How raising a son with autism brings out patience and compassion within MU’s defensive line coach

Page 10
November 10-11, 2017 // Columbia Missourian // Tiger Kickoff // 3

CONTENTS

6 OPPONENT PREVIEW: TENNESSEE
After a 1-5 start, Missouri is looking to bounce back for a .500 record. Tennessee is in the middle of one of its worst seasons in the past five years.

8 FAST FIVE WITH DREW LOCK
The junior quarterback, who leads all FBS QBs with 31 passing touchdowns, also reveals the weirdest praise he’s gotten from a fan.

16 TODDLERS TO TIGERS
Missouri linebacker Terez Hall is still wary of telling his mom about all the bumps and bruises he gets on the football field.

SCHEDULE
09/02 vs. Missouri State W 72-43
09/09 vs. South Carolina L 31-13
09/16 vs. Purdue L 35-3
09/23 vs. Auburn L 51-14
10/07 at Kentucky L 40-34
10/14 at Georgia L 53-28
10/21 vs. Idaho W 68-21
10/28 at Connecticut W 52-12
11/04 vs. Florida W 45-16
11/11 vs. Tennessee 6:30 p.m.
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resh off its third consecutive victory and first SEC win of the season, the Missouri football team hosts Tennessee (4-5, 0-5) in the Tigers’ final home game of 2017. During this crucial final stretch of the regular season, the Missourian’s Impossible Quiz begins a stretch of back-to-back weeks spotlighting things you don’t know about the state of Tennessee.

This week, it’s the Volunteers and their hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee. From the drink Coca-Cola debuted at the 1982 World’s Fair held in Knoxville to the famous Scopes Monkey Trial and the year all Jack Daniel’s products were diluted from 86 to 80 proof, this week’s quiz will leave you stumped.

So, how well do you know The Volunteer State?

1 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING JERSEY NUMBERS HASN’T BEEN RETIRED BY TENNESSEE FOOTBALL?
A 91  
B 16  
C 45  
D 31

2 COCA-COLA DEBUTED WHAT DRINK AT THE 1982 WORLD’S FAIR IN KNOXVILLE?
A Cherry Coke  
B Powerade  
C Diet Coke  
D Fresca

3 THE FAMOUS SCOPES MONKEY TRIAL TOOK PLACE IN WHICH TENNESSEE TOWN?
A Greenbrier  
B Fairview  
C Ripley  
D Dayton

4 COLUMBIA, TENN., IS KNOWN AS THE ______ CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.
A Underwear  
B Mule  
C Turtle  
D Walking horse

5 FOUR MEMBERS OF THE COLQUITT FAMILY PUNTED IN THE NFL AFTER CAREERS AT UT. WHO RECORDED THE LONGEST PUNT DURING HIS TIME IN THE PROS?
A Dustin  
B Craig  
C Jimmy  
D Britton

6 TENNESSEE ALUM CONSTANCE SHULMAN WAS A VOICE ACTRESS IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING 1990S CARTOON SERIES?
A “Darkwing Duck”  
B “Rugrats”  
C “Doug”  
D “Hey Arnold!”

7 WHEN WAS TENNESSEE’S STATE ARTIFACT, A STONE NATIVE AMERICAN STATUE KNOWN AS “SANDY,” DISCOVERED BY A TENANT FARMER WORKING IN WILSON COUNTY?
A 1947  
B 1922  
C 1939  
D 1916

8 THE TENNESSEE WOMEN’S ROWING TEAM IS THE ONLY UT TEAM THAT DOESN’T COMPETE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE. WHICH CONFERENCE IS THE TEAM A MEMBER OF?
A American Athletic Conference  
B Big 12  
C Atlantic Coast Conference  
D Sun Belt

9 FORMER UT QUARTERBACK CONDREDGE HOLLOWAY IS A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE HALL OF FAME. WHICH TEAM DID HE LEAD TO A CFL TITLE IN 1983?
A Edmonton Eskimos  
B Ottawa Rough Riders  
C Toronto Argonauts  
D Winnipeg Blue Bombers

