Charles Harris, right, was off the radar coming out of high school. Now, no one is overlooking the Missouri star.
# DEPTH CHART

## MU Offense vs. Delaware Defense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
<th>Delaware State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wide Receiver</td>
<td>J’Mon Moore</td>
<td>Johnathan Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterback</td>
<td>Drew Lock</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Right Tackle</td>
<td>Paul Adams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Tackle</td>
<td>Tyler Howell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Samson Bailey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Left Guard</td>
<td>Kevin Pendleton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right Guard</td>
<td>Alec Aebin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wide Receiver</td>
<td>Emanuel Hall</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornerback</td>
<td>Kejuan Selby</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensive Tackle</td>
<td>Damon Atwater-Stephens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nose Tackle</td>
<td>Dominique Drewry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensive Tackle</td>
<td>Javon Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornerback</td>
<td>Gary Melton Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Rashawn Barrett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Denzel Burgette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Malik Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Brian Cavicante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safetys</td>
<td>Xavier Wilcher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Logan Wescott</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
<th>Delaware State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wide Receiver</td>
<td>Mason Rutherford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wide Receiver</td>
<td>Aris Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Running Back</td>
<td>Brycen Alleyne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarterback</td>
<td>Daniel Epperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right Tackle</td>
<td>Peter Borum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Ernest Mengoni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Left Tackle</td>
<td>Joshua Fala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tight End</td>
<td>Dominic Floyd</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wide Receiver</td>
<td>Jerimiah Williams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerback</td>
<td>John Gibson</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensive End</td>
<td>Charles Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensive Tackle</td>
<td>Rickey Hatley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensive Tackle</td>
<td>A.J. Logan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensive End</td>
<td>Jordan Harold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Joey Burkett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Michael Scherer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Donavin Newsom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornerback</td>
<td>Aarion Masey-Penton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong Safety</td>
<td>Anthony Sherils</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free Safety</td>
<td>Thomas Wilson</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Missouri Injuries**

- (3) Logan Cheadle, sprained ankle
- (4) Terez Hall, sprained ankle
- (5) Samson Bailey, sprained ankle
- (5) Alex Ross, sprained ankle
- (15) keyon Dilosa, concussion

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- **Sports Editor**
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- **Assistant Sports Editors**
  - Jaime Dunaway
  - Brooks Holton
  - Jonathan McKay

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- **Assistant Directors of Photography**
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- **Cover Illustration**
  - Allison Mann

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  - Published every Friday before a Missouri home football game. Look for the special edition before home games and an expanded sports section before away games.

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What’s Inside

Charles Harris breaks through
Missouri’s superstar defensive end started his career under the radar and was considered a zero-star recruit coming out of high school.

Impossible Quiz
Mississippi State was on the wrong side of the most lopsided defeat in Division I-AA history. So what was the final score? Who did the Hornet play? Test your knowledge with our Impossible Quiz.

Toddlers to Tigers
Senior linebacker Michael Scherer loved two things as a child: wrestling with his older brothers and avoiding punishments with his signature smile.

Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/03</td>
<td>AT West Virginia</td>
<td>11-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/10</td>
<td>VS. Eastern Michigan</td>
<td>61-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/17</td>
<td>VS. Georgia</td>
<td>27-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/24</td>
<td>VS. Delaware State</td>
<td>3:00 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/01</td>
<td>AT LSU</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>AT Florida</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>VS. Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>VS. Kentucky</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/05</td>
<td>AT South Carolina</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>VS. Vanderbilt</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>AT Tennessee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>VS. Arkansas</td>
<td>1:30 P.M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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GAME DAY PULSE: TIGER TWEETS

After a shocking loss against Georgia on Saturday, the Missouri football players tweeted their hopes for redemption going forward.

Damarea Crockett
@DamareaCrockett
This game definitely brought us closer fasho. Head held high we’ll be back stronger than ever

Corey Fatony
@coreyFatony
We’ve come a long way and have a long way to go but I’m proud and excited to be a part of this program #MIZ #LetsGoTigers

Christian Holmes
@c_holmes662
Sometime We forget just how far We come...Focusing on how much farther We want to be #MIZ

Paul Adams
@Paul_Adams77
Love my team...that one hurt but we’ll bounce back! MIZ

Missouri wide receiver J’Mon Moore, right, is consoled by teammate Kevin Pendleton after Moore fumbled late in the fourth quarter of an NCAA football game against Georgia on Saturday in Columbia. Georgia won 28-27.

