In 1990, Missouri lost to Colorado on a wrongfully granted fifth down. Now, Tigers fans embrace the loss with a sense of humor.

Page 8
## STARTING LINEUPS

### MU OFFENSE

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### SPECIAL TEAMS » MISSOURI

- **PUNTER**: (26) Corey Fatony
- **PLACEKICKER**: (99) Andrew Baggett
- **HOLDER**: (9) Eddie Printz
- **LONG SNAPPER**: (86) Jake Hurrell
- **KICK RETURNER**: (5) John Gibson
- **PUNT RETURNER**: (11) Aarion Penton

### SPECIAL TEAMS » SOUTH CAROLINA

- **KICKOFF**: (19) Landon Ard
- **PLACE KICKER**: (29) Elliott Fry
- **PUNTER**: (13) Sean Kelly
- **KICK RETURNER**: (7) Shon Carson
- **PUNT RETURNER**: (11) Pharoah Cooper
- **SNAPPER**: (47) Drew Williams
- **HOLDER**: (13) Sean Kelly

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Whether you’re at the game or tailgating at home, team up with Schnucks for a winning lineup!

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Go Tigers!
WHAT’S INSIDE

PRESS YOUR LUCK
Our hard quizzes just got more intense. Try your best to beat the impossible quiz covering all things South Carolina, including amphibians.

06

TODDLERS TO TIGERS
This future captain and free safety for Missouri was a restless, antsy child who was always on the move.

13

BAGGETT’S LEGACY
Closing in on Missouri’s all-time scoring record, the kicker might not be known for his successes, but rather one bad kick against South Carolina.

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SCHEDULE

09/05 VS. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI W 34–3
09/12 @ ARKANSAS STATE W 27–20
FAMILY WEEKEND/TIGER STRIPE
09/19 VS. CONNECTICUT W 9–6
09/26 @ KENTUCKY L 13–21
GOLD RUSH/MILITARY APPRECIATION
10/03 VS. SOUTH CAROLINA 11 A.M.
HOMECOMING
10/10 VS. FLORIDA 6:30 P.M.
10/17 @ GEORGIA TBA
10/24 @ VANDERBILT TBA
11/05 VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE 8 P.M.
11/14 VS. BYU (ARROWHEAD STADIUM) TBA
BLACKOUT
11/21 VS. TENNESSEE TBA
11/27 @ ARKANSAS 1:30 P.M.

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  - Nurse executive

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  - Managing symptoms and promoting healthy behaviors
  - Prevention and treatment of trauma across the lifespan

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Isn’t it great to be home? The Tigers face the South Carolina Gamecocks, then the Florida Gators next week for Homecoming. But what do Missouri players think about road trips? Let’s find out. By JACOB BOGAGE and AARON REISS

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF GOING ON THE ROAD?

KENYA DENNIS
SENIOR CORNERBACK

“My favorite part about road trips is just going to other people’s house and kind of taking over. Just going to take their field and kind of just tell them it’s our house.”

CONNOR MCGOVERN
SENIOR OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

“It’s just fun to experience a different place. I’ve always been a big fan of travel. More of a business trip, you know? Still fun to just travel. Traveling with some of your best friends is fun.”

TAYLOR CHAPPELL
SENIOR OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

“Probably my favorite part is Friday nights in the hotels just with the guys, hanging out. We find somebody’s room and go there and hang out and watch a little bit of football or some TV, just kinda hang out.”

CORTLAND BROWNING
SENIOR SAFETY

“It depends on where we’re going really. If we’re going to Florida — I like the atmosphere in all of them because they do stuff to distract you. So Florida got the thing where they flash you from the bottom or the top.”

CLARENCE GREEN
SENIOR LINEBACKER

“Probably the hotels. The beds are so comfortable. I love sleeping in the hotel with my teammates, secluded from everything else.”

WHO DO YOU ROOM WITH?

“Aarion Penton. He’s a pretty clean guy. It’s just when it’s time to go to sleep he snores real loud.”

“Last year I roomed with Mitch Hall. I’ll room with Taylor Chappell this year.”

