Evan Boehm – Missouri’s Iron Man, Funny Man

40 consecutive games and he still has doubters, but the Missouri center and coach’s son faces them, sometimes humorously.
## STARTING LINEUPS

### MU OFFENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jersey Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WIDE RECEIVER</td>
<td>Keyon Dilosa</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIGHT END</td>
<td>Sean Culkin</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT TACKLE</td>
<td>Nate Crawford</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>CENTER</td>
<td>Evan Boehm</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEFT TACKLE</td>
<td>Conner McGovern</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT GUARD</td>
<td>Mitch L. Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEFT GUARD</td>
<td>Alec Aebin</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIDE RECEIVER</td>
<td>Nate Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIDE RECEIVER</td>
<td>J’Mon Moore</td>
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### SEMO DEFENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jersey Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CORNERBACK</td>
<td>Jamari Holloway</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINEBACKER</td>
<td>Travis Sanders</td>
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<td>LINEBACKER</td>
<td>Marlon Hampton</td>
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<td>LINEBACKER</td>
<td>Jon Slania</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORNERBACK</td>
<td>Ryan Moore</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRONG SAFETY</td>
<td>Eriq Moore</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE SAFETY</td>
<td>David Coley</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Stephen Dunn</td>
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<td>Garret Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIGHT GUARD</td>
<td>Traven Mable</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEFT GUARD</td>
<td>Peter Lloyd</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Jersey Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CORNERBACK</td>
<td>Kenya Dennis</td>
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<td>LINEBACKER</td>
<td>Donavin Newsom</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINEBACKER</td>
<td>Michael Scherer</td>
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<tr>
<td>LINEBACKER</td>
<td>Kentrell Brothers</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORNERBACK</td>
<td>Aarion Penton</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREE SAFETY</td>
<td>Ian Simon</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRONG SAFETY</td>
<td>Anthony Sherrills</td>
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<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Marcell Frazier</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DT</td>
<td>Josh Augusta</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DT</td>
<td>DeMichael Jackson</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Peter Lloyd</td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLB</td>
<td>Marcell Frazier</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLB</td>
<td>Josh Augusta</td>
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<td>WLB</td>
<td>Michael Scherer</td>
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<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Charles Harris</td>
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<td>SLB</td>
<td>Ricki Hatley</td>
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<td>MLB</td>
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<td>LB</td>
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<td>LB</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB</td>
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## DEPTH CHART » MISSOURI

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QUARTERBACK</td>
<td>Maty Mauk</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUNNING BACK</td>
<td>Russell Hansbrough</td>
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<td>WIDE RECEIVER</td>
<td>Drew Lock</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEFT TACKLE</td>
<td>Alex Snyder</td>
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<tr>
<td>CENTER</td>
<td>Jake McCandless</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIGHT GUARD</td>
<td>Garret Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEFT GUARD</td>
<td>Charlie Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIGHT GUARD</td>
<td>Michael Cooke</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Evan Boehm</td>
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<tr>
<td>CENTER</td>
<td>Brandon Lee</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CENTER</td>
<td>Tavon Ross</td>
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## SPECIAL TEAMS » MISSOURI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jersey Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUNTER</td>
<td>Corey Fatony</td>
<td>(26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAPPER</td>
<td>(99) Ihedigbo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KICKER</td>
<td>(20) DeMichael Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETURNER</td>
<td>(7) Peter Lloyd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holder</td>
<td>(16) Tyler Manne</td>
<td></td>
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## SPECIAL TEAMS » SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUNTER</td>
<td>Alex Knight</td>
<td>(46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAPPER</td>
<td>(59) Wade Wright</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>KICKER</td>
<td>(20) DeMichael Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETURNER</td>
<td>(7) Peter Lloyd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holder</td>
<td>(16) Tyler Manne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Whether you’re at the game or tailgating at home, team up with Schnucks for a winning lineup!

- Pick up our delicious golden fried chicken or party sandwiches from our Deli Department.
- Check out our walk-in Beer Cooler for your favorite beverages.
- Don’t forget our fresh storemade brats, kabobs or loaded burgers for grilling.

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WHAT’S INSIDE

TEN things you didn’t know about SEMO

BET YOU DIDN’T KNOW ...
Test your knowledge on all things SEMO, including which radio talk show host attended the school for two semesters?