10 IN WHAT YEAR WERE ALL JACK DANIEL’S PRODUCTS DILUTED FROM 86 TO 80 PROOF WITHOUT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OR CHANGE IN PACKAGING?
A 2002  
B 1987  
C 1994  
D 2009

Answer key: 1 (D); 2 (A); 3 (D); 4 (B); 5 (A); 6 (C); 7 (C); 8 (B); 9 (C); 10 (A)
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OPPONENT PREVIEW

TIGERS LOOK TO CAPITALIZE AGAINST SKIDDING TENNESSEE

BY TYLER KRAFT
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n both of the past two seasons, Mis-

souri encountered Tennessee at the

wrong time.

The Volunteers were in the midst

of winning streaks when they faced

the Tigers in both 2015 and 2016. On

each occasion, Tennessee extended its

winning streak, with a 19-8 then 63-37

victory.

But in 2017, the roles are reversed.

This time, it is Missouri that finds

itself in the midst of a winning streak,

which currently sits at three games

thanks to blowout wins over Idaho,

Connecticut and Florida. Meanwhile,

Tennessee has lost four of its past five

games, with the sole victory coming

against Southern Mississippi.

Tennessee is not the threat it once

was. The Volunteers lost defensive end

Derek Barnett and running back Alvin

Kamara to the NFL Draft, while dual-

threat quarterback Josh Dobbs graduat-

ed. Those losses alone would have been

enough to set the team back, but a mul-

titude of injuries since the start of the

new season has the roster looking like a

skeleton of what it was in 2016. The Vols

are missing two starting receivers, one

starting offensive lineman, their origi-

nal starting quarterback, two lineback-

ers and two safeties.

Missouri should have an easier time

defending Tennessee than it did a

year ago because of the injuries. Now,

instead of worrying about the differ-
ent ways that Dobbs could attack, the

Tigers need look no further than run-

ning back John Kelly.

Kelly is one of the few playmakers to

have returned for the Volunteers and

has performed well as the main run-

ning back. The junior is on his way to

a 1,000-yard season, with 730 rushing

yards in eight games to go along with

eight touchdowns.

With a team-high 27 catches, Kelly is

also Tennessee’s main contributor in

the passing game. Looking past him,

there aren’t many pieces of Tennessee’s

offense that pose a significant threat to

THEY PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE. THEY
HAVE GOOD PLAYERS ON THE OUTSIDE, GUYS
WITH SPEED.”

JOSH HEUPEL, Missouri offensive coordinator,
about the Vols’ pass defense

Missouri quarterback Will McBride throws to a receiver in the second half of Saturday’s game against Southern Mississippi at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, Tennessee. Tennessee beat Southern Mississippi 24-10. WADE PAYNE/The Associated Press
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Missouri quarterback Drew Lock prepares to throw the football at Missouri’s Homecoming game against Idaho on Oct. 21 at Memorial Stadium in Columbia. The Tigers beat the Vandals 68-21. EMIL LIPPE/Missourian

He is a craftsman. He has an eye for making your home beautiful and a heart for providing value and safety.

He is a member of the Manor Roofing Team.

FAST FIVE WITH DREW LOCK

1 WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING FOOD?
“It’s got to be the cranberry sauce on the turkey.”

2 WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAM AND WHY?
“Probably the Royals, being from Kansas City. And I didn’t get to play baseball very long, but I love the sport.”

3 IF YOU WERE TO PLAY ANY OTHER POSITION IN FOOTBALL, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?
“Wide receiver. Best hands on the team.”

4 WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?
“Oh, my gosh, I have so many. I really like getting the whole family together for Thanksgiving, and my mom and her side of the family do a little Black Friday shopping. We all hung out for a couple of days when we got to, but nowadays my favorite holiday tradition is going and beating the Arkansas Razorbacks.”