“Ian Simon. He’s pretty legit. We talk to his mom when we first get there, and we just get ready for the game.”

“Donavin Newsom. He’s real cool. Just laid back. We crack jokes, of course. Linebackers, we know how to have a good time, but we also know how to turn it on when the game is on.”

MIZZOU CHARTERS A PLANE TO GO TO EVERY AWAY GAME. WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO ON THE PLANE?

“We just kind of talk for a little while. We might watch a movie. For the most part, guys are just listening to their music.”

“I like to watch movies. I always watch a more serious movie on the way down and a comedy on the way back after the game.”

“I go to sleep watching a movie that I download from my iTunes or something. When I’m on the road, I’m focused on the game; it’s not like a party trip.”

“I like to read. I know a lot of guys download a movie from iTunes or something like that. I read all kinds of stuff. Last great book: ‘Way of Kings’ by Brandon Sanderson.”

“I go to sleep watching a movie that I download from my iTunes or something. When I’m on the road, I’m focused on the game; it’s not like a party trip.”

“I listen to music and go to sleep and take a nap. That way my ears won’t be popping and I can’t hear.”

WINDOW OR AISLE SEAT?

“Window seat. It’s great to see the view when you’re going up, just to see the clouds. Cars and stuff on the ground.”

“I’m an aisle seat kind of guy. More space. They normally treat the O-line pretty well, anyway. If there’s a first class (seat available) on the plane, it’s the starting O-line, the starting D-line.”

“I don’t really care. As long as I don’t have to sit right next to somebody. Gotta have a little bit of extra room.”

“I like to look at the clouds and stuff. If it’s raining, I don’t like to sit by the window. The water hitting the jets and stuff — that kind of creeps me out.”

“I listen to Big Krit. I listen to Future. It depends on how I’m feeling. Like I like to get hype, then I like to calm down. I wake up to Krit. I get hyped to the Future, then I come back down with Tupac.”

WHAT’S THE NEWEST SONG ON YOUR PERSONAL PLAYLIST?

“Drake and Future just came out with an album/mix tape.”

“I just watch movies.”

“‘Outsiders’ by Eric Church. I’ve heard that song a lot, but I really like it. It’s a sweet song.”

“I listen to Big Krit. I listen to Future. It depends on how I’m feeling. Like I like to get hype, then I like to calm down. I wake up to Krit. I get hyped to the Future, then I come back down with Tupac.”

“My latest song that I listen to, it was Yo Gotti, ‘Set the Record Straight.’ He’s got a mix tape and it’s a good song. It gets me hyped and ready for the game.”
The University of South Carolina is ranked No. 1 nationally in which of the following programs?
- Exercise science
- International business
- Social psychology
- Tourism management

The South Carolina football team’s last conference title came in which season?
- A 1962
- B 1969
- C 1980
- D 2011

Like Missouri, South Carolina wasn’t a Southeastern Conference member when it won its last conference title. In which conference did the Gamecocks play?
- A Atlantic Coast Conference
- B Big East Conference
- C Southern Athletic Association
- D Southland Conference

Why did South Carolina adopt the nickname ‘Gamecocks’ in 1900?
- A Cockfighting was the official sport at the time
- B Local farmers bribed Gov. Miles McSweeney to adopt it
- C The school did so to honor a Revolutionary War general
- D The school’s first chancellor owned over 300 of the birds

Which of the following is the official South Carolina state amphibian?
- A American bullfrog
- B Common rocket frog
- C Southeastern newt
- D Spotted salamander

Which of the following is NOT a town in South Carolina?
- A Accident
- B Coward
- C Ninety Six
- D Welcome

South Carolina was the first state to grow which of the following?
- A Apricots
- B Olives
- C Tea
- D Yams

The University of South Carolina has the world’s largest collection of books written by which author?
- A Edith Wharton
- B Ernest Hemingway
- C F. Scott Fitzgerald
- D Walt Whitman

Which of these is NOT a town in South Carolina?
- A Accident
- B Coward
- C Ninety Six
- D Welcome

How many first-round NFL draft picks has South Carolina produced?
- A 4
- B 10
- C 12
- D 18