06

TODDLERS TO TIGERS
Don’t let the photo deceive you, the kid in this throwback is not playing collegiate soccer. Can you guess who it is?

13

WEARING A ROCK M
Championship rings have different meanings for the multitude of players, coaches, staff members and even the MU chancellor who receive them.

14

SCHEDULE

09/05 VS. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI 3:00 P.M.
09/12 @ ARKANSAS STATE 6:00 P.M.
FAMILY WEEKEND/TIGER STRIPE
09/19 VS. CONNECTICUT 11:00 A.M.
09/26 @ KENTUCKY TBA
GOLD RUSH/MILITARY APPRECIATION
10/03 VS. SOUTH CAROLINA TBA
HOME COMING
10/10 VS. FLORIDA TBA
10/17 @ GEORGIA TBA
10/24 @ VANDERBILT TBA
11/05 VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE TBA
11/14 VS. BYU (ARROWHEAD STADIUM) TBA
BLACKOUT
11/21 VS. TENNESSEE TBA
11/27 @ ARKANSAS 1:30 P.M.

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Invest in your education and advance your career with our AWARD WINNING ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS at the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing.

*Outstanding faculty and Dean Judith Fitzgerald Miller, ranked as one of the most influential nursing school deans in the country, shape these programs.

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- For registered nurses seeking a bachelor’s degree in nursing
- Emphasizes clinical problem solving using evidence based practice
- Limited on-campus time
- Choose a plan of study that suits you

Master’s in Nursing
- Develop competencies in teaching or leadership and management
- Prepares learners for innovative educational endeavors and health care initiatives
- Nurse Educator or Leadership in Nursing

Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Develop advanced nursing practice and systems leadership competencies
- Become a leader in achieving positive patient care outcomes
- Six areas of study from which to choose:
  - Nurse practitioner (Family, Mental Health, Pediatrics)
  - Clinical nurse specialist (Pediatrics, Adult Gerontology)
  - Nurse executive

Doctor of Philosophy
- Develop competencies in research, scholarship, education, informatics and health care systems
- Assume leadership roles in education, research, health care and health policy
- Select one of three research areas:
  - Innovation science
  - Managing symptoms and promoting healthy behaviors
  - Prevention and treatment of trauma across the lifespan

nursing.missouri.edu

Sinclair School of Nursing
University of Missouri Health

S235 School of Nursing
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-0277 or 800-437-4339
nursing@missouri.edu
FAST FIVE

Missouri hasn’t faced a team from its own state since 2008, so there’s no better time to ask five players (two from Kansas City, two from St. Louis and one from Jefferson City) about the place they call home. By MICHAEL MANDELL

WHAT’S SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN OR HIGH SCHOOL?

“I’m the only one who’s played football for Mizzou from my high school.” (Kansas City, Hogan Prep)

“Tech N9ne did a music video (For the Mo) in our high school. I’m a big fan of (him).” (Kansas City, Lincoln College Prep)

“That’s where Six Flags is.’ That’s all anyone says.” (Eureka)

“Our high school coach (Bob Bunton) just won his 100th game with the team.” (St. Louis, Parkway North)

“We’ve won 10 state championships in football.” (Jefferson City)

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT IN MISSOURI?

“Kansas City will always be the best because of the Plaza, but I like going to St. Louis, too. I’m a big city guy.”

“I like going to the College Basketball Experience in Kansas City. You feel like you’re actually in college playing basketball.”

“Downtown St. Louis. It’s a really fun atmosphere.”

“Honestly, it’s probably Columbia. I love being around this campus with my teammates. I love Mizzou a lot.”

“I would say St. Louis. Being at Busch Stadium to watch the Cardinals play is awesome.”

HOW PASSIONATE ARE PEOPLE ABOUT MIZZOU IN YOUR HOMETOWN?

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“It’s a big high school town. ... There are so many people supporting me and Mizzou at the next level. I always have people coming up and talking to me about that.”

“They love it. Everywhere I go, I see Mizzou flags and people wearing Tiger clothes.”

“It’s pretty big. So many people there drive to Faurot on Saturdays to watch the games. I did that when I was younger.”

