ALL-TIME TIGER
Roger Wehrli reflects on his Hall of Fame career and his time at Missouri

Presented by The Columbia Missourian

TIGER KICKOFF
Missouri vs. Arkansas, 1:30 p.m. || November 24-25, 2016
## DEPTH CHART

### MU OFFENSE VS. ARKANSAS DEFENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
<th>Arkansas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>QUARTERBACK</strong></td>
<td>Drew Lock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RUNNING BACK</strong></td>
<td>Ish Witter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WIDE RECEIVER</strong></td>
<td>J'Mon Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WIDE RECEIVER</strong></td>
<td>Johnathon Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RIGHT TACKLE</strong></td>
<td>Paul Adams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEFT TACKLE</strong></td>
<td>Tyler Howell</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CENTER</strong></td>
<td>Samson Bailey</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TIGHT END</strong></td>
<td>Sean Culkin</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RIGHT GUARD</strong></td>
<td>Adam Plourde</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEFT GUARD</strong></td>
<td>Kevin Pendleton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORNERBACK</strong></td>
<td>Jared Collins</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LINEBACKER</strong></td>
<td>Randy Ramsey</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LINEBACKER</strong></td>
<td>Brooks Ellis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LINEBACKER</strong></td>
<td>Dwayne Eugene</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STRONG SAFETY</strong></td>
<td>Santos Ramirez</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FREE SAFETY</strong></td>
<td>Josh Liddell</td>
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<th>Arkansas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RUNNING BACK</strong></td>
<td>Rawleigh Williams III</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>QUARTERBACK</strong></td>
<td>Austin Allen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FULLBACK</strong></td>
<td>Kendrick Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WIDE RECEIVER</strong></td>
<td>Keon Hatcher</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RIGHT TACKLE</strong></td>
<td>Brian Wallace</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CENTER</strong></td>
<td>Frank Ragnew</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEFT TACKLE</strong></td>
<td>Dan Skipper</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TIGHT END</strong></td>
<td>Jeremy Sprinkle</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORNERBACK</strong></td>
<td>Hieron Barnwell</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LINEBACKER</strong></td>
<td>Eric Beisel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LINEBACKER</strong></td>
<td>Joey Burkett</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LINEBACKER</strong></td>
<td>Donavin Newsom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STRENGTH SAFETY</strong></td>
<td>Santos Ramirez</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FREE SAFETY</strong></td>
<td>Cam Hilton</td>
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</tbody>
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### SPECIAL TEAMS // MISSOURI

- **PUNTER**: (26) Corey Fatony
- **PLACER KICKER**: TBD
- **HOLDER**: (26) Jake Brents
- **LONG SNAPPER**: (B6) Jake Hurrell
- **KICK RETURNER**: (5) Alex Ross
- **PUNT RETURNER**: (12) Johnathon Johnson

### SPECIAL TEAMS // ARKANSAS

- **PUNTER**: (37) Toby Baker
- **PLACER KICKER**: (48) Adam McFain
- **HOLDER**: (37) Toby Baker
- **KICK RETURNER**: (13) Deon Stewart
- **PUNT ELECTOR**: (1) Jared Cornelius

### MISSOURI INJURIES

- (58) Michael Scherer, ACL & MCL tear
- (79) Terry Beckner Jr., ACL tear

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**Tiger Kickoff** is published every Friday before a home Missouri football game. Look for the special edition before home games and an expanded sports section before away games.

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Before he rocked his thick red beard, Eric Beisel and his brother Andrew were actually an adorable dynamic duo.

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One of Missouri’s most famous athletes recalls his unlikely career that took off in Columbia and brought him all the way to the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

12 DAMAREA CROCKETT
From a young age, Crockett knew he loved football. The opportunity to play in the Southeastern Conference and stay close to home was too good to pass up.