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Photo by Jeff Roberson/The Associated Press
Once invisible, junior Charles Harris’ star now shines brighter than ever before.

BY COLTON POUNCY
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- **M - W** 11am - 10pm
- **Th - Sa** 11am - 10:30pm
- **Sunday** 11am - 8pm

**Downtown**
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- **Th - Sa** 11am - 2am
- **Sunday** 11am - 8pm

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- 573-228-9844
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Out of the Shadows

Charles Harris begins each day with a cold, familiar ritual: stretching and warming up in the visitors’ locker room, with enough intensity to start years of built-up confidence on the spot.

Within seconds, Harris can traverse from a longing, low-positioned threat stance to the backfield of an opposing offense, blanketing harems in your line of sight. His rare combination of athleticism, power, speed and a relentless motor made him a fearless and3r5om offensive coordinator. And to his end of run dominance, break to and break out.

Harris’ rise to greatness has been meteoric, but also a bit surprising. “Black Ice,” his on-the-field alter ego, can appear to be of the patchwork of an opposing offense, wreaking three-point stance, to the backfield from a lunging, low-positioned confidence on the spot. Harris is both, and more, for his background knowledge to be successful, Harris said of his relationship with Tre Williams. “It’s something I wish I had when I was coming up.”

PHILOSOPHY SHIFT

Despite his stature with the team, Harris is a soft-spoken player, and his leadership role was molded under the guidance of Craig Kuligowski, the architect of Missouri’s most defensive line. Kuligowski never hesitated to hold his game plan front of teams. Ball snapped, get into the backfield. It became a common practice for his defensive end’s backgrounds and noted the importance of understanding those backgrounds to further explain how the spot to play centerpieces.

Harris was unranked coming out of high school, his unranked playing time led to new expectations and attention. In July, Harris was invited to attend the SEC Media Days to represent Missouri, an honor typically given to team leaders and standouts.

That’s always been Harris’ mindset. He knew he had to work for everything he wanted in life and had to work for everything he wanted in life and had to work for everything he wanted in life and had to work for everything he wanted in life and had to work for everything he wanted in life and had to work for everything he wanted in life and had to work for everything he wanted in life. Harris is an ambassador and a torch-carrier for Missouri. As the team’s leader, he’s the natural heir to the “D-Line Zou” throne, established by his defensive predecessors — Ray and Ealy and Sam and Kony Ealy. Sam became the Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year, while Ealy was a second-round draft pick of the Carolina Panthers.

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Harris was once invisible. It’s disguised patches of black ice to avoid its forced to tread lightly over the In the winter, cars and trucks are ordinary as it blends into roads. in nature, can appear to be of the defensive end. ego, is the perfect description for meteoric, but also a bit surprising. in and week out. has teams game-planning to put an rare combination of athleticism, havoc on anyone in his path. His from a lunging, low-positioned intensity to shatter years of built up confidence on the spot. Harris kept dribbling until his "That basketball was his first "Pops," Harris said. "It’s not a "During practice for his defensive pupils. It became a common Harris is an ambassador and a torch-carrier for Missouri. As the time, he’s the natural heir to the "D-Line Zou" throne, established by his defensive predecessors — Ray and Golden, Ealy and Sam, Shelton Richardson and Aiken Smith, who go on and on. Harris is adding to that legacy and making a team of himself in the process. He’s a teacher. He’s has an approach to the game, and his mentality has rubbed off on his teammates and coaching staff. Over the past few years, he’s been a calming influence for younger defensive ends on the team like Tre Williams, a 2016 recruit when Harris was maturing a backfield. Years before Williams was a young defensive end, Harris was a younger version of himself — a rare barbershop player whom Harris mentored to show them the ropes, and the right guidance to become great. "I just wanted to give him the back-end knowledge to be successful," Harris said of his relationship with Williams. "It’s something I wish I had when I was coming in."

