAL LAWRENCE knows how quickly things can change. Early last season, Lawrence was atop the Missouri depth chart at tailback as the team headed into a game with the Arizona State Sun Devils. Then he broke his left fibula at practice.

In the game against the Sun Devils last season, healthy Tigers running backs became scarce. Marcus Murphy was out the whole season with a torn labrum and De’Vion Moore sprained his ankle early in the game, leaving Henry Josey to carry the load.

“It’s pretty fragile. A lot of guys can be behind you at any time,” Lawrence said. “So it’s important to always stay on your job and work your hardest to make sure you’re gonna be there every week to battle for the team.”

As Josey emerged as a star, Lawrence returned in a secondary role after missing three games.

When Josey injured his knee, Lawrence stepped back in as the starter and averaged 107.25 total yards per game and scored three touchdowns.

“I wanted to build onto that,” Lawrence said. “I knew there were a lot of little things I needed to fix to make myself better.”

After a wild sequence of running back injuries, Lawrence found himself atop the depth chart once again this season. But it wasn’t by accident.

Because of the severity of Josey’s injury and the long expected recovery time, Lawrence realized he had an opportunity to become a major contributor to the offense.

After spring practice this year, the senior from Rockwall, Texas reflected on what he needed to do to prepare for his final season at Missouri.

“It just came down to a point to where, ‘You’ve been here three and a half, almost four years, you’re getting experience and you’re learning,’” Lawrence said. “You always want your last year to be your best year. It’s just not gonna happen. You have to do the little things to fix that and make it all better.”

Tailback is not a stable position by any means, but Lawrence plans on playing this time when Missouri plays Arizona State at 6 p.m. Saturday at Faurot Field.

He has worked to stay healthy and keep his body ready. While a broken fibula is not something that can be prevented, Lawrence said there are other injuries players can avoid with the right preparation.

“You know the little things, little exercises, little stretches that you can do to tighten your body up,” Lawrence said. “Just prepare yourself for the season that’s ahead of you.”

Brian Jones, Missouri running backs coach, says the team tries to use multiple running backs so they can both prevent injuries and have backup players ready for when someone suffers an injury.

The 5-foot-9, 195-pound tailback said he worked this summer paying more attention to detail than he ever had before. He wanted to make the most of his opportunities to carry the football.

He focused his workouts on biceps, triceps, shoulders, back and legs. Lawrence started watching film outside of meetings, something he had not done in previous years.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
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KENDIAL LAWRENCE
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BRIAN JONES
Missouri running backs coach

“He’s really improved from last year,” said Jones. “He worked hard in the summertime. He’s really just buying into all the little workout things that we talk about. Just the daily regiments to make himself better, all the little detail things.”

Lawrence saw the extra work pay off with a strong camp. He started off the season strong too.

Lawrence recorded the longest run of his career, a 76-yard touchdown in Missouri’s season opening game against Southeastern Louisiana.

He took a hand-off from quarterback James Franklin, turned out to the right and showed off his speed, running past Southeastern Louisiana defenders before they could cut him off.

In the game against Georgia, things did not go quite as smooth for Lawrence. His first carry in the game, the first play from scrimmage, went for a loss of two yards. The only other time Lawrence touched the ball in the first half was when he and Franklin flubbed a hand-off that led to a turnover.

Franklin said he did not realize how little Lawrence was involved in the first half. After acknowledging that he sometimes jokes about being a better runner than Lawrence, Franklin said he wanted to make handing off a priority.

“He’s quite a bit faster than me, so I’d like to see him get the ball,” Franklin said.

Another hindrance to the running game was Missouri’s beat-up offensive line. According to head coach Gary Pinkel, the Tigers were without five of the team’s top 10 offensive lineman after Elvis Fisher left the game Saturday. The remaining ones were left battling to block the pair of Bulldogs defensive tackles that totaled over 700 pounds.

Despite the Tigers’ lack of success with the running game in the first half against the Bulldogs, Lawrence did not change his mentality. He believes he can make big plays against any defense with the help of his teammates.

“You can never predict the game. You can never predict the defense like that,” Lawrence said. “We try to show guys we have a great running game and we can run on anyone when we’re on our A game.”

In the fourth quarter, Lawrence was able to break off a 39-yard run. Even though he was excited about the success of that one play, Lawrence, like many of his teammates, was not pleased with the result of the game.

“You can tell how much it meant to the guys. There were a lot of guys walking around here just stale-faced, didn’t want to say too much,” Lawrence said. “You could just tell that it really meant a lot. We really wanted to get that win.”

Lawrence said seeing his upset teammates motivates him. It motivates him to work harder and focus more, just as he did in preparation for the season.