Schedule

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<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<td>09/03</td>
<td>AT WEST VIRGINIA</td>
<td>L 11-26</td>
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<td>09/10</td>
<td>VS. EASTERN MICHIGAN</td>
<td>W 61-21</td>
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<td>09/17</td>
<td>VS. GEORGIA</td>
<td>L 27-28</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/24</td>
<td>VS. DELAWARE STATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/01</td>
<td>AT LSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>AT FLORIDA</td>
<td>L 14-40</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>VS. MIDDLE TENNESSEE</td>
<td>L 45-51</td>
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<td>10/29</td>
<td>VS. KENTUCKY</td>
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<td>AT SOUTH CAROLINA</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
<td>VS. VANDERBILT</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>AT TENNESSEE</td>
<td>L 37-63</td>
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<td>11/25</td>
<td>VS. ARKANSAS</td>
<td>1:30 P.M.</td>
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By Colton Pouncy

Eric Beisel has always pushed for what he wants. For his mother, Cathy Beisel, it started with family dinners at the Beisel residence. Eric Beisel's great-grandmother, Violet Schwader, specialized in cooking traditional German meals for her family. There was a certain mindset the family had when she cooked: You ate what was served and didn’t argue.

One day, a young Eric Beisel refused to eat the German dish his grandmother prepared. He boldly asked for something else for dinner. Surprisingly, his grandmother obliged.

That’s when Cathy Beisel first noticed her son’s view of the world.

“Nobody challenged his grandmother,” Cathy Beisel said with a laugh. “It’s just not something that was ever done. It’s not a negative. That’s just the way he is. He’s always been persistent about what he wants.”

That mentality allowed Beisel to pursue all his childhood interests: baseball, basketball, lacrosse, snowboarding, indoor and outdoor soccer and piano. His experiences in those activities made him well-rounded — creatively and athletically — although he eventually focused on football.

At Rockwood Summit High School in Fenton, Eric Beisel starred as linebacker for his team. He twice topped the 100-tackle mark playing varsity football and broke the school’s single-game tackle record with 24 in his senior season.

He became one of the best recruits in the state of Missouri. He sifted through offers from Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa State and Nebraska, but when it came time to choose a school, the choice was obvious.

“He wanted to play for Missouri,” Cathy Beisel said. “This is where he grew up. He was born in Missouri.”

Eric Beisel arrived on Missouri’s campus in 2013, but until this season, he had played sparingly. He served mainly as a special teams contributor and depth for older, more experienced linebackers in front of him.

Quietly, he continued to work for what he wanted: playing time.

Over the summer, he did the little things. Eric Beisel asked questions as he learned a new defensive scheme, stayed late, watched film and never lost hope. His head coach, Barry Odom, noticed the work put in behind the scenes and rewarded him with a special task.

Before each game this season, Eric Beisel runs onto the field waving the state flag for the team. It’s an honor Odom bestowed upon him early in the season after determining he represented Missouri well.

With the injuries Missouri’s had this season at the linebacker position, Eric Beisel has received more playing time as the season progressed. He worked his way into the starting lineup for the first time against Kentucky, and a week later, he recorded a career-high 14 tackles against South Carolina.

His contributions have been a surprise to those unfamiliar with Eric Beisel, but for his family, it’s just another thing example of his never-ending persistence.

“We’re real happy for him,” Cathy Beisel said. “It’s exciting. It’s obvious how passionate he is about football, and we’re glad he’s doing what he wants to do.”
Fast Five

Football wraps up its season Friday at Faurot Field against Arkansas. For the last Fast Five of the year, we asked four Tigers about their Thanksgiving traditions.

By Brad Almquist and Colton Pouncy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Paul Adams</th>
<th>Marcell Frazier</th>
<th>Damarea Crockett</th>
<th>Cale Garrett</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?</td>
<td>“Sweet potatoes and casserole.”</td>
<td>“Breaded cheesy macaroni.”</td>
<td>“Broccoli casserole. It has broccoli, bacon, cheese and steak in it. It’s good.”</td>
<td>“It’s kind of out of the ordinary, but one year we did steaks and that was probably my favorite.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have any Thanksgiving traditions?</td>
<td>“We used to go to Stone Mountain Georgia. That’s kind of like in the middle where all my family would meet up.”</td>
<td>“No, not with my family. Personally, I try to go as many as I can.”</td>
<td>“Mmmmm ... we don’t have any Thanksgiving traditions.”</td>
<td>“Usually we go back to my mom’s side. That’s about it. Just everybody getting together.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do you celebrate Thanksgiving?</td>
<td>“Stone Mountain Georgia.”</td>
<td>“With two of my closest friends and their families.”</td>
<td>“Me and my mom, If we don’t go back to our hometown of Magnolia and celebrate with her side of the family, I’ll go to my dad’s side.”</td>
<td>“Near Pittsburg, Kansas. Where Pittsburg State is.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the team celebrated together, who would cut the turkey?</td>
<td>“Alec Abeln.”</td>
<td>“Big Josh (Augusta) or Alec Abeln.”</td>
<td>“To be completely honest with you, I don’t think any of us will argue ... it’s none other than Josh Augusta. Or Kevin Pendleton.”</td>
<td>“Oh my gosh. Probably Darvis Holmes. He talks about cooking a lot.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who on the team would eat the most turkey?</td>
<td>“Josh Augusta and Alec Abeln. Those two would destroy.”</td>
<td>“Rickey Hatley.”</td>
<td>“Once again, either Josh Augusta or Kevin Pendleton.”</td>
<td>“It would have to be one of the O-lineman. I usually have Thursday night dinner with some of the O-lineman. Kevin Pendleton and Paul Adams can throw it down.”</td>
</tr>
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</table>
**Hours**