South Carolina’s tailgating scene is famous for its use of which of the following?
- A Abandoned barns
- B An old aircraft carrier
- C Palmetto tree hammocks
- D Train cabooses

Answers
1. C — Edith Wharton
2. D — 1969
3. C — Southern Athletic Association
4. C — Abandoned barns
5. A — Cockfighting was the official sport at the time
6. B — Common rocket frog
7. A — Cockfighting was the official sport at the time
8. D — “Cockabooses” are old train cabooses that sell for $300,000. Each one comes fully furnished and includes cable television, air conditioning, heating, running water, a kitchen, living room and a patio.
9. B — South Carolina was the first state to grow olives.
10. D — South Carolina was the first state to grow olives.

The Missouri football team returns home to play South Carolina.

Starting with this week’s quiz, we’ve decided to rebrand our series to reflect the reality of the situation. These quizzes have, for the most part, been relatively impossible to pass, and this week’s edition is even more so. We bet you can’t get more than five right. By MICHAEL MANDELL
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
The 5th Down Bar & Grill comes with a disclaimer. "WE DON'T SELL COORS HERE!" a banner to the right of the front door reads. "WE GAVE COLORADO A 5TH DOWN WE AREN'T PAYING FOR THEIR BEER!"

Like most gimmicky restaurants, The 5th Down Bar & Grill, near the northern Columbia city limits, is deliberate with its theme. It’s a sports bar celebrating a Missouri game many Tiger fans would rather forget. In fact, many have — for the most part.

The bar sells T-shirts, the back of which read “We got Buffaloed.” Or maybe you’d prefer the one that isn’t for sale. It’s framed near the bathroom and lists the referees and the infamous game’s score — kind of.

Missouri 31
Colorado 27
J.C. Louderback & Crew 6
(plus 5 down bonus)

It’s been almost 25 years since Oct. 6, 1990, when referees messed up and the powerhouse Colorado Buffaloes received an extra down they used to beat Missouri in a football game’s final moments. Twenty-five years. That’s enough time for wounds to heal and fade. Enough time to learn to laugh.

Whoever wrote the menu at The 5th Down Bar & Grill could’ve had more fun with it. No comedic descriptions. No fifth-down themed entrees — though “buffalo” is missing in front of the word “wings.” The fried mushrooms aren’t fully-coated in breading. The fried coating is more phonebook yellow than golden brown. Combine that with the areas of black, unadulterated mushroom, and the dish reminds you of the Colorado Buffaloes’ colors.

But that probably wasn’t intentional. People at this bar don’t pay much mind to the Fifth-Down Game, really. Patrons occasionally ask for Coors, according to a bartender named Beth. She wouldn’t provide her last name. She said she’s lived in Columbia all her life, and too many.

**Y E A R S L A T E R**

Memories of Missouri’s infamous “Fifth-Down Game” against Colorado live on as a source of humor.

By AARON REISS

**25 YEARS LATER**


Missouri chain crew member Rich Montgomery held the down marker during Missouri’s infamous Fifth-Down Game 25 years ago.
people know her. And perhaps she doesn’t want readers finding out she doesn’t know the story behind the game, maybe the most infamous in Tiger history.

“I don’t do sports,” she said.

If someone asks for Coors, Beth directs them to the white sign above a booth: It offers four paragraphs about the game’s history.

When Damon Turley opened the bar, he intended to sell no Colorado beers. The banner advertising no Coors just answered for the most-requested among them. But Turley has since sold the place. And now there are some Colorado brews available, Blue Moon and Fat Tire.

Twenty-five years after the Fifth-Down Game, the theme has gone soft.

**The details of the fateful game**

A refresher on the early-October day that led to a theme at a Columbia bar:

Colorado came to Memorial Stadium in 1990 to face a Missouri team that won just two games the previous year. The Buffaloes were 3-1-1. The Tigers were 2-2.

Missouri was up 31-27 in the game’s final moments, running a quarterback to throw the ball into the ground to stop the clock but lose a down. Second down, 28 seconds left. Colorado ran the ball to the Missouri 1-yard line, and then called a timeout. Eighteen seconds remained.

