TIGERKICKOFF

ALABAMA vs MISSOURI

Saturday, October 13 at Memorial Stadium

FRIENDS FACEOFF

Former Kent State ‘Golden Flash’ teammates, Gary Pinkel and Nick Saban, meet on the gridiron pg. 6

NICK SABAN, 5-0, “THE CHAMPION”

GARY PINKEL, 3-3, “THE UNDERDOG”

BROCK OLIVO | TEN THINGS

WHERE IS THE FORMER RUNNING BACK NOW? UNDERCARD MATCH BEGINS ON PAGE 4

YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT THE CRIMSON TIDE UNDERCARD MATCH BEGINS ON PAGE 10
### MU Offense vs. Alabama Defense

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<td>T.J. Moe</td>
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<td>Corbin Berkstresser</td>
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### MU Defense vs. Alabama Offense

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### Special Teams

#### Missouri
- **PUNTER**: (97) Trey Barrow
- **PLACEKICKER**: (99) Andrew Baggett
- **HOLDER**: (28) T.J. Moe
- **LONG SNAPPER**: (57) Brad Madison
- **KICK RETURNER**: (28) T.J. Moe
- **PUNT RETURNER**: (6) Marcus Murphy

#### Alabama
- **PUNTER**: (29) Cody Mandell
- **PLACEKICKER**: (5) Jeremy Shelley
- **HOLDER**: (10) AJ McCarron
- **LONG SNAPPER**: (51) Carson Tinker
- **KICK RETURNER**: (22) Christion Jones
- **PUNT RETURNER**: (22) Christion Jones

#### Missouri Injuries
- **JAMES FRANKLIN**: (1)
- **HENRY JOSEY**: (20)
- **TRAVIS RUTH**: (53)
- **TAYLOR CHAPPELL**: (62)

*Out for season*
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former Missouri star running back Brock Olivo is now an assistant coach for Coastal Carolina University.

COLLEGE FRIENDS TURNED CONFERENCE FOES

Coaches Nick Saban and Gary Pinkel once played football together at Kent State University.

TEN THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT...

Impressive fan turnout and Forrest Gump are just two things that make the Crimson Tide interesting.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW? BROCK OLIVO

After five seasons in the NFL and coaching stints in Italy and Omaha, Brock Olivo is back at the college level as an assistant coach for Coastal Carolina University

BY CAITLIN SWIECA

ROCK OLIVO HAS ALWAYS BEEN the eccentric one. During college, he lived in a downtown apartment that had been converted from an old hotel. It featured antique furniture and no television. He cruised around Columbia in a 1959 paddy wagon.

It figures that he would make a few unconventional stops on his way back to college football.

Today, Olivo, Missouri’s star running back of the 1990s, is in his first season as running backs and special teams coach at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C. Between his 1998 graduation and his being hired there, Olivo traveled the globe and worked several jobs that helped mold the perspective on coaching he has today.

After five seasons playing for the Detroit Lions, Olivo worked for the National Italian American Foundation and eventually became the coach of the Italian national football team.

His first coaching experience came in a country where players don’t get exposed to the sport until they turn 18. “You’re having to teach young adults the most tactically complicated sport in the world,” Olivo said. “It taught you incredible patience, because the older we get, the harder it is for us to learn. Instead of focusing on my teaching, I had to focus on my guys learning.”

If converting soccer-crazed Europeans into football players taught him patience, his next job coaching the Omaha Nighthawks of the United Football League taught him to have faith in his players.

The UFL, which Olivo considers a feeder league to the NFL, is full of star college players or former NFL players who lost their opportunity to make it big.

“Dealing with former NFL players whose egos could’ve been damaged, they could’ve taken it negatively, stuck up their chin at teaching points,” he said. “They were very open and accepting of everything you had to tell them.”

After one season with the Nighthawks, Olivo’s head coach Joe Moglia brought him along to Coastal Carolina when he was hired there. Olivo says he’s finally back where he wants to be — in the college game.

“I couldn’t be happier, quite honestly,” Olivo said. “The athletic department, the athletic director, the president — they’re young, vibrant, for lack of a better term, avant garde people in the field. It’s just fun.”

Eventually, Olivo hopes to return to Missouri, patrolling the sidelines as a coach for the Tigers.

For now, he’s still a “psychopath,” leading the same high-energy lifestyle he did in college. He still has no television, and his home is full of guitars that he plays in his spare time.