5 WHAT’S THE WEIRDEST PRAISE YOU’VE GOTTEN FROM A FAN?
“Wow. There are a couple of weird ones. I saw a homeless man holding a sign that said ‘Drew Lock’ on it just the other week. It was downtown, and that was one of the more weirder things.”

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BRICK paves the ROAD for Missouri’s defensive line by Peter Baugh
Missouri’s first-year defensive line coach has a hardened exterior, but, to truly understand him, you need to hear about his 17-year-old son.

There’s no definitive story of how Andrea Haley picked up the nickname “Brick,” but there are plenty of legends. One says he crashed into a wall playing football as a kid. He wasn’t hurt, but he left a chip in the bricks.

His sister-in-law said a local newspaper might have given him the name in high school. A picture showed him tackling an opponent, and the headline read something like, “The brick wall has arrived.”

Haley’s wife heard a story about a car hitting her husband as a kid. He was completely unfazed — tough as bricks.

In many ways, the name fits him. He coaches a physical, sometimes violent, game. Players may tower over his small, stocky frame, but he can kidnap their attention with a few sharp yells. He’s undisputedly tough.

But the name Brick does not reflect Haley’s other side. To understand that, you need to hear about his 17-year-old son, A.J., and his journey with autism. You need to witness his patience and see how he listens. He’s never afraid to talk about love, no matter if he’s talking to his kid or a 350-pound lineman.

“A big, ol’ defensive football player is supposed to be all rough and rowdy,” said Alice Haley, his sister-in-law. “And he is — he gets down to it. But...
A.J. (Andrea Jr.) is named after his father, but the two are drastically different. Brick loves Western films. A.J. hates them. Brick is a full-time coach. A.J. couldn't care less about sports. The dad is a natural communicator. The son struggles with social skills.

Brick started to notice abnormal traits in his son at 4 or 5 years old; A.J. was diagnosed with autism as an 8-year-old. "I instantly was crushed," Brick Haley said.

The coach had dreams of his son becoming an athlete. The diagnosis altered his hopes.

It took Brick weeks to come to grips with his son's situation. He wondered how he could make everything right. How could he best help A.J.?

"When you're blessed with a child that has a challenge, it makes you rethink life," said Harriet Murray, one of Haley's high school teachers who has served as a mentor. "He knows now that he didn't know everything. ... It's just a reality check that it's not all unicorns and rainbows."

In the weeks of turbulence, there were constants. Haley's love for A.J. never wavered, and the family was able to embrace their son's situation.

"What else are you going to do?" Tina Haley said.

A.J. is now at Rock Bridge High School. He is shy before you get to know him but leaps into Brick's arms whenever Dad walks through the front door of the house. He acts out movie scenes with his brother, Jeremy. He believes in routines, organizing chicken bones in a straight line whenever he eats wings, and his parents can count on him to do his dishes after dinner.

Brick, 51, and Tina have given A.J. some background information on autism. They've made sure he has confidence; he does not see anything wrong with himself.

"He'll tell you, 'Yeah, I've got an (Individualized Education Plan), but that doesn't mean I'm not smart,'" Brick Haley said. "He's kind of embraced it."

Tina Haley always makes a point to visit school when her son has a new teacher. Earlier this month, A.J. switched classes at Rock Bridge, and Tina met with his new instructor. They talked about respect and how it's a virtue that can be taught.

The Haley parents do not put up with disrespect in their house, and they want teachers and other adults to hold their children accountable. Tina told A.J.'s teacher that, if he ever gives her trouble, she should threaten to "call Momma." That should straighten him up.

"If he doesn't," Tina said, "Daddy is the big guns."

Brick, one of 10 children, was raised with community discipline in the 11th Street projects in Gadsden, Alabama. His mother worked two jobs, so his siblings and neighbors helped raise him. If he stepped out of line, no one was afraid to tell his mom, a loving woman, but not someone you wanted to anger.

"His momma would wear him out," Alice Haley said. "She's a little-bitty woman." Brick Haley added. "But she is tough."