It should’ve been third down, but the down marker on the sideline didn’t change. This is where wild explanations run free: The spectator in the stands suffering from a heart attack distracted the chain crew. The new spike rule confused referees.

On its second attempt at a second down, Colorado ran the ball again but ended up short of the end zone. Without another timeout, the Buffaloes spiked the ball on what should’ve been fourth down, but it was called third down. Two seconds remained. On the next play, Colorado’s fifth down, quarterback Charles Johnson tumbled into the end zone.

Or did he? Some photos show him short of the end zone, then stretching his arms out after he hits the ground. Referees ruled it a touchdown. It was controversy on top of a controversy. Colorado won. The Buffaloes went on to win the national championship.

Missouri finished 4-7, the best mark in Stull’s forgettable five-year tenure. He was done three seasons later, after three-straight three-win seasons.

“It was one of those warp-in-time moments that you can’t explain,” said Jeff Montgomery, a former Missouri football player and current member of the chain crew at the Tigers’ home football games.

He had the lowest job on the totem pole on that day 25 years ago. He stood where the drive began. His father, Rich Montgomery, was the crew’s top member; he held the down marker. He still does now.

It’s Rich Montgomery’s 46th season as a part of the Missouri chain crew, whose job it is to keep track of the down and distance. The Tigers didn’t cut him or any of the other crew members after the gaffe against Colorado. Technically, it isn’t their job to know the down — just to change it as the referee says. Rich Montgomery said the referees didn’t tell him to on that day, so he trusted them. That sounds overly simple, but that’s how he explains it. Same goes for his friend on the chain crew, Mike Happ.

“I’ve gotten to know a lot of people since then that have asked me, ‘What the hell happened down there? What’s going on? How’d it happen? Can you recount each down?’” Happ said. “I keep saying, ‘No, I can’t exactly.’”

Still, 25 years later, it’s easy to associate their jobs — which they said are unpaid — with the events of that day. Earlier in the 1990 season, before the Fifth-Down Game, the chain crew posed for a photo. There was supposed to be a story about the group in a game day program. But in the aftermath of the fifth down, the crew has seen no story or photo published.

**The chain operator doesn’t dwell**

About five years after the Fifth-Down Game, Montgomery was on a Caribbean cruise and heard a conversation about the Missouri defeat that shouldn’t have been. “Oh my gosh,” he thought. “You can’t get away from it wherever you go.”
So it was around that time he began to let go. Jeff Montgomery, who worked as a graduate assistant then as director of football operations for Missouri from 1992-1996, gave his dad a down marker with a “5” on it. Rich Montgomery also framed a poster, titled “Fifth and Goal.” It’s an illustration of Colorado’s last run: players are piled up at the goal line, a referee has his hands down — no TD signaled yet — and a man on the sideline is holding a down marker with a “5” at the top.

Right after the game, on the way home to suburban Kansas City, Montgomery vomited after hearing on the radio Colorado scored on a fifth down. It’s easy to see why Montgomery felt so sick; he’s a huge Missouri fan. His basement features tigers he’s collected from places around the world and a set of golf balls for each team in the old Big 12, with Colorado one turned upside down. His cellphone ringtone is the Missouri fight song, and his license plate reads “BGTIGR.”

He’d go back and stop the referees if he could. He’d tell them they messed up. But he can’t. So he’s moved on. He took the advice of his former boss at an insurance agency: “Don’t sweat the small stuff — and everything is small stuff.”

So at this point Montgomery can laugh at it. He can lean back in a chair at his kitchen table and ask, “What’s that saying? It’s better to be infamous sometimes than famous?” And maybe he’s a little bit of both. He framed a Kansas City Star article from the game’s 10-year anniversary. He and his sons, Jeff and Mark, now also part of Missouri’s chain crew, had an ESPN College GameDay segment air about them at the 20-year anniversary. Before each game they bump fists and say, “No fifth this time.”

Montgomery owns a “Fifth Down” poster signed by both head coaches from the game, Stull and Colorado’s Bill McCartney. Montgomery secured McCartney’s autograph at a retreat in Colorado for McCartney’s Christian men’s organization. Montgomery had to get past a security guard to get to McCartney, which he did by saying, “It’s about the fifth down game. He’ll understand.”