“The loss happened,” Lawrence said. “We had a lot of mistakes that we weren’t expecting. We’ve got a lot to learn from that game. I think it will help us in the future.”
TIGER TWEETS
HERE ARE A FEW OF THE PLAYERS’ MOST HUMOROUS, THOUGHTFUL, AND INTERESTING TWEETS

@jacob_hurrell
JACOB HURRELL
Nice job, Tiger fans. Thanks for showing great class to UGA fans this last weekend and thank you for the great support. bit.ly/No6Riy
Sept. 12

@SamoanTaika96
LUCAS VINCENT
I’m for real mad at the U for not being able to take my helmet off on the field it’s a shame the ladies in the stands can’t see my face
Sept. 10

@X_r2t6d
XAVIER SMITH
Going to sleep in my workout clothes so I can sleep an extra 5min in the morning it be like that sometimes
Sept. 11

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SHOW CONTENTS PAGE
The newborn rivalry between Missouri and Arizona State isn’t exactly a historic one. The two teams have never played in the same conference, and their campuses are separated by more than 1,300 miles.

So what do Missouri fans know about Arizona State? Other than the fact that it beat the Tigers last season in a game most Missouri fans would rather forget, the Sun Devils may be somewhat of a mystery. To combat that lack of knowledge, we bring you 10 things you didn’t know about Arizona State.

— MIKE VOREL

There is a large hill north of Arizona State’s campus called the Tempe Butte. Locals have another name for it, though – “A” Mountain. It is so named because of the 60-foot tall steel “A” placed on the side of the mountain facing campus. The “A” was placed there in 1938, formed mostly from loose rocks. It was destroyed in 1952, though, when vandals blasted the letter to pieces with dynamite. While the culprits were never found, the “A” was rebuilt with steel and concrete and still stands today.

Arizona State University wasn’t always Arizona State University. The school was founded in 1885 and called the Tempe Normal School. In the early 1900s the name changed again, this time to the Normal School of Arizona. In the 1930s it became the Arizona State Teachers College of Tempe, then simply Arizona State College. Finally, President Grady Gammage approved the school’s final name change, and it became Arizona State University in 1958.

While the Arizona State football team plays its home games at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, the site has hosted NFL teams and a Pope, too. Super Bowl XXX was played there in 1996, with the Dallas Cowboys beating the Pittsburgh Steelers in the game, 27-17. Pope John Paul II also made an unlikely appearance at Sun Devil Stadium on Sept. 14, 1987, when he held mass there in front of a crowd of 75,000 people.

One of Arizona State’s most famous alumni is a fictional one. Rod Tidwell, the loud but loveable receiver portrayed by Cuba Gooding Jr. in the 1996 film “Jerry Maguire,” was a Sun Devil. Before demanding that Maguire “show him the money,” he announced his Arizona allegiances first.

As for actual alumni, one of the most recognizable voices in sports broadcasting, Al Michaels, got his start in Tempe and graduated from Arizona State in 1966. While serving as sports editor of the school’s newspaper, “The State Press,” Michaels decided to pull a prank on the state’s leading paper, “The Arizona Republic.” Michaels invented a fictional baseball player named Clint Romas, who allegedly went to high school in a small town in Arizona. He then called into “The Arizona Republic” several times and reported the player’s impressive box scores. “The Arizona Republic” published the stats, to Michaels’ delight.

The first presidential debate held west of the Mississippi River was held on Arizona State’s campus in 2004. The debate happened inside “ASU Gammage,” a performing arts facility that was renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s final design. President George W. Bush and Democratic candidate John Kerry were each asked 10 questions during the debate, and they discussed issues such as immigration and the war in Iraq.

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“*I’m from Arizona, Jerry! I broke Arizona records! I went to Arizona State! I’m a Sun Devil, man!*”

Gooding Jr.’s overexcited, always vocal, money-hungry persona landed him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1997. Regardless of the fact that he never existed, there may not have been a more engaging Sun Devil receiver, before or since.

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In 1999, Arizona State running back J.R. Redmond was suspended for one game for receiving illicit benefits. Not even a wedding could save his eligibility.

Redmond had previously taken a cell phone offered to him by a part-time employee of the Arizona State athletic department, Francine Arthur. He racked up more than $400 worth of charges on the phone. After finding out that his transaction with Arthur was under investigation by the school, Redmond figured he could sidestep the punishment if Arthur was his wife. They got married in Mesa, Ariz., but Redmond was suspended anyway.

Arizona State’s nickname became the “Sun Devils” in 1946. It was previously the Bulldogs, and before that, the Owls. But how did the unique nickname come to be? The answer seems to have been lost in history. The student body voted, by a count of 819 to 196, to change the nickname to the Sun Devils. But it is unknown who actually proposed the unique “Sun Devils” name.

The designs for Sparky, the Sun Devils’ mascot, were drawn by ASU alum and former Walt Disney cartoonist Bert Anthony. Legend has it that Sparky’s likeness was meant to resemble Disney, a Missourian, who fired Anthony shortly before he was asked to make the drawings.

Designing a mascot that portrays your former employer as a “Sun Devil”? Priceless.
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