**Brick road to success**

Nakia Cahill was driving on a main road in Roswell, Georgia, in 2013 when Brick Haley called.

Listening to Haley's voice, she knew he wanted to have a serious conversation. She pulled her Nissan Armada into a local park and got out of the car.

"I knew it wasn't something that I could drive and still think about and be effective," Cahill said.

Cahill is the executive director of
Brick Road to Success, Haley’s foundation. She wandered around the park on the sunny spring day, stopped at a bench along a river and listened to the coach speak.

Haley started the foundation while coaching with the Chicago Bears in 2008. It hosted football camps for underprivileged kids, but NCAA restrictions made hosting camps difficult when Haley agreed to coach at LSU. The foundation became more grant-based and did not host events.

But Haley wanted to do something new. His wife suggested focusing on the thing that had directly impacted their family: autism.

“We just needed to focus on one thing,” Tina Haley said. “Why not that?”

Brick Haley proposed a golf tournament to Cahill. The fundraiser would be held in his hometown of Gadsden, and money could go toward autism research. As they talked, a sense of excitement rose in Cahill’s chest. She could see the tournament growing.

The next June, Cahill and Haley made their vision a reality. The opening tournament in 2014 raised $7,000 for the Alabama chapter of Autism Speaks, an organization dedicated to autism research and awareness. The annual event has brought in almost $40,000 to date.

At this summer’s event, Haley posed for pictures throughout the day. He mingled with old friends and proudly sported a Missouri visor.

A local Kia dealership provided a $25,000 car that golfers could win if they made a hole-in-one. Football memorabilia was sprawled across auction tables. Participants could bid on everything from a jersey signed by Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller to an autographed Eli Manning football. The tournament is a hit around Gadsden — most years, the mayor even makes an appearance.

A.J’s role has grown over the past few tournaments. He rides in a golf cart and helps distribute water to players. Sometimes, he fires the starter’s pistol.

As the tournament wound down in June, around 100 people crowded into the golf course dining area. Brick started by offering a few words of thanks, and his family walked to the front of the room. A.J. helped present the jumbo-sized cardboard check, and they stood in a line and posed for a picture.

It’s an encouraging scene for Brick, who can remember a time his son would never have
presented something publicly. “He’s telling the world, ‘I’ve got this,’” Alice Haley said.

**Lasting lessons**

Defensive end Jordan Harold and his fellow linemen escaped the hot Missouri sun one day over the summer. They filed inside the team’s air-conditioned meeting room and gathered around their coach.

Though he teaches a rugged sport, Haley makes sure to talk about love. He treats his players like family and trusts them. That day, he told them about his childhood and about his experiences raising a son with autism. “You felt it in the room,” Harold said. “It touched everyone.”

Haley makes efforts to connect with the team outside of football settings. His family hosted a team dinner for players in town over the Fourth of July. Tina Haley says there was plenty to go around: plates of baby back ribs, hot dogs and burgers, deviled eggs and homemade strawberry ice cream.

A.J. was at the dinner and interacted with the Missouri players. Defensive end Tre Williams said Haley often tells the linemen about A.J.’s big heart, and he enjoyed meeting him at the dinner. “I tell them, ‘Don’t treat them any different,’” Haley said. “He’s no different than any other kid. It may take him a little while to get used to you, but sooner or later after he sees you here for a while, he’ll warm up to you.”

Before Missouri’s blowout win over Florida, Haley wandered around Faurot Field. He hugged opposing coaches and mingled with the referees. Then it was time to prepare his players.

“Let’s go,” he barked. “Let’s go to work.”

As the players went through one-on-one drills, Haley strode behind each pairing. He watched intently, ready to help in whatever way possible.

“When he gets on us, we know it’s out of love,” Harold said. “To have that side of it, it makes us trust and believe in him way more.”

A day later, you could see Haley’s impact on Los Angeles Rams nose tackle Michael Brockers. Brockers played under Haley at LSU, and he collected four tackles in a 51-17 win over the New York Giants.