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

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A true Missouri Man

Roger Wehrli played his entire high school, college, and pro football careers in Missouri.

By Brad Almquist

Roger Wehrli sits in a booth at Max and Erma’s in Lake St. Louis, Missouri. He wears a blue T-shirt and a white cap, and a thin bracelet was on his left wrist. He recently returned from representing Missouri at the annual Missouri Athletic Foundation banquet in New York City, and he is thinking about what to order for lunch. He said he is thankful for the opportunity to attend the event where he was honored.

Wehrli has been in New York City for several days, and he said he has enjoyed the experience. He is also happy to be back home in Missouri, where he has spent most of his life.

Wehrli is a former Missouri football player who is now an NFL Hall of Famer. He attended William Jewell College and then played for the Missouri football team. He was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the NFL Draft in 1972, and he played for them for 13 seasons.

Wehrli said he enjoys the yearly trips to New York City, and he is grateful for the opportunity to represent Missouri at the event. He said he is looking forward to seeing his family and friends in Missouri.

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By Brad Amquist

Roger Wehrli sits at a booth at Max and Erma’s on Lake St. Louis. Wehrli has on red-and-blue-striped Nautica pants. He is 63 now, but with blue eyes, a good personality, and cool vest, you wouldn’t know it from high school. Wehrli grew strong by spending his summers moving hay. He planned to play basketball, his favorite sport, close to home at Northwestern Missouri. Wehrli said Missouri as an 8th grader. Football Hall of Fame or that his name football alumni enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

"My college coaches would say something, do this or that drill. I am thinking, ‘OK, just watch what they do.’" —Roger Wehrli

"It was a big adjustment for me. From such a small school going to a place like Missouri, you are not on your own," Wehrli said. “I figured, well let’s give it a shot.” He decided to keep his shoulder pads on. But Wehrli, who had only attended one Missouri football game his entire life, had no idea who was around him in Columbia.

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school track star, Wehrli had never been clocked for the 40-yard dash. It didn’t matter. After playing a full game, Wehrli ran the 40 in 4.5 seconds, wearing full pads and all. (He later ran a 4.4 on turf.)

As a result, his draft stock soared from a third-round pick to a potential first-rounder.

NEW STAGE, SAME STATE

Wehrli drove through St. Louis on a dark night, as the pouring rain beat on his windshield.

He had just married his longtime girlfriend, Gayle, one week after his senior football season ended. The newlyweds took Interstate 70 to accept Wehrli’s Player of the Year award from a St. Louis newspaper.

Once they entered the city, they drove through empty streets and passed one worn-down building after another.

“That is the ugliest town in the world,” Werhli said to his wife on the drive back to Columbia.

The next day, Gayle Werhli, who worked at a Columbia insurance company, received a phone call from the St. Louis Cardinals. They told her they had drafted her husband 19th overall in the 1969 NFL Draft. Werhli, who was in class at the time, wouldn’t find out for another couple hours.

He laughs about the situation today, saying it “worked out really well.” Playing for the Cardinals allowed him to stay in the same state where he and everyone close to him grew up. Almost 50 years later, he still lives near St. Louis with his wife.

During his rookie season, he started alongside Hall of Famer Larry Wilson in the defensive backfield. Wehrli honed his craft, starting with Wilson’s lessons on professionalism.

For the next 14 years, Wehrli erased opposing wide receivers from games. He recorded more interceptions against Dallas Cowboys’ Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach than any other quarterback Wehrli played. Staubach famously said Wehrli originated the term “shutdown corner” because offenses avoided throwing to his side of the field altogether.