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“Nelly. He’s the man.”

“I’d definitely have to go with Nelly. He’s from St. Louis.”

“That’s really tough. I honestly can’t decide between Nelly and Tech N9ne.”

ROYALS OR CARDINALS?

“I’m a Royals, Chiefs and LeBron James fan.”

“Royals every time. We get into it about that in the locker room.”

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ANTHONY SHERRILLS
SAFETY

CHARLES HARRIS
DEFENSIVE END

CLAYTON ECHARD
TIGHT END

DONAVIN NEWSOM
LINEBACKER

JOEY BURKETT
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Missouri hasn’t faced a team from its own state since 2008, so there’s no better time to ask five players (two from Kansas City, two from St. Louis and one from Jefferson City) about the place they call home. By MICHAEL MANDELL

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The Missouri football team begins its 2015 season this weekend, and the Tigers have their sights set on their first opponent: Southeast Missouri State.

To get yourself ready for the game, test your knowledge on the team that everybody calls “SEMO.” You might be surprised how much you know — or don’t know. By MICHAEL MANDELL

1. Which radio talk show host attended Southeast Missouri State for two semesters?
   - A. Howard Stern
   - B. Rush Limbaugh
   - C. Colin Cowherd
   - D. Dan Le Batard

2. Which street in Columbia is named after a former Southeast Missouri State University president?
   - A. Vandiver Drive
   - B. Nifong Boulevard
   - C. Rollins Street
   - D. Worley Street

3. Southeast Missouri State is located in Cape Girardeau. What 2014 movie was filmed in Cape Girardeau?
   - A. “22 Jump Street”
   - B. “Neighbors”
   - C. “Nightcrawler”
   - D. “Gone Girl”

4. What is Cape Girardeau’s nickname?
   - A. “Paris of the Plains”
   - B. “The Bluff City”
   - C. “Flower Box City”
   - D. “City of Roses”

5. What was the Southeast Missouri State football team’s previous mascot?
   - A. Braves
   - B. Indians
   - C. Hawks
   - D. Chiefs

6. Rick Ray, Southeast Missouri State’s men’s basketball coach, previously coached which of Missouri’s fellow Southeastern Conference teams?
   - A. Alabama
   - B. Mississippi State
   - C. Mississippi
   - D. Tennessee

7. Southeast Missouri State’s football team played rival Southern Illinois at which professional sports stadium in 2013?
   - A. Arrowhead Stadium (Kansas City Chiefs)
   - B. Kauffman Stadium (Kansas City Royals)
   - C. Edward Jones Dome (St. Louis Rams)
   - D. Busch Stadium (St. Louis Cardinals)

8. Southeast Missouri State was founded as a school that trained whom?
   - A. Engineers
   - B. Mechanics
   - C. Musicians
   - D. Teachers

9. Former Southeast Missouri State offensive lineman Dan Connolly recently won the Super Bowl with which team?
   - A. New England Patriots
   - B. Green Bay Packers
   - C. Seattle Seahawks
   - D. New York Giants

10. Southeast Missouri State was Missouri’s last in-state opponent. When did the teams last play?
    - A. 1995
    - B. 2004
    - C. 2008
    - D. 2012

Answers

1. Howard Stern
2. Vandiver Drive
3. “22 Jump Street”
4. “Paris of the Plains”
5. Braves
6. Alabama
7. Arrowhead Stadium
8. Engineers
9. New England Patriots
10. 1995
WELCOME TO COLUMBIA

BLACK AND GOLD IS JUST THE BEGINNING

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.

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Sweat drenched Evan Boehm. It was the perfect time for a hug.

After a fall camp practice, Boehm, one of Missouri’s football captains, removed his shoulder pads and crept behind a teammate who was giving a TV interview. Boehm hooked his arms underneath his teammate’s shoulders. An awkward, gross embrace. Smiles crossed the faces of reporters and other Tigers.

Unless you know him, it’s hard to reconcile this moment with the one that happened right before it — when Boehm lectured teammates for 10 minutes post-practice.

He can be serious, typically for three hours every Saturday or at meetings with Missouri’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, of which Boehm is the co-president.