PHILOSOPHY SHIFT
Despite his stature with the team, Harris is sheepish learning from the guidance of Craig Kuligowski, the architect of Missouri’s stout defensive line. Kuligowski never tried to hide his game plan from teams. Ball snapped, get into the backfield. It became a common platform to change things up. "He’s a educator," Harris said. "He didn’t have the power to use those platforms. He was just an educator and a leader. He was a friend when Lincoln College Preparatory Academy head coach

Out of the Shadows
Charles Harris begins each day with a cold shower. A recent dividend, it helps to stay cool, calm, and composed, with enough steadiness to start years of built up confidence on the spot. When Harris arrived at Missouri, he knew he was in the sights of some of the nation’s best. The light was on him in a way he didn’t anticipate. The simple silver lining of Missouri’s success in recruiting is that Harris now finds himself the star of the show. "That basketball was his first love," Harris said. "I’ve never stopped buying that ball." But, as Harris reflects on his junior year of high school, when he took up football, he attended a barbershop. Years before Williams and Kuligowski, Harris met "D-Line Zou" throne, established by his defensive predecessors — Ray and Golden, Ealy and Sam, Shelton Richardson and Aiken Smith, who go on and on. Harris is adding to that legacy and making a team of himself in the process. He’s a teacher. He’s has an approach to the game, and his mentality has rubbed off on his teammates and coaching staff. Over the past few years, he’s been a calming influence for younger defensive ends on the team like Tre Williams, a 2016 recruit when Harris was maturing a backfield. Years before Williams was a young defensive end, Harris was a younger version of himself — a rare barbershop player whom Harris mentored to show them the ropes, and the right guidance to become great. "I just wanted to give him the back-end knowledge to be successful," Harris said of his relationship with Williams. "It’s something I wish I had when I was coming in."

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made sure to say he didn’t mean any disrespect by his comments, and he appeared genuine in doing so. But the candid moment provided a glimpse into Harris’ current state. He was used to doing things a certain way, and perhaps the lack of results in a new scheme and increased attention started to add up for the Kansas City native.

FIRST SACK OF THE SEASON

The Harris of old returned in heroic fashion. The frustrations he’d piled up were released at the expense of the Georgia offensive line. At the snap of the ball, Harris ripped and shoved a lineman out of his way and saw quarterback Jacob Eason ready to pass. Harris wrapped him up tightly and brought him down with his effortless strength.

Eason remained on the ground as Harris jumped to his feet in celebration, high-stpping toward his sideline pounding his chest.

Harris had three sacks in the game. That raw emotion is part of what makes him great. “It’s hard not to play off of that emotion,” defensive coordinator DeMontie Cross said. “He had the sideline fired up, and he had us fired up. When he’s playing like that, it makes everything else better.”

Missouri lost the game, but Harris is aware of what he means to the team. He’s not one to give a prophetic pregame speech, but he’s the human spark plug for the unit. His team is depending on him to play well, and that sack helped him get back on track.

“For any defensive end, when you get that first sack, it’s a sigh of relief,” Harris said. “It felt good to get the first one that night. It’s always good to get the ball rolling.”

TIME AWAY FROM THE FIELD

On the field, Harris is viewed as a leader by those around him. At home, he prefers to blend in. Quality bonding time is of the utmost importance in his household. Harris and his father work on their cars together in the garage for hours on end. They spend long afternoons on fishing trips when they have the time, or they go to the movies. Family is important to Harris, and the time he spends with them keeps him grounded and out of the spotlight he’s been thrown into — even if only for a few hours.

Harris and his father don’t talk football at home. Every now and then, William Harris will ask his son about his goals for the future and what he can accomplish with the right mindset. But most important, William Harris wants his son to be mindful of the lessons he’s learning from football and the opportunity that’s presented itself.

“To be mindful of the lessons you’re going to have naysayers, really, really taught him a lot. You’re going to have critics, you’re going to have naysayers, this experience that he’s going through right now is just part of life,” he added.

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Players discuss where they get their athleticism, where they take their family out to dinner in Columbia and the family dynamic on the team

By Brad Almquist and Colton Pouncy

**Fast Five**

Fast Five is a feature where players discuss their athletic background, family dinner spots, and their family dynamics on the team.