“He had God-given ability,” said Johnny Roland, former Missouri running back.

He had God-given ability. He was such a natural. It seemed like he ran so effortlessly, but he was a good, hard worker.”

—Johnny Roland, former Missouri running back

nals standout running back. “He was such a natural. It seemed like he ran so effortlessly, but he was a good, hard worker. Our teammates could see he was something special.”

Wehrli’s accolades came in floods — seven Pro Bowls, five first-team NFL selections and being named to the 1970 All-Decade team.

Despite his dominance, and the constant ‘Future Hall of Famer’ introductions attached to his name at charity golf events, almost three decades passed before he was inducted. Wehrli said when he finally received the call, it wasn’t what he expected.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Wehrli impatiently watched the clock tick. His phone remained silent.

It was 2007, and Wehrli had made the final list of 15 players who were eligible for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

He had made the list just once before, two years earlier. But, as the years passed, Wehrli had become less involved with the NFL, and more players became eligible for induction. He was told he would hear from the Hall of Fame by 2 p.m., and if he didn’t, he wasn’t selected.

Once 2 p.m. hit, Wehrli started to lose hope. Then came 2:45 p.m., and Wehrli had all but given up on his chances that year.

“Roger, can I talk to you about the Hall of Fame?” the caller said.

“Well, I am going to go get a phone,” Wehrli said, laughing.

“Yeah, yeah, you are in!””

Shortly after, Werhli received the long-awaited call from the Hall of Fame. For the next six hours, Werhli’s phone rang with congratulatory messages from former teammates, family and friends.

It figures that the same guy who grabbed Missouri’s last scholarship offer after the state track meet would make the Hall of Fame in the most unlikely way. Wehrli’s legendary career is now cemented in Canton, Ohio, where his sculpture is attached to a massive wall along with other NFL greats.

Every year, he flies to Canton to welcome the new group of inductees. Wehrli proudly wears his Hall of Fame ring every day. Next year, the Hall of Fame will send members a new, opulent one covered in diamonds, but Wehrli said the massive ring may look odd on his small hands.

After football, Wehrli served as vice president for a manufacturing company for 30 years. He retired three years ago, but he stays busy with charity golf tournaments and Hall of Fame events. He spends time with his two kids, who are now grown, and three grandchildren who live in St. Louis.

He returns to his northwest Missouri neighborhood several times a year and passes by his childhood home that is now in disrepair. Last year, 16 of the 28 members of the 1965 class showed up for its 50th high school reunion. Werhli was one of them.

Wehrli is a legend in his hometown. Outside the King City High School gymnasium is a glass case of old jerseys, footballs and trophies dedicated solely to King City’s beloved football great.

But no matter his awards or Hall of Fame-sponsored vacations, Wehrli said he doesn’t forget those who helped him along the way. Sitting in Max and Erma’s, he smiles as he speaks of his former teammates he still calls his friends.

“He was a great teammate,” Roland said. “Obviously, we saw his talent and wanted to nourish it and wanted him to succeed. He is a great guy. A quiet, unsung guy.”

After Monday’s lunch, Wehrli insists on picking up the check.

“Well, I am going to go get a haircut and then pick up some things from the hardware store,” Wehrli said, smiling.

“It’s a big day.”

He thanks the hostess, holds the door and walks outside, his blue Hall of Fame ring shining in the sun.
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.’

We like to think of Columbia as a cool neighborhood in a big city, with a young vibe, an active buzz and an engaged community. We’re also a friendly and welcoming community, with a thriving downtown and an abundance of cultural opportunities.

We’re Columbia... What You Unexpect!

VisitColumbiaMO.com
Mom helps handle rough spots

By Colton Pouncy

In the town of Magnolia, Arkansas, Damarea Crockett learned to be independent.

Magnolia is a place where everybody knows everybody, a small country town about two hours south of Little Rock. It has one main road that leads to almost every destination within city limits. The population of the town is just over 11,000, about one-tenth of Columbia’s population.

In Magnolia, the future Missouri running back’s bond with his mother, Vanessa Keener, helped shape him.

Keener gave birth to Crockett, her only child, when she was 20 years old and had to fend for him as a single mother. Crockett’s parents are separated, and Keener had primary custody of him when he was a child.