McCartney wrote above his signature, “They tend to even out.”

One problem: He addressed the message on the poster to Rick, not Rich. Rich Montgomery thinks that’s funny. Twenty-five years after the game, maybe all Missouri fans can do is laugh.

A poster company is born (and dies)

Like anything with the Fifth-Down Game, there’s an almost impossible story behind that Fifth-Down poster. Bill White grew up in Clarksburg, Missouri, roughly an hour’s drive southwest from Columbia. He’s a Missouri fan. He was coming back from a Tigers football game in 1985, headed to his current home of Grand Island, Nebraska, while listening to a St. Louis Cardinals-Kansas City Royals World Series game. Game 6, more specifically. The one where umpire Don Denkinger’s controversial call at first base sparked a Royals rally and prevented St. Louis from clinching the series. Kansas City ultimately won the title.
White owned a printing company, and after the game ended, his friend called him with a request: “Make a picture of that for me.” So White commissioned a painting of the controversial call for his friend. And he printed duplicates of the painting at his store. The Bad Call Poster Company was born. A Sports Illustrated article gave the poster publicity and boosted sales. The venture was successful enough for White to make another poster five years later, after the Fifth-Down Game. “We kind of did it because it was a lark,” White, 83, said. “It grew out of proportion.”

The Bad Call Poster Company sold thousands of copies, White said. Then 2006 happened. White and his son’s printing company purchased a brand new, high-speed label printer. A cable overheated. A fire filled the building, scorching posters. White’s son, Tim, sold the company and now sells farming supplies.

There’s no longer a large-format printer in Grand Island, Bill White said. So the Bad Call Poster Company and its “Fifth and Goal” print are dead. The memory of the game fades with every poster that isn’t made.

**Missouri makes most of miserable moments**


“While it doesn’t match the significance of the first three items above, it’s never good to get bad news like this: We’re sorry to report that the page you requested does not exist at this location.”

That’s the message you see if you find a broken link in Missouri athletics’ recently redesigned website. It lists two infamous football defeats and a sudden, shocking basketball loss to UCLA, in which Tyus Edney scored in a layup in the game’s final seconds to top the Tigers in the 1995 NCAA Tournament’s Round of 32. The message is lighthearted and self-deprecating. It’s an embodiment of how Missouri views the Fifth-Down Game today.

Most students at MU now weren’t alive when the game took place. The thought of a Fifth-Down Game happening now? Simply inconceivable. There’s instant replay. There’s countless forms of communication. A mistake like that wouldn’t happen.

But other moments — ones that make a Tiger fan feel cursed or screwed or whatever word you want to assign — still could. Like the flea-kicker in 1997, when a Nebraska receiver booted a ball into the air for a teammate to catch and score a touchdown. It happened in the same north end zone where the fifth down occurred. Or Andrew Baggett’s 24-yard shank against South Carolina, which mounted a 17-point fourth quarter comeback on homecoming to ruin Missouri’s perfect 2013 season — also in that end zone.

“I would like to believe that something bad like this, we keep it alive so it can never happen again,” Turley, the original owner of The 5th Down Bar & Grill, said. “But I don’t truly believe that’s the case. The people who know what it is and still talk about it are on the losing side of it.”

He continued: “It’s almost that beating Missouri, in a crazy way, is a good way to go on to crazy things. I guess we get tired of being people’s springboard, if you will.” UCLA won that year’s basketball title. Colorado won the 1990 football national championship.

Turley, who said he sold the bar because he only had custody of his child on weekends, which is not ideal for a bar owner, said he watches Missouri sports waiting for the next infamous moment. He expects the Tigers to lose. So the Fifth-Down Game? He’ll remember it for another 25 years and then some. He originally wanted the slogan of his bar to be “Fans who live in misery never forget.”

But the details and the pain have faded. There’s nothing left to do but laugh and move on. There’s even a bit of nagging at the bar every now and again.

“Oh, it’s been 25 years,” customers say. “Sell me a Coors Light.”