**What restaurant do you take your family to when they come to Columbia?**

- **Kendall Blanton**: "Definitely Flat Branch."
- **Tucker McCann**: "After these last two games we have gone to T.G.I. Friday’s."
- **Jason Reese**: "Ummm … that’s a hard question. I’ll say Texas Roadhouse. It’s one of my favorite restaurants and my sister likes to go there, too."
- **Thomas Wilson**: "Uhh … Red Lobster."
- **Kevin Pendleton**: "First, we spend 20 minutes fighting over which one we go to. Most of our favorites are Shakespeare’s … That was a thing we did before I ever came to Mizzou."

**Where does your athleticism come from? Mom’s side or dad’s side?**

- **Kendall Blanton**: "That’s tough. Both my parents were great athletes. I am going to say both."
- **Tucker McCann**: "Definitely my dad’s side. My mom didn’t play any sports past eighth grade, and my dad played baseball at SEMO."
- **Jason Reese**: "I’m not gonna knock my mom, she was a great volleyball player in her hay day. But I have to say my dad’s side." (His father, Jerry Blanton, played in the NFL.)
- **Thomas Wilson**: "My dad’s side. My dad played cornerback at Florida State."
- **Kevin Pendleton**: "Definitely dad because I had a ton of athleticism on my dad’s side. My mom is real artistic, I get the artistic stuff from her."

**If they played football, what position(s) would your parents play based on their roles in the family?**

- **Kendall Blanton**: "My mom man, she isn’t going to like this one, but she would be a three-technique man, she would be a nose (tackle) with the attitude. My dad, he is more of a finesse. I am going to say quarterback for sure."
- **Tucker McCann**: "My dad would probably be, I mean he was a kicker in high school, so he would be a kicker. My mom, I can’t even think of one. Left bench."
- **Jason Reese**: "My mom doesn’t like football. It kind of scares her, but I’d say she’s the quarterback. She likes to know what’s going on and what everybody is doing, so yeah she’s the quarterback."
- **Thomas Wilson**: "My mom is the head honcho so she’s the quarterback. My dad would be the running back."
- **Kevin Pendleton**: "My mom would be a nose tackle because she is fierce. My dad is a pre-Madonna so he would be a receiver, for sure."

**Who’s the dad of the Missouri football team?**

- **Kendall Blanton**: "Definitely Joey Burket."
- **Tucker McCann**: "Michael Scherer, he’s a leader and he likes to talk and get you pumped up."
- **Jason Reese**: "I’ll go with Kevin Pendleton. He’s a leader and he likes to talk and get you pumped up."
- **Thomas Wilson**: "Aside from coach Odom? I would say Marcell Frazier."
- **Kevin Pendleton**: "The dad of the football team is probably Mike Scherer. But for the offensive line, Alec or Michael Stannard. They are like co-dads."

**Who’s the middle child of the Missouri football team?**

- **Kendall Blanton**: "Corey Fatony."
- **Tucker McCann**: "I don’t know. I guess Aarion Penton."
- **Jason Reese**: "I don’t wanna call anyone out … you’re putting me on the spot. I’ll say (freshman tight end) Albert Okwuegbunam."
- **Thomas Wilson**: "Uhh … I’ll say Dominic Nelson."
- **Kevin Pendleton**: "We have so many, but from the freshman class, either K-9 or Trevor Simms. He reminds me a lot of me back in the day. Or Trystan Castillo. They love life. Always laughing, and giggling and playing around."
10 Things you didn’t know about Delaware State University

The company that connected reggae legend Bob Marley to Delaware before he became famous, plus nine other things you didn’t know about the state and its historically black public university

1. What is the state butterfly of Delaware?
   A. Zebra longwing butterfly
   B. Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly
   C. Spicebush swallowtail butterfly
   D. Mourning cloak butterfly

2. Marco Cano holds the Delaware State record for most punting yards in a career. How many yards did he have?
   A. 9,699
   B. 7,984
   C. 7,523
   D. 8,176