Keener has worked since she was 16 years old. She rarely asks for help, even from loved ones. It’s a trait she developed early on and, perhaps without knowing, passed down to Crockett.

The typical morning routine involved Keener getting her son ready for school, making sure he brushed his teeth and had food on the table. Every day, she’d work long hours to bring in money for the family and pay the bills. While his mother worked to keep the two afloat, Crockett would walk to the local Boys & Girls Club after school.

The Boys & Girls Club had arts and crafts, games, sports and other activities. Crockett took an interest in football. He recalls running around aimlessly in the wide gymnasium of the club, playing catch and running routes until he ran out of breath.

“That football was his,” Keener said with a laugh. “It didn’t matter if it belonged to the Boys & Girls Club or if it was his own personal ball. That football belonged to him.”

When the Boys & Girls Club ended for the day, Crockett said he’d walk home and make himself a bowl of cereal to eat. He’d play with his dog and watch TV to pass the time until his mother returned home from work. He learned to be self-reliant early on and knew it was for a good reason.

“I feel like it was rougher for her, being a single parent,” Crockett
said. “I feel like that forced me to have to mature quicker because my mom was working. It was tough some days, but I didn’t really look at it as tough because that’s all I knew.”

When Keener returned home from work, Crockett would jump into her arms. He’d stand behind her as she cooked dinner in the kitchen. She’d help him with his homework. The two cherished their time together.

“It was tough as a single mother,” Keener said. “There were rough spots, but we managed to get through those together. I think that’s what brought us so close together.”

If the hours apart from one another strengthened the relationship between Crockett and his mother, the hours he spent at the Boys & Girls Club strengthened his love for football.

Those days of running aimlessly around the gym led to playing competitively in middle school and throughout high school. Crockett developed a strong work ethic and, with the goal of playing college football in mind, began to take the game seriously. Keener can’t recall a time where she would have to remind her son to work out or research depth charts at colleges. He always did what he needed to do.

In March 2015, Crockett, then a junior in high school, attended the Nike Combine in Dallas to boost his visibility in the recruiting trail. The camp, held at the Dallas Cowboys’ AT&T Stadium, scores potential recruits by speed, power, agility, reaction and quickness. Out of all the camps he attended that spring and summer, this was his moment to demonstrate his skills on a big stage.

Over 1,200 high schoolers showed up looking to make a name for themselves, and Crockett scored the highest. In fact, his score ranked second in the entire country for Nike Combine events.

“Things were clicking and going well for me,” Crockett said of his increased notoriety. “It gave me hope.”

Interest in Crockett picked up after the Nike Combine, but only slightly. Only a handful of schools offered him a scholarship, Boise State being one of the first. Crockett committed to play for Boise State in July 2015, right before the start of his senior season.

With the fickleness of high school recruiting commitments in this day and age, Crockett took a more traditional approach. Some schools came into the process late after seeing his senior year highlights, but Crockett was hesitant to give them the time of day. If they didn’t want him in the beginning, why should he want them now?

Keener had mixed emotions about Boise State. She loved the relationship Crockett developed with the coaching staff and his fellow recruits, but traveling for games would’ve been difficult, and she knew she’d miss her son.

“I knew it was a long way from home,” Keener said of Boise State. “I was going to stand behind him whatever decision he made. I trusted his judgment. But, deep down inside, I was praying hard for something to come a bit closer to home.”

Fortunately for Keener, weeks before National Signing Day, her prayers were answered.

Late in the recruiting process, Missouri hired Josh Heupel to be the team’s offensive coordinator. Heupel learned of Crockett and wasted no time contacting him. He invited the young running back to Missouri for an official visit in late January.

Because of the values instilled in him by his mother, it was hard for Crockett to turn against Boise State, the school that had given him a chance. Crockett internalized his options and weighed the pros and cons of Missouri.

The program competes in the Southeastern Conference, widely regarded as the best in college football. Micah Wilson, a Boise State quarterback commit who became close with Crockett during the recruiting process, flipped his commitment to Missouri. He’d been in communication with Crockett about a potential reunion in Columbia.

The trek from Magnolia to Columbia is much more manageable than Boise, and his mother would be able to attend more games. Keener knows when her son is struggling with a decision. Crockett, an independent individual, isn’t one to show a lot of emotion. He isn’t one to come out and speak his frustrations.

But Keener can hear it in his voice. He tends to slow down his speech with long pauses, almost like he’s avoiding...
what’s on his mind. She sensed that a
decision to visit the school dawned on
him.