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Ian Simon was always in the mix. Quite literally.
Before he became one of Missouri football’s four captains, he was a toddler messing around in his family’s pantry. One night, his mother, Daphne Simon, found him with his hands in a box of Bisquick pancake mix.
That was her boy, restless as ever. He’d climb furniture. He’d hike up the phone bill making calls to his grandparents without his mother knowing. He’d sneak food into his room. One time, Daphne Simon found apples and peanut butter in her middle son’s pillow case.
“He was always getting into things,” she said.

One thing Ian Simon didn’t gravitate toward? Soccer. He wanted to play football, but his mom thought the sport was too dangerous. He instead played soccer in third and fourth grade, and he didn’t like it. But he made it physical.
He pulled out “football moves,” Daphne Simon said. He’d knock kids over and make tackles.
“I don’t think he’ll ever forgive me for that,” she said of Ian Simon’s soccer career.
She shouldn’t have been surprised her son embraced roughness. Once, his father broke Ian Simon’s arm while changing his diaper. Little harm was done to the boy. His father, though? That’s a different matter.
“After that,” Daphne Simon said, “my husband never changed a diaper.”
Ian Simon moved on. He almost constantly played football outside with his two brothers. When he wasn’t doing that, he was mowing the lawn — voluntarily.
Or playing his clarinet. Or messing with his train set.
“He just liked to go,” Daphne Simon said. “Go, go, go.”

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Former coach has different perspective on ‘Fifth Down Game’

Missouri fans lament the fact that Colorado used an extra down to beat the Tigers in 1990, but that error isn’t the only reason former coach Bob Stull took issue with the way the game ended.

By MICHAEL MANDELL

Bob Stull knows there’s more to the story than an erroneously-granted fifth down.

That’s the part everybody remembers: On Oct. 6, 1990, Colorado quarterback Charles Johnson scored a touchdown when his team was given five chances to reach the end zone instead of four. The No. 12 Buffaloes beat Missouri 33-31 at Memorial Stadium en route to their first and only national championship.

That memory is deeply etched into Missouri lore and has become symbolic of the Tigers’ misfortune over the years. The play’s 25th anniversary is approaching. No play in Missouri football history is more infamous.

Stull, who coached the Missouri football team from 1989 to 1993, remembers the date, and the fifth down, all too well.

When you ask Stull about the game, his frustration goes beyond the simply fact that Colorado received an extra down.

Referees blew other calls, he said. Missouri should have won — even after the fifth down.

According to Stull, Colorado coach Bill McCartney told the referees to stop the clock if Missouri players tried to form a pile on top of the ball carrier after a Colorado run play. The referees did stop the clock after Missouri defenders tackled Colorado running back Eric Bieniemy short of the goal line, but Stull wasn’t happy with that.

“They stopped it because they thought we were piling up on their players, but we weren’t,” Stull said. “We got back right away, but they blew it anyway. That gave them like five, six seconds more when the game would’ve ended.”

Instead, Colorado spiked the ball on fourth down with two seconds left. Cue the bedding.

As Missouri fans jumped over the brick walls separating the Faurot Field turf from the bleachers, Johnson took the fifth-down snap, rolled slightly to the right side and dove into the end zone. Missouri fans and players were certain the Tigers stopped him short of the goal line, but the referee signaled a touchdown for Colorado.

Back in 1990, refs could not use instant replay. The call has stood for 25 years.

Much of the discussion surrounding the “Fifth Down Game” revolves merely around the fact that there was a fifth down. Little attention is paid to what actually happened on the play, and Stull wishes that would change.

“Nobody thinks about that or seems to pay attention to that,” Stull said. “If we’d stopped him on that down, nothing would’ve mattered. That’s why the call had us all shaking our heads.”

It’s difficult to tell whether or not Stull’s claim is correct — especially considering the video technology from two and a half decades ago.

From one angle, Johnson is obscured behind Colorado and Missouri linemen. Although Johnson is visible from another angle, the lack of depth makes it impossible to see exactly where he went down. Two additional angles suggest Johnson was probably short of the goal line, but the film is still inconclusive.

Missouri appealed the game, but Big 8 commissioner Carl James said it was “not a post-game correctable error.”

