IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Terry Beckner Jr. wouldn’t be one of Missouri’s stars if it weren’t for the East St. Louis community that raised and watched over him.

Page 6

JOSH AUGUSTA

The 355-pound senior defensive tackle entertains his team and the fans with his striking stature and impressive speed.

Page 12

BONEYARD

Missouri offensive linemen’s Beta fish Boneyard has made yet another milestone.

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DEPT CHART

MU OFFENSE VS. KENTUCKY DEFENSE

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<th>Center</th>
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WIDE RECEIVER

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CORNELLBACK

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STRONG SAFETY

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<tr>
<th>Mike Edwards</th>
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FREE SAFETY

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LEFT GUARD

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SPECIAL TEAMS / MISSOURI

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<td>(98) Tucker McCann</td>
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<td>Michael Scherer</td>
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<td>ACL tear</td>
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TIGER KICKOFF

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What’s Inside

5 THE IMPOSSIBLE QUIZ

Yet another impossible quiz. How much do you think you know about the University of Kentucky? The team faces the Tigers at 11 a.m. Saturday.

6 TERRY BECKNER JR.

The No. 1 recruit from East St. Louis chose MU to stay near his biggest supporters, his family, who live just half a state away.

12 MISSION PIESMAN

Missouri defensive lineman Josh Augusta enters each game with the goal of being recognized for the ‘PieSmash award.’

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10 Things you didn’t know about University of Kentucky

Our weekly Impossible Quiz is back to test your knowledge of all things Bluegrass State — from the article of clothing that inspired Kentucky’s shade of blue, to how many ounces of gold reside in Ft. Knox, to the members of the Backstreet Boys who call Lexington, Kentucky, home. So, how well do you know Kentucky? Only one way to find out.

1. Which article of clothing was used to model Kentucky’s shade of blue in 1891?
   A. Scarf
   B. Shirt
   C. Necktie
   D. Hat

2. The first American performance of a Beethoven symphony took place in 1817 in which Kentucky city?
   A. Bowling Green
   B. Lexington
   C. Louisville
   D. Frankfort

3. Which Kentucky city is the only city in the country built within a meteor crater?
   A. Frankfort
   B. Middlesboro
   C. Pikeville
   D. Paducah

4. Kentucky adopted the “Wildcats” nickname after a 1909 road win over which opponent?
   A. Centre College
   B. Illinois
   C. Vanderbilt
   D. Tennessee

5. How many ounces of gold currently reside in Kentucky’s Ft. Knox?
   A. 5.4 million
   B. 147.3 million
   C. 600,000
   D. 197.5 million

6. Which former Kentucky football player holds the record for the longest NFL career?
   A. Dermontti Dawson
   B. George Blanda
   C. Art Still
   D. Babe Parilli

7. Which office essential is manufactured in Cynthiana, Kentucky?
   A. Scissors
   B. Staplers
   C. Post-it notes
   D. Paper clips

8. How many former Kentucky football players are currently in the NFL?
   A. 8
   B. 14
   C. 5
   D. 19

9. Select all that apply: Which two members of the Backstreet Boys are Lexington, Kentucky, natives?
   A. Nick Carter
   B. Brian Littrell
   C. A.J. McLean
   D. Kevin Richardson

10. How many seasons did legendary head coach Paul “Bear” Bryant spend at Kentucky before leaving for Texas A&M?
    A. 8
    B. 10
    C. 2
    D. 4

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Terry Beckner Jr. is used to the attention but he's never been comfortable with it. The No. 2 recruit in the class of 2015 has drawn strength from his hometown, which prepared him for the trials of becoming an adult and playing college football.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 8
**Hours**

**North**
- M - W 11am - 10pm
- Th - Sa 11am - 10:30pm
- Sunday 11am - 8pm

**Downtown**
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Terry Beckner Jr.’s going to be back, and he’s got a lot of football left to play here.”

-Bardy Odum
All his life, Terry Beckner Jr. has faced adversity head-on, like his recent ACL injury. He says that’s thanks to his upbringing in East St. Louis, Illinois.

By Brad Aibaquist

Terry Beckner Jr. is not one to be distracted. If you ask him to talk about his ACL injury, he will not forget the childlike enthusiasm that shared him. Now, he is trying to stay healthy enough to continue playing the game he loves, where a future NFL career and a college football scholarship are in the balance.