But the impact wasn’t on the field. The lineman had called Haley a few days earlier. He was designing new cleats for later in the season, and he wanted them to feature the Brick Road to Success logo.

Supervising editors are Brooks Holton and Pete Bland.
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HALL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAMA’S BOY

Terez Hall has been playing football since he was 7 years old, but the junior linebacker still gets uneasy when he has to tell his mom, Felicia Hall, about his injuries.

BY ANNE ROGERS
sports@columbiamissourian.com

Terez Hall knew his collarbone was broken. It hurt like crazy, but he couldn’t tell Ma. She might take him off the football team.

For the 11-year-old, the thought of not playing football was worse than having his Nintendo games taken away.

So, he just didn’t tell her about the injury. Hall kept playing until his coaches noticed he was struggling and took him out of the game.

Once Hall’s parents were notified—much to his dismay—and the trip to the emergency room was finalized, he had to sit out the rest of the season.

Felicia Hall—“Ma” to Terez—allowed her son to play the next season. And the next, and the next. Good thing, too, because the Missouri linebacker is tied for 11th in the SEC in total tackles and seventh in solo tackles through nine games of the 2017 season.

Hall’s football abilities have escalated since he was 11, but one thing remains constant. He’s wary of letting his mom know when he’s injured, even now as a junior in college.

“He’s scared I’ll come up and tell him that he has to get off the team and he can’t play no more,” Felicia Hall said.

Hall has always been worried about his mom. That’s because he’s a mama’s boy and has been since he was little.

If the mother-son pair aren’t at one of Hall’s sporting events, their favorite thing to do is travel. Hardly a weekend in Hall’s childhood passed that they weren’t somewhere new: amusement parks, mountains, zoos and more.

But his favorite place? Ruby Falls in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The 145-foot underground waterfall amazed 7-year-old Hall when they went for the first time.

“He couldn’t believe that you got in the escalator to go down into the Earth,” Felicia Hall said. “And then we got to the waterfall, and he just fell in love with it.”

The same year as the Ruby Falls trip, Hall began playing football. He had already been playing rec basketball for two years, but his interest for football grew when he watched Michael Vick play.

“Told me,” Felicia remem-

HE TOLD ME, ‘MOM, AIN’T NOBODY GONNA STOP ME. NOBODY, MOM. I’M TELLING YOU, WHEN I GET ON THAT FIELD, I’M GONNA BE JUST LIKE MICHAEL VICK.”

FELICIA HALL about a young Terez
A young Terez Hall, now a starting linebacker for Missouri who is tied for 11th in the SEC in total tackles, poses for a portrait. Courtesy of FELICIA HALL

bered about her young son, ‘Mom, ain't nobody gonna stop me. Nobody, Mom. I’m telling you, when I get on that field, I’m gonna be just like Michael Vick.’"

Instead of a quarterback, though, he turned into the linebacker who eats quarterbacks for breakfast. Still, nobody would stop him. Nobody.

Hall played both football and basketball until his junior year in high school, when he switched schools and didn’t get as much playing time on the court. He decided he would focus on football. It seemed to be the right choice.

“He blew up,” his mother said. “I mean, just blew up. We started receiving calls on calls for playing college ball.”

The recruiting calls flowed in, but Hall never let it get to his head. His mindset never wavered from the beginning.

“When he goes in on something, he goes in on it hard,” Felicia Hall said. “That same attitude, ain't nothing changed at all.”

The mother and son have always had a special bond, which is why it was hard for Felicia Hall to see her boy move from Lithonia, Georgia, to Columbia for college. She makes it to as many games as she can, but their relationship has done a 180: Instead of traveling, they prefer games at Memorial Stadium — she gets to see her “big baby” more when the Tigers are at home, and Hall gets more time with Ma.