He can be a joker, like when he lifted weights in thigh-hugging denim short-shorts and a ripped blue and white flannel shirt — an outfit that seems to be out of the Village People’s catalog. Instagram jackpot.

When his younger brother, Tyler Boehm, posted a video on social media of a football hitting Evan in his crotch during a fall practice, the video went viral and landed on ESPN. Evan was the person who first showed his younger brother the clip.

The burly 310-pounder likes to laugh at himself. Missouri fans laugh with him. He’s one of their favorites.

Evan goes from funny man to serious player to team leader as quickly as he can push a defender off the line of scrimmage. He said he has a “switch.” He’s needed it to find success and combat doubters.

By AARON REISS

A match made in EVAN

Lee Surratt, West’s Head Coach Royce Boehm, father of MU offensive lineman Evan Boehm, coached his son in high school. With it came whispers of favoritism.

KAYLA WOLF/Missourian

KATIE HOGSETT/Missourian
Many athletes claim a similar trait. Really, most of us do. We show different sides to co-workers and close friends.

But what makes Evan different is how he changes in an instant. During Missouri games, he likes to joke on the sidelines. After that fall practice, he needed no cooldown time before clowning a teammate on TV.

Following his father
If you watch Evan Boehm’s father coach, you understand where the trait comes from.
During the second quarter of the Lee’s Summit West home opener last week, Royce Boehm looked away from a play to say hello to Evan. A moment later, the Titans’ head coach snarled after one of his players made a poor decision on the field.

“Be smart,” Royce said.
Evan grew up at his father’s practices and games, first at Lee’s Summit North, where Royce coached the defensive line, and then at Lee’s Summit West. He watched his dad switch from joking to focused. Evan learned to interact with people much older than him, players and coaches.

Evan thinks this ability to adapt is responsible for much of his success: the All-Southeastern Conference honors, the captain status, the fact he’s started every game of his college career thus far.

He locks in to earn teammates respect. He fools around to earn their friendship.

“It’s a delicate thing because some guys can’t do it,” Missouri left tackle Connor McGovern said. “Some guys can’t go from laughing and then two seconds later strap on their helmet.

“I think it’s definitely a genetic thing.”

But here’s the other side to that narrative, which is equally important: Growing up with “Coach Dad” can be difficult. During his Missouri career, Evan has relished success separate from the judgments he faced in Lee’s Summit.

Life as the coach’s son
The walls of Lee’s Summit West gym, the “Home of Evan Boehm,” are made of bone-white brick.

A banner commemorates Boehm’s 2011 Thomas A. Simone Award, given to the best high school football player in the greater Kansas City area. He was the first offensive lineman to win it. There’s a

Missouri offensive lineman Evan Boehm visited his alma mater, Lee’s Summit West High School, to watch his brother Tyler Boehm, an LSW senior linebacker, and his father, Royce Boehm, head coach, compete against Park Hill South on Aug. 28. LSW won 34-21, and Boehm received plenty of photo requests.

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picture of him on the banner — clean-shaven, no tattoos, no smile. Four words are printed above the photo.

“Home of Evan Boehm.”

Tyler Boehm hates when he hears those words. People say them as a joke.

“Everyone just says, ‘Oh, this is the ‘Home of Evan Boehm,’” because there’s a banner hanging over there,” said the younger Boehm, a senior at Lee’s Summit West. “If you look on the other side (of the gym), there’s a ton more banners of people over there that they don’t make fun of.”

It might be odd to think of now: Evan disliked. His family said he’s always been a jokester, a guy with no issue posting videos of himself dancing to holiday music. He and fellow Missouri offensive linemen did that in 2013, branded as “Christmas Thursday.” Missouri fans watched those videos thousands of times.

Evan didn’t used to feel that embrace at Lee’s Summit West.

“It is tough being a coach’s son,” Royce Boehm said. “You take a lot of crap for it.”

Evan started in high school as a freshman, just as he’d later do at Missouri. Royce resisted putting his son in the starting lineup, friends of the coach said, but his son’s talent was undeniable.

Evan received his first college football scholarship offer — from Missouri — the summer between eighth grade and his freshman year. During summer workouts, on the first day in pads, a 14-year-old Evan went one-on-one against a senior defensive lineman. Evan won easily.