An up-and-down year

For a moment, Jerreyn White-Beckner smiled proudly as she watched the television screen. It was Sept. 18, 2015, six days after Missouri had beaten Kansas State 27-20. White-Beckner had attended the game, though she was scared to go, as she could listen to the commentators talk about her son. As the clock struck 11:59, the team went into overtime. As the defensive end was able to penetrate the offensive line in five seconds, Missouri had another game. If he kept playing like this, she may continue to watch him. As she spoke, she thought, “Here comes the phone rang with a call from her son.”

Son! It’s hard for you to see, but he’s still your son,” White-Beckner said. She was excited to see him after the loss. “Son, it’s hard for you to see, but he’s still your son,” White-Beckner said. She was excited to see him after the loss.

Terry’s going to be back, and he’s got a lot of football left to play here.

By Barry Odum

Two hours later, he played. White-Beckner was relieved, but the car crash seemed only the beginning.

With three games left, he tore his anterior cruciate ligament against BYU. It was the first time he had ever torn a muscle, and he wasn’t sure how to cope.

“Mom, I am doing it right,” Beckner Jr. said. “Beckner Jr. has played his role, and he hasn’t implicated anyone else.”

“He has played his role, and he hasn’t implicated anyone else.”

Missouri defensive coordinator Donnie Craig said, “All he’s done is stay the course and do his business here.”

A major announcement

Tears streamed down Beckner Jr.’s face. Normally, he hid them, but this was bigger than just a college football commitment.

It was National Signing Day. He sat at an elevated table in East St. Louis High School, as loyal family, friends, teachers and fans crowded the auditorium. Anticipatory energy grew into roaring applause once Beckner Jr. shook hands with Missouri head coach Barry Odom.

Beckner Jr. had attended the game, but she also recorded it so she could listen to the comments. “We’re 1-0 on the season,” she thought. “We’re 1-0 on the season.”

On Saturday, a Middle School football game took place in East St. Louis, and a 12-year-old Terry Beckner Jr., and his left leg were unharmed.

DeSean Blair, Keyon Dilosa and Tiger Walk. Missouri faced Connecticut that day, but White-Beckner was in the stands watching the television screen.

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A kid from East St. Louis

The 12-year-old Terry Beckner Jr. kicked the ball on defense and snagged it. He sped to the opposing zone for a touchdown and, trying to return the ball.

It hadn’t been a perfect end to the season that day.

Beckner Jr. metastasized to his daughter and shared “Go” as loudly as she could.

With the Beckners, everything was done as a family. Terry Beckner Sr. had received a football scholarship to the University of Illinois, and then he accepted a scholarship to a local Baptist church, where he and his family frequently went. The family decided to stay in East St. Louis, and the Beckners began to build their mother.

“Son, it’s hard for you to get out of trouble,” she said. “That’s it, he’s got you to see, but he’s still your son,” White-Beckner said. She was excited to see him after the loss. “Son, it’s hard for you to see, but he’s still your son,” White-Beckner said. She was excited to see him after the loss.

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East St. Louis is a sports town that has produced several top athletes, including NFL Hall of Famer Kellen Winslow Sr. and three-time Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee. The growing myth of Beckner Jr. in high school placed him in the same group, fairly or not.

"People talk about Terry a lot," said Roshanda Johnson, Beckner's assistant principal in middle school. "He is a local celebrity, so everybody wants a picture with him."

Today, Missouri has five East St. Louis players on its roster, but Beckner Jr. is the city's hope for its next NFL star.

Each Saturday that Missouri plays in Columbia, Beckner Jr.'s family, friends, and former principals and secretaries drive halfway across the state to watch him play. Almost every day, community residents ask White-Beckner about her son's progress on the field and in school.

"It took a village to raise a child," White-Beckner said. "This village of East St. Louis was behind Terry 100 percent."

A bright future

"Freak" is a word frequently used when Missouri player and coach describes Beckner Jr.'s talent.

Odom says he expects greatness from Beckner Jr. Defensive tackle Ricky Hatley raves about Beckner Jr.'s athleticism. Cross, in his first year as Missouri defensive coordinator, sees a budding star who only continues to improve.

It's an odd sort of paradox — when 300-pound defensive linemen blend into a game. These big men don't sack the quarterback as frequently as defensive ends and record fewer tackles than linebackers, but Beckner Jr. somehow continues to stand out, whether chasing down a running back or creating separation on the line.