For now, he’s drawing on lessons from his own playing career to help guide his players through their development. “I love the underdog guys, walk-on guys, under-recruited guys who are just starving for one little opportunity,” Olivo said. “I always tell them, ‘Follow your dream.’ It’s cliche as all heck, but it comes from a guy who actually lived it and was the underdog in a lot of cases.”

PAST STATS

Brock Olivo graduated as Missouri’s all-time leading rusher, though he’s since been passed twice. Here are his college statistics by year:

1994 614 yards, 5 touchdowns 4.3 yards/carry
1995 985 yards, 6 touchdowns 4.2 yards/carry
1996 749 yards, 5 touchdowns 4.8 yards/carry
1997 678 yards, 11 touchdowns 4.4 yards/carry

Brock Olivo is congratulated by fans after having his jersey, number 27, retired during halftime of the Missouri-Eastern Illinois game on September 13, 2003. Olivo was tailback for the Tigers from 1994-1997.

Missourian file photo
TIGER TWEETS

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

@H_Josey20
HENRY JOSEY
Nooooo wats going on at Mizzou noooo
Oct. 4 (Reaction to Dorial Green-Beckham and two other players arrested for marijuana possession.)

@jacob_hurrell
JACOB HURRELL
Liam Neeson literally just killed 40 people in this movie #Taken2
Oct. 8

@tigerbritt68
JUSTIN BRITT
I’m ready to step on the field today and work my ass off to improve this week! Big weeks call for big preparation! #MIZ
Oct. 9

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**FRIENDS FACE OFF**

Alabama’s Nick Saban and Missouri’s Gary Pinkel played college football together, winning a conference championship and uniting a community at Kent State. Now, 40 years later, their paths will cross once again Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

**BY MIKE VOREL**

**ONE IS ALREADY AN ICON,** a man whose statue stands proudly outside the stadium where he still coaches. He is the owner of three national championships, three Southeastern Conference titles and a scowl that instills fear in even the most courageous young men.

The other is an enigma, a coach who won big in the past but now, after a year filled with controversy and realignment, stands at somewhat of a crossroads. His pursed lips and black visor have been constants on Missouri’s sideline for more than a decade. This coach has celebrated wins, developed quarterbacks and said very little along the way.

But before all that — before the wins, the titles, the conference changes — Nick Saban and Gary Pinkel were teammates. They were friends.

**A TITLE THAT UNITED A TOWN**

It all started in Kent, Ohio, in 1971. Following a dismal 3-7 season in 1970, Don James took over as Kent State’s head football coach. The school and community had endured a year rife with tragedy, after four students were shot and killed by Ohio National Guardsmen at a protest on May 4, 1970.

Kent State needed something to believe in. The football team, at that time, wasn’t it.

The previous coach, Dave Puddington, gave James fair warning about the group of players he was inheriting.

“When I first got the job in ’71, the preceding coach told me there were a half dozen really solid players, and a half dozen really not-so-solid players that were a cancer to the team,” James said, laughing loudly over the phone.

Three of the “really solid players” turned out to be future NFL Hall of Fame linebacker Jack Lambert, safety Nick Saban, and an athletic, sure-handed tight end named Gary Pinkel.

Practices were intense. Lambert and Saban brought a toughness to the defense that was missing in previous seasons. The coaches forced the players to wear pads in every practice, because the staff was concerned Lambert might injure some of his own teammates if they weren’t adequately protected.

Ken Dooner, the backup tight end behind Pinkel in 1972, remembers what it was like to stand toe-to-toe with Lambert and Saban. Saban, in particular, made an impact on him.

“Nick played free safety. I had a few run-ins with him, being the second-team tight end against the first-team defense,” Dooner said. “Nick was a good player. He was a tough, hard-nosed guy, not much different than he is now.”

Pinkel, on the other hand, was a strong, athletic tight end who caught anything that came his way. He wasn’t the biggest guy or the shiftiest in open space, but he knew how to catch a football.

“Gary was just a solid player. He had all the things that you ever needed for any level of football, and he had great hands,” James said. “He was bright. He didn’t make mental mistakes.”

In James’ first year at Kent State, 1971, the team showed no improvement in the win-loss column, finishing 3-8. Then, with another year in the system, the Golden Flashes started seeing results.