“Royce,” Titans offensive line coach Chris Barrows said, “he’s ready.”

The father gave his son a silver practice jersey, the kind given to varsity offensive players. And then Evan dealt with the jealousy and cold shoulders of teammates.

“I was a varsity wrestler and won state because of my dad,” Evan said, echoing some peers’ view of him. “I was a varsity discus and shot put thrower because of my dad. I was on varsity football because of my dad. Nobody really took time to look and say, ‘There’s the skill.’ When I got my first scholarship, that was because of my dad, too.’

It wasn’t easy for Dad to navigate, either.

One day, Evan needed assistance with his shoulder pads. “Hey, Dad, can you help me fix this?” he asked. Royce glared and stormed away.

“You can’t call him ‘Dad?’” Evan wondered. “What can you call him?”

Royce has since eased on the policy. Tyler calls him ‘Dad’ on the field. And Royce eventually let Evan use ‘Coach Dad.’

Evan said now he understands his father’s reasoning: ‘Coach’ diminished notions of nepotism. Evan did his part to squash thoughts of favoritism as well. In football, he received three First-Team All-State nods and helped Lee’s Summit West to a 2010 state title. He also won state championships in basketball.
Boehm on the road to becoming Missouri’s newest ironman

By MICHAEL MANDELL

No Missouri football player has seen the field more than Evan Boehm during the school’s three-year tenure in the Southeastern Conference. The 6-foot-3, 310-pound senior from Lee’s Summit has started in all 40 of the Tigers’ games since 2012, and he has a shot at breaking a school record.

If Boehm starts Missouri’s first 11 games this season, he would set the school mark for consecutive games played — currently held by tight end Martin Rucker, offensive lineman Adam Spieker and defensive back Carl Gettis. Missouri has 12 regular-season games on its schedule and could also play in the SEC title game, as well as a bowl game.

Since coach Gary Pinkel arrived in 2001, four players have started every game of a four-year career:

- Rucker (50 games from 2004-07)
- Spieker (50 games from 2004-07)
- Quarterback Brad Smith (48 games from 2002-05)

Starting streaks

If he consecutively starts every game this year, Evan Boehm would join an exclusive group of Missouri players. Since 1948, only four players have started every game of their career.
TODDLERS TO TIGERS

Missouri’s senior placekicker, Andrew Baggett, was on a different field as a child until his teen years when the challenge of playing football was next in a line of headstrong endeavors. By JACOB BOGAGE

Andrew Baggett didn’t want help with his homework as a kid. He didn’t want help with Cub Scout projects or soccer, either.

“He was very headstrong and dedicated,” his mother, Kim Baggett said. “He could do it himself.”

Even from an early age, Andrew Baggett, Missouri’s senior placekicker, was independent and steadfastly loyal, his mother said.

He started Cub Scouts as just another after-school activity but hung on until he became an Eagle Scout at age 16.

Playing soccer started the same way. By his teen years, he darted toward football because it was another challenge he could take on.

“He wasn’t intense, but he was very focused, and somehow he juggled it all and got it all done,” his mother said.

That’s Scouts once a week, soccer or football practice twice a week, games on the weekends and a campout every month or so. Somehow the calendar worked out.

“When he set his mind to something,” she said, “he did it.”

She misses the days when a whole troop of Cub Scouts or soccer players piled into her car on the way to meetings or practices or games. She could just listen, she said, and learn about her son and his friends.

Nearly a dozen of them started Cub Scouts together and attained their Eagle rank about the same time.

“You learn a lot when you put a whole bunch of Boy Scouts together,” she said.

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When Missouri football receives rings, it’s more than just jewelry

How much do Missouri’s championship rings cost? Who has the biggest finger on the team? Public documents reveal the details. **By MARK SELIG**

We are a culture fascinated by rings. Rings symbolize commitment to a spouse, completion of academics, success in athletics. But it wasn’t always that way. When baseball teams won World Series 100-some-odd years ago, they celebrated with a championship pocket watch or pin. Then, in 1923, the New York Giants flashed the first-ever championship ring.