When Cross was asked about Beckner Jr.'s potential, he chuckled.

"Obviously, that guy can go as far as he wants to go," Cross said.

Beckner Jr. said he will let others judge his performance, and the accolades will take care of themselves. He doesn’t like to set concrete goals.

But he does have one: Play in the NFL.

By NCAA rule, players have to wait three years after their high school senior year to declare for the NFL draft. Beckner Jr. will be eligible for the 2018 NFL Draft after his junior season. Before he was recently injured, some mock drafts had him projected in the first round.

"I never thought it would be this big," White-Beckner said. "I have seen so many movies and heard so many stories, but I actually witness my son going through the things he has accomplished so far is so amazing."

Beckner Jr. doesn't have the typical movie star, all-eyes-on-me persona. He's a modest, hardworking guy who prefers to play video games and listen to music than to socialize. Beckner Jr. is used to the attention, although he has never been comfortable with it.

He may only return to East St. Louis — where he is a celebrity — during the holidays, but Beckner Jr.'s city travels with him everywhere. On his right forearm is a tattoo that reads, "Never Forget." The inscription is a tribute to the loyal family, friends and coaches that helped him to this point. The tattoo reminds him of his fallen relatives and classmates who grew up in the same streets that he did, and the loyal hometown that constantly supports him.

Wherever football takes Beckner Jr., East St. Louis will stay in the heart and soul of its native son.
When the tailgating is over and the game clock expires, don’t let the fun stop! Time and time again, visitors are delightfully surprised by what Columbia has to offer. From picturesque parks and clever cuisine to amazing art and superb shopping, visitors find that Columbia is ‘surprisingly sophisticated.’

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JOSH AUGUSTA IS ON A MISSION, ONE CARRY AT A TIME

Missouri senior continues to make plays on both sides of the ball with his 355-pound frame

By Colton Pouncy

The most exciting plays in sports are often the most cliched.
In basketball, there’s the “oohs” and “ahhs” of the buzzer beater, the final shot of the game that narrowly slips through the net as time expires. In baseball, it’s the walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth inning. Football has long had the “Hail Mary” throw — a desperate, last-minute, close-your-eyes-and-fling-it type of play. These are all nice, but they’re nothing new.

Missouri defensive tackle Josh Augusta is on a mission to break the traditional mold of exciting plays in sports, one carry at a time.

Augusta, a junior, is a key cog for Missouri’s defensive line. He stuffs the run, clogs holes and uses his size and strength to wreak havoc on opposing offensive lines. But perhaps the most thrilling thing he does for the team is carry the ball on offense.

Oh, by the way, he’s 6 feet 4 inches tall, and 355 pounds.

“It blows peoples’ minds,” Augusta said. “It’s always an ‘Oh my God, he’s that big’ kind of reaction.”

It started in the summer. Missouri running backs coach Cornell Ford and offensive coordinator Josh Heupel experimented with Augusta in short yardage packages. At the beginning of the season, they tested it.

Missouri needed 1 yard to extend a drive on fourth down against West Virginia. “Bone,” the name of Missouri’s special package, was called, and in stepped Augusta into the Missouri backfield. He clutched the football so tightly against his chest you’d have thought he was trying to pop a balloon.

Augusta picked up the first down, and his legend began to grow.

―Since he started getting the ball, it’s been a first down or a touchdown every time,‖

cornerback John Gibson said. “I don’t think he’s been tackled this year yet. Josh is unstoppable. I hate that we don’t use him more.”

Augusta has carried the ball seven times for a total of 12 yards this season. He’s averaging less than 2 yards per carry, and his season-long run went for 3 yards. He’s no Leonard Fournette, but he’s done exactly what’s been asked of him.

In Columbia, he’s a fan favorite. Whenever he trots out with the offense for a crucial short yardage situation, now a weekly occurrence, fans erupt in applause. The sight of Augusta and the red tips of his dreadlocks entering the game on offense brings excitement and energy to a team and fan base that desperately needs it.

The fascination surrounding Augusta is simple: People like seeing large men carry a football, and smaller men struggle to tackle large men. It’s entertaining. It’s fun. And Augusta said it brings him back to his high school days.