They finished 6-5-1 in 1972, good enough to win the Mid-American Conference title and a berth in the Tangerine Bowl. While they lost the bowl game to the University of Tampa, that 1972 team still lays claim to the only MAC title and bowl appearance for the school.

After decades of consistent losing and a recent past tainted by one unforgettable tragedy, that team inspired hope. It took an entire community of various backgrounds, cultures and beliefs, and gave them all something to agree on.

“Talk about a university that needed something tremendously positive to happen,” Pinkel said Monday. “It united us — football did.”

**A PHONE CALL FROM NICK**

Nick Saban never wanted to be a football coach. Cars, not pigskins, were his passion in life.

“For a while, Nick was talking about selling cars,” James said. “I knew he and his wife were from West Virginia, and I just assumed he was thinking about..."
The 1972 Kent State University football team poses for a group photo. Gary Pinkel, a tight end at the time, is No. 89 in the third row, eighth from the left. Nick Saban, a safety, is No. 12 in the front row, first on the left.

Photo courtesy of Kent State University Libraries

**PAST TIES:** The 1972 Kent State University football team poses for a group photo. Gary Pinkel, a tight end at the time, is No. 89 in the third row, eighth from the left. Nick Saban, a safety, is No. 12 in the front row, first on the left.

Photo courtesy of Kent State University Libraries

Cars would have to wait. The rest, as they say, is college football history.

Meanwhile, Pinkel had found a home at James' side – first as a graduate assistant at Kent State in 1974, and then as an offensive assistant at Washington from 1979 to 1990.

But, try as he might, he couldn't make the leap to head coach.

“I interviewed at Bowling Green, where I coached before, and didn’t get the job. And I interviewed at Kent State, where I was an all-conference player, and didn’t get the job,” Pinkel said. “My wife didn’t think I could get hired anywhere.”

As it turns out, all he needed was a call from an old friend.

Saban had just completed his first year as head coach at Toledo in 1990, where he led the Rockets to a 9-2 season and a share of the MAC championship.

He decided to make his tenure there a short one, though, jumping at an opportunity to become the defensive coordinator of the Cleveland Browns under head coach Bill Belichick.

Before he left, Saban did his best to
When you get the break, you’ve got to be able to do the job. But I got the break because of him. Who knows what would have happened (without him)."

**GARY PINKEL, Missouri coach**

remembered about playing with Saban, the coaching great who one day, 40 years ago, just wanted to sell cars.

Pinkel addressed the crowd with wit, and a smile.

“First of all, he’s older than me,” Pinkel said, grinning. “I want to make that very clear.”

Saban, who is indeed six months older than Pinkel, shot back at his former teammate the next day.

“I know he was up here bragging about the fact that he’s younger than me. But, you know, there are other coaches in this league, like Steve Spurrier, that are older than me, that I look up to, that are my mentors, that I really learn a lot from, that I really want to try to be like,” Saban said, implying that Missouri’s coach should respect his elder.

They playfully exchanged barbs, seemingly channeling their younger selves. And on Saturday, just like in those physical Kent State practices 40 years ago, the lights are brighter now. This is the SEC, a place where every win and loss is magnified and every comment is skewed in the national press. Saban and Pinkel have taken different paths to get here, but on Saturday, the back story will hardly matter.

They will probably shake hands, maybe share a few old college stories before kickoff. But eventually, the one thing that will define and separate them is a football game.

And James, their former coach — a man who knew them before the statues, before the championships, before the opportunistic phone calls and recruiting wars – will be watching, an old man torn by allegiances and filled with pride.

“Having a former player become a coach — and I’ve put out a number of coaches through the years — they’re like sons,” James, 79, said via phone from Seattle. “You follow them every week. You look for their scores, and when they’re on TV, you watch them. So that’s going to be a fun night.”

“I won’t cheer for either one of them, but I’d like it to be a competitive game.”

If it’s anything like those practices 40 years ago, the ones where an athletic tight end sometimes collided with a tough-nosed safety, it will be. ■
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10 THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT ALABAMA

You know Alabama is the No. 1 ranked football team in the country. // You also know that Missouri is far from the No. 1 ranked team in the country.

If you are still following the Missouri football team, you know James Franklin will not be able to play against the Crimson Tide because of a sprained MCL in his left knee. But if you have watched either of these teams this season, you know that Franklin playing probably wouldn’t matter anyway. You might recall two years ago when Missouri upset No. 1 ranked Oklahoma on Faurot Field. If you do, you probably know that this is a very different situation.