3. Which current major league baseball standout is a Delaware native?
   A. Mike Trout
   B. Paul Goldschmidt
   C. Anthony Rizzo
   D. Bryce Harper

4. Delaware State was on the wrong end of the most lopsided defeat in Division I-AA history on Nov. 9, 1980. What was the final score?
   A. 116-6
   B. 84-3
   C. 105-0
   D. 77-0

5. Delaware has fewer counties than any other state in the country. How many?
   A. Five
   B. Eight
   C. 14
   D. Three

6. What is the state fossil of Delaware?
   A. Dawn redwood
   B. Trilobite
   C. Belemnite
   D. Knightia

7. Before he was famous, Bob Marley worked on the assembly line for which company in Wilmington, Delaware?
   A. Chrysler
   B. Gore-Tex
   C. L.L.Bean
   D. Hasbro

8. Who holds the Delaware State record for rushing touchdowns in a season?
   A. Bryant “Gene” Lake
   B. Fabian Thorne
   C. Steve Davis
   D. Terrance Hoover

9. Who did the Hornets play in the infamous blowout?
   A. Michigan
   B. Portland State
   C. Howard University
   D. University of Delaware

10. Delaware State’s mascot, the hornet, is considered a delicacy (and its larvae is used to produce a popular energy drink) in what country?
    A. Taiwan
    B. China
    C. Mexico
    D. Japan

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Tight end pair settles into new roles

By Colton Pouncy

Off the field, Jason Reese and Kendall Blanton are nearly inseparable.

On multiple occasions, they’ve conducted interviews side by side. Blanton refers to Reese as his “big brother.” They spend countless hours playing NBA video games, with Blanton winning most of the time. They refer to the tight end position group as a brotherhood, and they noted the family atmosphere of the position group’s film room.

But Missouri’s twin towers of tight ends — both listed at 6-foot-5 or taller — rarely took the field last season. The offensive scheme in place under former head coach Gary Pinkel didn’t utilize multiple tight ends, so Blanton and Reese spent their Saturdays on the sidelines in reserve roles.

Both players have always been passionate about their team. Even when they weren’t playing.

Reese, a redshirt junior, is active on Twitter, engaging with fans and sending supportive thoughts to his teammates. He has a tweet pinned to his Twitter account that appears whenever his profile is clicked.

In the tweet, he talks about how his sophomore season didn’t go as planned, individually or as a team.

Reese was the primary backup to Sean Culkin, and the team finished 5-7, missing a bowl game in Gary Pinkel’s final season.

Reese, however, made sure to end his message on a positive note.

“I WILL FOREVER BE #MIZZOUMADE!!!!!!” the note reads.

As a redshirt freshman last season, Blanton spent most of his time with Barry Odom, Missouri’s defensive coordinator at the time. Instead of working with the tight ends and learning his own offense, Blanton was often used as a scout team tight end.

In this role, Blanton mimicked opposing teams’ tight ends in order to prepare the Missouri defense for what they were going to see on Saturdays. Blanton said he tries to be positive in everything he does because he appreciates the chance to be at Missouri.

Odom, now head coach, appreciates that mindset.

“Every day, he runs out on the practice field, gives me a high five and says, ‘It’s a great day to be a Tiger,’” Odom said of Blanton. “He’s got an unbelievable attitude. He enjoys practicing, and he enjoys competing.”

This season, Blanton’s attitude has paid off. The new offensive coordinator, Josh Heupel, installed an offense designed to spread the ball around to a number of players open in space. The team hired tight end coach Joe Jon Finley, a former NFL player, to help the development of players like Reese and Blanton.

With all the new tools around them, the Missouri tight ends saw a window to contribute.

“They’re going to be everywhere.” Reese said in the spring. “Our role has definitely expanded, so the way we’re going to be able to catch the football and help the offense move forward has expanded, so I’m excited about that.”

Through the first few weeks of the season, Reese’s words have proved to be true.

Blanton got the ball rolling on Missouri’s opening possession against Georgia. He crouched into a three-point stance next to his offensive linemen. When the ball was snapped, the linemen dropped back to protect quarterback Drew Lock, while Blanton burst up the middle of the field to catch a 17-yard pass. Later, Reese got in on the action. Lock faked a handoff to running back Ish Witter that fooled two Georgia defenders when they crept up to stop the run. That allowed Reese to roam freely in the middle of the field and haul in a 15-yard touchdown pass. Reese quickly dropped the ball and pointed into the stands in celebration, a signal of his arrival.