“But I wasn’t this big in high school. I was about 320 (pounds),” Augusta said after scoring his first career touchdown in a loss to Florida on Oct. 15.

Imagine trying to tackle a 320-pound wide receiver running at you going full speed. The thought of it seems unconventional, but that’s exactly what Augusta did playing for Peoria High School in Illinois.

Augusta said he did everything for his team and Peoria High School football coach Tim Thornton. On one play, he’d torment opposing backfields as a defensive lineman with his strength and athleticism. A few plays later, he’d line up as a tight end and sprint into the middle of the field, catching touchdowns and defenders off guard.

Overall, he played defensive tackle, defensive end, outside linebacker, tight end, full back and wide receiver.

He also returned kicks.

“He always kept saying ‘Give me the biscuit, I’ll get you that first down,’” Thornton said. “And he did every time. He did a great job out there.”

Thornton said his quarterbacks didn’t need to throw Augusta accurate passes when he played receiver. He’d pull catches out of thin air.

As a running back, Augusta wasn’t allowed to run the ball at full speed during practice to spare his teammates the stress and struggle of tackling him.

But in games, Thornton let him loose.

“There would be times
“When I first heard about (the Piesman), I was like ‘Man, I gotta get that.’ Before I leave, I gotta get that. So, I mean, I’ve been trying to do everything I can just to get that.”

—Josh Augusta

where he’d have a little pile on him and it looked like lions in the Serengeti trying to jump on the back of a water buffalo or something,” Thornton said. “In games he’d just be chugging down the field with a bunch of people on his back.”

It’s that type of talent that led Augusta to his new role with Missouri and perhaps some nationwide recognition. In 2015, the online sports media outlet SB Nation created an award called the “Piesman Trophy.” According to the website’s criteria, the Piesman, named with the Heisman trophy in mind, was created “to honor the best play in which a lineman throws, catches, or runs with the ball, because those are things linemen don’t usually do.”

After sifting through 63 candidates, the first-ever Piesman was awarded to Southeastern Louisiana’s Ashton Henderson.

In year two, Augusta is looking for his invitation to New York and a chance for his skills to be rewarded. “I want it bad,” Augusta said. “When I first heard about (the Piesman), I was like ‘Man, I gotta get that.’ Before I leave, I gotta get that. So, I mean, I’ve been trying to do everything I can just to get that.”

Ask Augusta’s teammates to describe him and they’ll say he’s a big kid with a big heart who just wants to win. “I wanna get the ball more so I can help my team,” Augusta said. “It takes a lot of people to get me down. And I feel like if I’m in the game, I could be a big distraction, you know? Have people focus on me and say ‘Oh, he must be getting the ball,’ and then hand it off to someone else. We got a good thing going.”

Josh Augusta takes the field after halftime of Missouri’s Homecoming game against Middle Tennessee State University on Saturday.

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As Halloween approaches, we ask five Missouri football players five quick questions, ranging from their favorite candy to what they think of clowns.

By Brad Almquist and Colton Pouncy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Favorite Halloween Costume</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kendall Blanton</td>
<td>Tight end</td>
<td>&quot;The Incredible Hulk.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joey Burkett</td>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>&quot;Last year I dressed up as Super Troopers. That was cool because I had a mustache and everything so that was good.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Lee</td>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>&quot;In high school, we had a spirit day and I wore a Superman onesie. It was pretty tight and you could see every feature of my body. That was probably my favorite.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Pendleton</td>
<td>Offensive lineman</td>
<td>&quot;Last year, me and my girlfriend were Kim and Kanye. I was told I look more like DJ Khaled.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Ploudre</td>
<td>Wide receiver</td>
<td>&quot;Me and my girlfriend wore Mr. and Mrs. Smith last year. I really liked that. I thought that was a pretty cool one.&quot;</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favorite Candy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I’ll have to go with Skittles. Shoutout to Marshawn Lynch.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I’ll go with Twix.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I’ll say watermelon sour patch.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Rolos.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Milky Way.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Opinion on Clowns</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I don’t really care for clowns. I’m not scared of them. It is what it is. I like the circus.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I really don’t know what I’d do if I saw one. I don’t think I’m afraid of them, but they’re kind of creepy.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I’m against clowns. Someone said they saw a clown on the bus stop. Since then I’ve been on edge when I come home at night.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I have yet to see a clown, fortunate for the clown.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I think that whole thing is stupid. I know for a fact if I saw a clown on the street I would probably charge it and scare it off.&quot;</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Intimidating Player</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The most intimidating player? Me.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Oh, easy. Charles Harris. Have you ever seen him when he’s angry? Holy crap.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Everybody’s pretty nice. I’d say Tommy Grossman.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;When Mike Stannard is grumpy, he is intimidating. But Charles Harris. Charles is a scary dude.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Besides me? Including coaches, probably Coach (Rohrk) Cutch. He is just a big meathead that always has a little chip on his shoulder.&quot;</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Easiest to Scare, Prank or Mess with</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I’ll say Albert (Okweugbunam).&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Probably Paul Adams. He’s definitely the skittish type.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Cale Garrett’s the guy to mess with in the linebacker room.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Michael Wilson.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I am probably the easiest to prank because I am a hothead and get mad real fast.”</td>
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Boneyard carries on, defying the odds