Supervising editors are Brooks Holton and Pete Bland: blandp@missouri.edu, 882-5729.
SCOOTER GANG’ REVISITED:
A NEW GROUP OF TIGERS REVELS IN THE CONVENIENCE OF MOPEDS

Redshirt junior safety Kaleb Prewett felt the need for speed — OK, maybe just fuel economy and convenience — first. Then freshmen Adam Sparks, Aubrey Miller Jr. and Tyree Gillespie.

Megan O’Gorman expected a spike in business at Affordable ATVs as students headed back to Columbia around the start of the fall semester, but she had no idea she was outfitting the newest members of Missouri football’s “Scooter Gang.”

Or that one sale to Prewett would turn into a truckload of excited freshmen pulling up to her business — a midsize showroom 18 minutes east of town on I-70 packed with mopeds, four-wheelers, minibikes, UTVs and even a motorized tank for kids — looking for a set of wheels.

“They all came (to the store) together every single time,” O’Gorman said.

Sparks and his teammates know a good idea when they see it.

“I’m like 20 minutes early to everything now,” Sparks said, “so it was a good buy.”

For those willing to take the plunge, scooters have been the ideal mode of transportation for Missouri football players since at least, according to previous Missourian reporting, former safety William Moore started riding one during his time in Columbia (2004-09). A 2011 article by former football beat writer Harry Plumer details the origins of the Scooter Gang that carried on Moore’s legacy — defensive linemen Brad Madison and Corey Sudhoff, long snapper Beau Brinkley and wide receiver T.J. Moe.

One look at the bike — scooter — racks outside the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex at any hour of the day, and you’ll see mopeds are more popular than ever among student-athletes at MU. The faces have changed, but the vehicle’s benefits and the enticing feeling of cruising past the Columns on a sunny day remain the same.

The standard, most affordable scooter offered at Affordable ATVs, what O’Gorman said has been the go-to choice for the newest members of the Scooter Gang, is the TaoTao ATM 50cc. It’s got a sticker price of $699, comes in seven different colors and includes a six-month warranty. Topping out at around 32 miles per hour, the scooters, O’Gorman said, are considered motorized bikes by state law.

Prewett calls his something else: a lifesaver.

Compared to the truck the players used to get to Affordable ATVs, the...
TaoTao gets at least 100 more miles to the gallon. It can quickly cut through campus and be parked for free on bike racks in front of academic buildings, so players don’t have to worry about tickets piling up. It’s a similar, if not an easier, drive than the dirt bikes Sparks used to ride in his hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and maintenance is straightforward — adjusting the carburetor here and there, making sure the vehicle receives a healthy dose of gas and oil, and storing it in a safe place.


If they do have any technical needs, the new members of the Scooter Gang can always seek guidance from defensive back Finis Stribling IV, the tinkering sage.

Stribling, a redshirt junior physics major with a mechanical mind, has been through three scooters since he arrived at MU as a freshman in 2014. Much to the anxiety of his parents and coaches, the first two were lost to accidents — the latter when he hit an ice patch during the winter — but Stribling has walked away injury-free both times, and his love of mopeds hasn’t waned.

“The breeze when you’re riding it is beautiful,” Stribling said. He’ll pass time during the summer improving the performance of his scooter by watching how-to mechanic videos on YouTube. He’s given his ride a new intake system and has souped up his engine to peak at 55 to 60 miles per hour.

If hearing that makes you worried about players’ safety while riding the scooters, just remember the football field is equally as dangerous — and coaches make sure helmets are worn in both instances.

As long as they don’t pull a 2012 Maty Mauk, they should be OK.

In September, Miller broke his left fibula. Not from a scooter accident, but during a Wednesday practice. The freshman linebacker, who contributed on special teams and was a vocal presence during a players-only meeting after a blowout loss to Purdue, was slated to miss four to six weeks. To add to the poor timing of the injury, he had just ordered his scooter through Affordable ATVs’ online store and had to break the news to O’Gorman when he accompanied Sparks to pick up his blue TaoTao.

At least temporarily, he was sidelined from the Scooter Gang. But he’s returned to the field now, and his brothers behind the wheel have welcomed him back with open arms.
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