In the 1930s, championship rings became a tradition. That tradition rings true today, with teams receiving pricey finger jewelry for everything from the Super Bowl to the Citrus Bowl. Yes, even Missouri, after winning the weaker half of the Southeastern Conference and then prevailing in a bowl game few kids dream of playing, clinched a sparkly reward.

The Tigers’ rings lack the gravitas (and diamond count) of a Super Bowl ring, but there’s still a finger and a story behind each one.

At SEC media day, Missouri corner Ken Dennis wore an all-black suit, a Tiger pin on his lapel and a chunky ring on his right hand. Until another fancy function, the ring will stay home.

“It’s scary to have it on when you’re not doing anything important,” Dennis said.

Scary because it’s expensive. According to an invoice acquired by the Missourian, the Tigers spent $40,808 on rings and pendants for the players, staff, administration and wives. Each ring cost $168, which actually seems like a bargain, considering you have to lay out $199.97 for a replica on eBay (and an extra $29.99 if you’re extravagant enough customize it).

Who receives the real thing? You don’t need to score a touchdown or even play a single snap to earn a ring at Missouri.

- 14 graduate assistants
- 14 student assistants
- 8 team managers
- 5 GA trainers
- 5 equipment managers
- 2 chaplains
- 2 video directors
- The guy in charge of the grounds crew
- The dining hall manager
- The ticketing director
- The PR guy
- They all got rings.

Also in on the bling were Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, President Tim Wolfe, the coaching staff, strength coaches, trainers, athletics administrators and multimedia director Kathryn Lucchesi. At size 7, Lucchesi owns the distinction of “Mizzou Football’s Smallest Finger.” She asked for a ring rather than a pendant that the other women, mostly wives, receive.

Did we forget anybody? Just 121 players on the roster.

A bunch of large men with mostly large fingers. The average male fits into a size 10-12, which is roughly the diameter of a penny to a nickel.

Not all Missouri football players are average, such as Evan Boehm. The offensive lineman’s size 17 ring is the biggest on the team. His ring finger’s diameter is closer in size to a presidential dollar than it is to a quarter.

Still, that’s nothing compared to William “Refrigerator” Perry, the famously fat former Chicago Bear who wore size 25 after winning Super Bowl XX. He auctioned that ring this summer and netted $203,000.

Missouri players, it seems, aren’t looking for profit. Two pawn shop owners in Columbia said they’ve never housed a Mizzou football ring. Dan Trim, owner of Tiger Pawn, said a basketball ring was on loan at his store roughly 15 years ago. No fan got a chance to purchase it, though, because the player came back to retrieve his ring for the cost of the loan plus interest.

Boehm’s big rings (Missouri also awarded its team after the 2013 season) don’t leave his room.

“When I wake up and I turn my light on, 💡
they blind me because they’re so shiny,” he said.

Boehm is patient when he receives a ring. A tradition dating back to his state titles at Lee’s Summit West High School, Boehm leaves his ring in its Jostens box and gets his first glimpse of it when he’s with his family. He’ll wear it to special occasions, otherwise it’s just eye candy.

Fellow offensive lineman Connor McGovern doesn’t don his size 16 1/2 ring often, either. He’s not a jewelry guy. He said his wrists are so large that he can’t wear standard watches.

For some, rings are decoration. For others, stowed-away keepsakes.

As a kid, running back Russell Hansbrough lost a necklace with his number on it — a gift from his grandmother — and now he’s afraid to misplace more gold. So he gave his ring to his mother as soon as he could.

Kentrell Brothers did the same. When the future professional linebacker buys his first house, he’ll put the rings on display with his high school football and basketball ones, he said.

Perhaps no Tiger is more strategic about his ring-wearing than coach Gary Pinkel, who lets his ring hug his finger for 48 hours before storing it in a case in his office.

“The reason I wear it for 48 hours is I show my family and friends, and then I take it off and put it in there because I want another one,” Pinkel said. “I’ve never worn any of my rings for more than 48 hours.”

Except for the less gaudy wedding band residing on his left ring finger.

“This ring’s got to stay on forever.”

Hand in Hand

Size yourself up against Evan Boehm’s hand. The center’s size 17 ring is the biggest on the team. His ring finger’s diameter is closer in size to a presidential dollar than it is to a quarter.
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