By Brad Almquist

Three Missouri offensive linemen bought a fish named Boneyard during training camp for one reason: to appear on the video board at Memorial Stadium. During halftime at homecoming, that finally happened.

Pet food company Purina hosts a “Pet of the Game” segment during halftime of each game in which players are depicted holding cats or dogs.

But this was groundbreaking — it was the first time a fish was featured.

Prior to the game, offensive linemen Alec Abeln, Kevin Pendleton and Paul Adams had waited months for Boneyard to enjoy his moment. They requested their pet to be shown at halftime of Missouri’s game against Middle Tennessee State on Oct. 22. Pendleton and Paul Adams had linemen Alec Abeln, Kevin Pendleton and Paul Adams had waited months for Boneyard to enjoy his moment. They requested their pet to be shown at halftime of Missouri’s game against Middle Tennessee State on Oct. 22.

“I made sure to make that happen,” said Caroline Hall, a Missouri football multimedia intern.

It all goes back to fall camp when Hall approached the three linemen looking for players who had pictures with pets, preferably cats or dogs.

Not owning any pets, they asked Hall to make an exception. They hopped in a car, sped to PetSmart and bought a red and white crescent Betta fish.

They named the fish Boneyard to honor the group’s “fallen brothers,” Abeln said. Each spring, Missouri players retire from football or graduate, and their name tags are tossed in a heap on the ground. Missouri offensive line coach Glen Elarbee called the pile the “boneyard.”

Since that hot summer day, Boneyard the fish has been an important part of the offensive line group.

The fishbowl sits at the center of the offensive linemen’s room. Whether it is a meeting or film session, Boneyard is always included. Assistant football coach Jon Cooper predicted Boneyard would die by Oct. 5. The fish has somehow managed to survive, despite the fact that Missouri offensive lineman Tyler Howell fed Boneyard enough food to kill him.

“He just found a way to keep on keeping on,” Abeln said. “During camp, obviously, you are distracted. You’re not thinking like, ‘Oh I need to clean this fish tank.’ But he is resilient.”

Since the early scare, the linemen have stuck to a strict system designed to properly care for Boneyard. The offensive linemen switch feeding duties daily.

Boneyard is still swimming, and he’s more alive than ever. He’s a social media user, guest on television and local celebrity. On his Twitter account, he motivates his owners to bring the juice in practice.

“Since the early scare, the linemen have stuck to a strict system designed to properly care for Boneyard. The offensive linemen switch feeding duties daily. Boneyard is still swimming, and he’s more alive than ever. He’s a social media user, guest on television and local celebrity. On his Twitter account, he motivates his owners to bring the juice in practice.”

Starting quarterback Drew Lock referenced Boneyard in a postgame news conference. On media days each Monday, sports reporters ask the offensive linemen about Boneyard’s health.

One month ago, ESPNU showed a picture of the three linemen with Boneyard for a segment called “Friday Funnies.”

Betta fish are known as Siamese Fighting fish, fitting for a lineman’s pet. The Missouri offensive line is one of the top units in the country, having allowed only five sacks in seven games.

The variety of colors in Boneyard, a red and white fish with an accent of purple, epitomize its owners. The Missouri offensive line is full of outgoing personalities.

“The offensive linemen are always really fun to keep with each year,” Hall said. “They are definitely their own special group of people. They are a lot of fun, and hilarious and easy-going.”
we feed

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