That Tigers team was ranked No. 11 and 6-0 heading into the game. This Tigers team is 3-3, fresh off a loss to Vanderbilt. At home.

Then there is the issue of the opponent. Alabama is not Oklahoma. There is compelling evidence that this Crimson Tide team is better than the Sooners were that season.

That Oklahoma team beat unranked teams Utah State, Air Force and Cincinnati by a total of 12 points. The smallest margin of victory for Alabama so far this season was 19 points against Ole Miss.

You probably know what to expect in the game Saturday, but here are some things about Alabama that you didn’t know.

— RICHARD FERNANDEZ

This year, 78,526 people attended Alabama’s spring game. But that’s down from the 92,310 who watched the Crimson Tide’s spring game in 2011. To compare, 18,614 showed up for Missouri’s spring game this year and just an estimated 10,000 did in 2011, before the Southeastern Conference craze. The sold-out crowd who attended Missouri’s game against Georgia totaled 71,004.

Tuscaloosa was Alabama’s capital from 1826 to 1846. The university was established in 1831, and the town experienced strong growth until the state capital relocated to Montgomery. The population rapidly declined after the change, but the town’s economy was stabilized by a mental health hospital, Bryce Hospital. The hospital is currently in the process of relocating. The university now owns the old building next to campus and plans to use it for student and faculty housing in the coming years.

The term “Crimson Tide” originated in 1907. The moniker was created when Hugh Roberts of the Birmingham Age-Herald used the term to describe how Alabama’s line helped tie then-favorite Auburn 6-6 in a sea of red mud, gaining the name “Crimson Tide.” That game in 1907 was the last time Alabama would play fierce rival Auburn until 1948.

The use of an elephant as a mascot started after the 1930 season. Sports writers referred to lineman on that season’s National Champion Alabama football team as “Red Elephants” because they were so large. During a game against Ole Miss, the Atlanta Journal’s Everett Strupper wrote, “At the end of the quarter, the earth started to tremble, there was a distant rumble that continued to grow. Some excited fan in the stands bellowed, ‘Hold your horses, the elephants are coming;’ and out stamped this Alabama varsity.” That team finished 10-0 and allowed just 13 points all season.

The school claims 14 National Championships in football but just one Heisman Trophy winner. Running back Mark Ingram, now with the New Orleans Saints, won the award in 2009.

Alabama has a “Million Dollar Band.” According to Alabama’s website, the school’s marching band struggled to raise enough money to travel to the football team’s road games in 1922. As the band members began to make more money through successful fundraisers, they were able to travel more comfortably, so Alabama alumnus W.C. “Champ” Pickens called them by the valuable nickname. After the Crimson Tide lost 33-7 to Georgia Tech, a sportswriter said to Pickens “You don’t have much of a team, what do you have at Alabama?” Pickens answered, “A million dollar band.”
Alabama definitely appreciates a winning coach. The school has a statue of each of the five coaches who have led the Crimson Tide to a National Championship, including current coach Nick Saban. Paul “Bear” Bryant has his own museum in Tuscaloosa. The museum is dedicated to honoring the life and history of the legendary Bryant, who coached at Alabama from 1958 to 1982. A crystal replica of Bryant’s signature houndstooth fedora is on display at the museum.

“Broadway Joe” Namath led the Tide to a National Championship in 1964. The unruly quarterback had a record of 29-4 in three years at Alabama under coach Bryant. Before finishing school, Namath joined the NFL, where he famously guaranteed that his Jets would beat the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III. Namath won Super Bowl MVP as the Jets won 16-7. Namath was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985. He finished school and earned his college degree from Alabama in December 2007.

“Forrest Gump” was a football All-American at Alabama. In the 1994 film starring Tom Hanks, Gump sprinted through a high school football practice while running away from bullies. He caught the eye of Bryant, who was scouting the practice, by blowing past the players. Next thing Gump knew, he was returning a kickoff at Denny Stadium (now Bryant-Denny Stadium), wearing a Crimson jersey and helmet with the number 44 in white. Before fans learn to tell Gump when to stop, he runs straight through the end zone and into the tunnel. Bryant’s character beams, “He must be the stupidest son of a bitch alive, but he sure is fast.”
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