In Stull’s opinion, the call was clear.

“We stopped them,” he said. “... Even with the extra play, we still should’ve won.”

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Mizzou kicker Andrew Baggett nearing a new legacy — maybe

Andrew Baggett is close to breaking Missouri’s all-time scoring record, but a miss against South Carolina is likely his legacy. By AARON REISS

When Andrew Baggett lines up for a field goal, his mind can travel different paths.

He knows the mental approach he shouldn’t have: He shouldn’t consider outside pressure. He knows the mental approach he should have: He should believe entirely he will make the field goal. It takes time to master the mental control.

Baggett has no problem sharing. He’ll walk you through the process.

Unless you want to know about that kick.

You know, the one against South Carolina in 2013. The 24-yarder that doinked off the left upright, and could’ve sent Missouri’s homecoming game to triple overtime but instead left the Gamecocks storming the field. “Oh, no!” the ESPN broadcaster yelled as the football hit the turf. Oh yes, Missouri’s entire team blew a 17-point fourth quarter lead, and the kicker would soon absorb the vitriol from fans.

Yeah, that kick.

“I’m not getting into that stuff,” Baggett said in mid-September.

Which mental state was he occupying? The one that acknowledges pressure? The mostly confident one? The absolutist?

Baggett won’t say.

“I just missed the kick,” Baggett said. And that’s all he said.

Evidently, the kick remains a dark moment for the senior from Lee’s Summit, though maybe it shouldn’t. Missouri still won the Southeastern Conference East division that season, and the Tigers still won the Cotton Bowl. A made field goal wouldn’t have necessarily landed them in a better bowl, or the national championship game. An SEC Championship game win over Auburn might have — but Baggett’s kick would have simply prolonged a game in which Missouri had already imploded.

But such is the life of a kicker — vilified for mistakes, unnoticed for successes. Baggett is 43 points from breaking Missouri’s all-time scoring record. But a relatively inconsequential miss is likely his legacy.

Unless, of course, you remember the pair of 50-yarders he hit coming game to triple overtime but instead left the Gamecocks storming the field. “Oh, no!” the ESPN broadcaster yelled as the football hit the turf. Oh yes, Missouri’s entire team blew a 17-point fourth quarter lead, and the kicker would soon absorb the vitriol from fans.

Yeah, that kick.
“I’m sure he’s aware of it,” Baggett’s high school special teams coach Brian Glenski said. “Do I think it bothers him? Maybe not in the sense ‘I want to be liked by everybody.’ But I think it would bother everybody.”

Last season, Missouri beat South Carolina 21-20. Baggett’s extra point with less than two minutes remaining was the deciding one. Kim Baggett said it wasn’t redemption for her son. She had her fingers crossed when he attempted the kick, and thinks Andrew Baggett felt relieved afterward.

“He’s had more ups than downs,” said Ty Kohl, Baggett’s former head coach at Lee’s Summit North. “There’s a lot more positive than negative with Andrew Baggett and his career at Missouri.”

Missouri’s quiet offense has prevented Baggett from racking up many points through four games this season. But he’s been reliable. Baggett is six of seven on field goal attempts and made nine of nine extra points.

Barring injury, Baggett is on pace to break the program record with a few games remaining in his senior season. If the offense finds its footing, he might even be able to add a cushion.

His mother thinks that’s “totally amazing.” Andrew Baggett was a soccer player starting at 4 years old. He didn’t begin kicking footballs until his junior year of high school. So Kim Baggett never thought her son would kick in college. Now that he has, she’s keeping the record in mind — even if she doesn’t talk to him about it.

“We’re counting down,” she said. “No pressure on him.”

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U.S. News and World Report
2015 Hospital Rankings

#1 Hospital in Central Missouri

#3 Hospital in Missouri

High Performer in Treatment for
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Boone Hospital Center would like to thank our entire team of caregivers and medical staff members for their dedication to our patients. Congratulations to Boone Pulmonary Medicine, Columbia Orthopaedic Group and Missouri Heart Center for the recognition of services you provide to our patients as high performing. It's another reason to choose Boone.