“It’s good for our team,” Blanton said. “To score on the opening drive like that is momentum, and we kind of feed off each other. You see all the excitement from each and every one of us. I was excited for (Reese) when he scored, and we’re excited for everyone when anybody scores. It helps us get going.”

Reese has caught two touchdowns in three games for Missouri after failing to find the end zone once last year. Blanton caught his first career touchdown on Sept. 10 against Eastern Michigan. He sprinted through the middle of the field, ripped and fell to the ground, got back up and caught a pass floated from Lock for a score.

“I knew it was coming,” Blanton said confidently.

“Like anybody, just wait your time, and it’s coming. The more plays we make offensively, the more chances I have to make a play myself.”

With the newfound success, Reese and Blanton have a friendly bet to see who will end with the most touchdowns this season. Reese thinks he’ll win, but Blanton thinks he will.

Yet, as long as the offense continues to put points on the board, they know it doesn’t matter.

“Our goal is to have the best receiver core in the SEC,” Reese said. “So I think if me and Kendall can take off together, our offense will be full of playmakers.”

The new offense puts Jason Reese and Kendall Blanton into starring roles. The players, who are nearly inseparable, have a friendly bet to see who will end with the most touchdowns this season.

Missouri tight end Jason Reese, left, is congratulated by Kendall Blanton after scoring during the first half of Missouri’s game against Georgia on Sept. 17 in Columbia.

Photo by Jeff Roberson/The Associated Press
**TODDLERS TO TIGERS**

When Michael Scherer didn’t smile, he wrestled

By Brad Almquist

Behind Michael Scherer’s contagious smile was a kid who loved to roughhouse. "Mikey," as his family and friends called the Missouri senior linebacker back then, was always active growing up. He was commonly seen on the basketball court, football field or wrestling mat, but his most intense matches were held in the Scherer living room.

Joe Scherer, the oldest of the four Scherer brothers, played football at the University of Pennsylvania, and Daniel Scherer wrestled at Stanford University. Even when Michael Scherer lost to them, he never surrendered. He would lie on the ground until his dad, Joseph Scherer, or his older brothers walked away from the friendly wrestling match. Then he shot up and jumped on them again.

One day they wrestled until a piece of furniture broke. Even then, Dori Scherer struggled to punish her son. “Oh, that smile," she said. “It was really hard to (punish him). He was not an easy kid to discipline because of his smile and his big heart.”

That smile also helped him at a yearly carnival. Dori Scherer remembers seeing her 7-year-old son walk from station to station, throwing baseballs at stacked bottles and sinking baskets for prizes. He had his own cheering section, too. Several girls followed him around the carnival, each with a stuffed animal in her hands.

As the day went on, and Scherer continued winning prizes, the girls' stuffed animals gradually increased in size. Of course, they paid him to win the stuffed animals. It was all in the smile.

“He was the happiest kid,” Dori Scherer said. “There were five or six girls, and he had them pay for the carnival, so it’s a win-win situation, right?”

When Michael Scherer’s athletic ability wasn’t winning over girls in the second grade, it was landing him spots on traveling basketball and wrestling teams. Scherer started lifting weights in middle school. Every day, before school started, Joseph Scherer and his sons Scherer and Dori Scherer struggled to punish her son. “Oh, that smile," she said. “It was really hard to (punish him). He was not an easy kid to discipline because of his smile and his big heart.”

When Michael Scherer’s athletic ability wasn’t winning over girls in the second grade, it was landing him spots on traveling basketball and wrestling teams.

One time, neither Michael Scherer nor his friend Nick were rewarded with the front seat. The two sat in the back seats, prodding each other because they were too close. Joseph Scherer intervened. He told his son Daniel to serve as the referee to avoid a scuffle. Apparently, Daniel Scherer misinterpreted his dad’s request. “Okay, get ready, go!” Daniel Scherer said. A wrestling match ensued.

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