Keener told her son he needed to do
what was best for him, so Crockett
toured the facilities.

During his official visit, Keener
stayed home and tried not to be too
involved. When the weekend was
nearly over, she texted her son for an
update. He sent back the heart-eyes
emoji.

“I'm guessing you like it there?”
Keener asked her son, most likely
already knowing the answer to her
question.

“Yeah,” Crockett replied. “I love it.”
Keener remembers jumping up and
down at home in celebration. She raced
to call nearly everyone in her family.

Her son was going to be an SEC run-
ning back. But, most importantly, she
was happy he chose to stay closer to
home and made the decision on his
own.

Fast forward to present day. Crockett,
the little boy from Magnolia, Arkansas,
has turned in one of the most prolific
freshman seasons in Missouri history.

Despite starting the season as Mis-
souri’s third-string running back and
seeing limited action against West Vir-
ginia, Georgia and LSU, Crockett has
rushed for 1,062 yards and 10 touch-
downs. To put that total into perspec-
tive, legendary Missouri running back
Johnny Roland rushed for 830 yards
when he was a freshman. Against Ten-
nessee, Crockett broke the Missouri
record for rushing yards in a season

by a freshman. The current record was
previously owned by Brad Smith, who
rushed for 1,029 in 2002 as a redshirt
freshman.

Crockett knows he made the right
decision.

“Staying close to home was import-
ant,” Crockett said. “I feel like I’m
here for a reason. We have big things
coming at the University of Missou-
ri. There’s no doubt about that in my
mind.”

Crockett is considered a building
block for the future at Missouri, but to
his mother, he’s still the resourceful
child she raised in southern Arkansas.
Keener calls her son every day. He
doesn’t always answer, but she still
calls. She said she likes to listen to his
voice and keep an ear out for the tells
he shows when he’s frustrated about
something. She said she hasn’t sensed it
since he’s been on campus.

Keener said she cried for a week
when he left for Missouri and thinks
back to his childhood often. She thinks
about how the two survived together.
She thinks about the approach to life
he’s developed, about the man he’s
become and what he still can be.

Although they don’t see each other as
often, it makes the separation easier.

“He’s making me so proud,” she said.
“In the back of my mind, I always knew
he could do it. I’ve always had that
mindset when it came to Damarea. It
makes me happy to see him finding the
success I knew was in him.”
10 Things you didn’t know about the University of Arkansas

The Missouri football team wraps up the 2016 season with a Black Friday matchup against Arkansas, and, for one last time, our Impossible Quiz returns to test your knowledge of all things Razorbacks. So, how well do you know Arkansas?

1. What is the official Arkansas State bird?
   A Robin
   B Northern Mockingbird
   C Purple Finch
   D Meadowlark

2. Which Utah Jazz player played basketball during his college career at Arkansas?
   A Joe Johnson
   B Rodney Hood
   C Dante Exum
   D Gordon Hayward

3. What is Arkansas’ state nickname?
   A The Natural State
   B Crossroads of America
   C Old Line State
   D Granite State

4. An Arkansas center fielder won the 2015 Golden Spikes award, given to the nation’s top baseball player. What was his name?
   A Andrew Benetendi
   B Andrew Benindetti
   C Andrew Benintend
   D Andrew Benintendi

5. What’s the Arkansas’ state flower?
   A Peach Blossom
   B Violet
   C Apple Blossom
   D Azalea

6. Which Arkansas forest covers more than 1 million acres?
   A St. Francis National Forest
   B The Ozark National Forest
   C Ouachita National Forest
   D MKT Forest

7. Which musician is from Arkansas?
   A Johnny Cash
   B Prince
   C Jimi Hendrix
   D Louis Armstrong

8. What is the official state beverage?
   A Fruit punch
   B Root beer
   C Milk
   D Sweet tea

9. Former president Bill Clinton was born in which Arkansas city?
   A Bentonville
   B Little Rock
   C Hope
   D Jonesboro

10. Where did Sam Walton open his first store?
    A Fayetteville
    B Bentonville
    C Little Rock
    D Hot Springs

The Missouri football team wraps up the 2016 season with a Black Friday matchup against Arkansas, and, for one last time, our Impossible Quiz returns to test your knowledge of all things Razorbacks. So, how well do you know Arkansas?
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