As Missouri says goodbye to its Show-Me State seniors, the next generation of Stay-at-Home Tigers is on its way.
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Arkansas enters the Battle Line Rivalry without much going right; the Razorbacks have won just two games all season.

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MISSOURI OFFENSE VS. ARKANSAS DEFENSE

MISSOURI
Kicker: Tucker McCann 19
Punter: Corey Fatony 26
Long snapper: Drew Wise 51

ARKANSAS
Kicker: Connor Limpert 19
Punter: Reid Bauer 28
Long snapper: George Madden 43

ARKANSAS OFFENSE VS. MISSOURI DEFENSE
Fast Five with head athletic trainer

REX SHARP

BY BRENDAN LAVELL

What’s your favorite venue in sports (not including anything at Mizzou)?

My favorite place to go is Texas A&M. I love that stadium. Of course, we traveled there several times and had some success there, which makes it even better. Then, the Cotton Bowl, the new place in Arlington.

Who (has been) your favorite Tiger to watch in your time with the program?

Brad Smith probably. He was a special person in addition to being a tremendous athlete. He had that ability, that knack of bringing a group together.

When you were a kid, what was the first thing you dreamt of being when you grew up?

Boy, it certainly wasn’t an athletic trainer. If it was that, I was grossly mistaken. I think probably, like a lot of kids ... you know what, I do know, it was a truck driver. I can remember sitting in my parents’ car — they used to have this thing, the car seat would have a steering wheel on it, and I used to drive along.

What has been your favorite Mizzou football game in the time that you’ve been here?

I think the 2007 game with Kansas over at Arrowhead Stadium. The game meant so much to both programs, not to mention it was full. There were 20,000 people out in the parking lot who never got in because it was full.

What’s the best concert you’ve ever been to?

Probably Kenny Chesney last summer, at Arrowhead actually. I’ve been over there a couple times with my wife. And we just had a blast.

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THE IMPOSSIBLE QUIZ

10 things you don’t know about Arkansas

Missouri enters Friday’s Battle Line Rivalry on a three-game winning streak. Arkansas, on the other hand, has lost its last three games. However, that doesn’t mean the Razorbacks will just roll over for the Tigers. Far from it. Neither will the Impossible Quiz roll over for you.

From the eating habits of Tusk IV to an Arkansas football player who doubled as an Olympian, and from long field goals to a Cy Young winner, the quiz puts your knowledge of the Razorbacks to the test.

So, how well do you know the Arkansas Razorbacks?

1. What was Arkansas’ original mascot before switching to the Razorbacks in 1910?
   - a. Red Riders
   - b. Cardinals
   - c. Greyhounds
   - d. Hillcats

2. Jerry Jones, who played football at Arkansas, has owned the Dallas Cowboys since 1989. Excluding 2018, how many wins does Dallas have since Jones took over?
   - a. 241
   - b. 252
   - c. 264
   - d. 273

3. Tusk IV, Arkansas’ live mascot, is served what food in celebration of a Razorbacks touchdown?
   - a. Grapes
   - b. Apples
   - c. Corn
   - d. Watermelon

4. Arkansas’ football stadium was named after Donald W. Reynolds, who also has a building named after him in what MU school or college?
   - a. Business
   - b. Law
   - c. Agriculture
   - d. Journalism

5. Clyde “Smackover” Scott played football for Arkansas from 1946-49. He also won silver in what event in the 1948 Summer Olympics?
   - a. 200-meter dash
   - b. Long jump
   - c. 110-meter hurdles
   - d. 100-meter dash

6. Frank Broyles, the winningest coach in Arkansas football history, coached at MU for one year (1957). How many wins did he have that season?
   - a. 5
   - b. 6
   - c. 7
   - d. 8

7. Former Arkansas kicker Steve Little is tied with two others for longest field goal in NCAA history for a kick he made in 1977. How long was the field goal?
   - a. 63 yards
   - b. 65 yards
   - c. 67 yards
   - d. 69 yards

8. Arkansas men’s basketball coach Mike Anderson coached at MU for five seasons. How many wins did he total with the Tigers?
   - a. 87
   - b. 94
   - c. 102
   - d. 111

9. Former Arkansas pitcher Cliff Lee won the AL Cy Young in 2008. Excluding 2018, how many wins does Dallas have since Jones took over?
   - a. 170
   - b. 192
   - c. 219
   - d. 247

10. How many major championships has golfer John Daly, who attended Helias High School and the University of Arkansas, won?
    - a. 2
    - b. 3
    - c. 4
    - d. 5

THE SCHEDULE

Sept. 1  vs. UT Martin, W, 51-14
Sept. 8  vs. Wyoming, W, 40-13
Sept. 15 at Purdue, W, 40-37
Sept. 22 vs. Georgia, L, 43-29
Oct. 6   at South Carolina, L, 37-35
Oct. 13  at Alabama, L, 39-10
Oct. 20  vs. Memphis, W, 65-33
Oct. 27  vs. Kentucky, L, 15-14
Nov. 3   at Florida, W, 38-17
Nov. 10  vs. Vanderbilt, W, 33-28
Nov. 17  at Tennessee, W, 50-17
Nov. 23  vs. Arkansas
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BY BRENDAN LAVELL

Trystan Colon-Castillo feels the entire weight of the state on his shoulders every time the Tigers’ offense is in a do-or-die situation.

Take this season’s Week 3 contest against Purdue, for example. Missouri started a drive at its own 25 with 3:28 to play in a game tied at 37.

“At (that) point in time,” the center said, “the whole state of Missouri is depending on you. You don’t have any choice other than score right here or you let down the state.”

Ten plays later, thanks in part to an offensive line that had anchored a grinding drive, the Tigers kicked a field goal to win the game.

Colon-Castillo grew up in Webb City, a community that loves the Tigers. Students wearing black and gold T-shirts, sweats and even socks filled his high school halls. Representing those supporters now in Columbia is nothing short of surreal for him.

“To come to the school in your state ...,” the red-shirt sophomore said. “Obviously, you’ve got Missouri State, you’ve got SEMO. But this is Mizzou, the University of Missouri. To come here and represent your state is something that I like to think guys from Missouri take personal. I definitely take it personal. I’m representing the state and basically my hometown with everything that I do.”

The Tigers, however, haven’t brought many in-state players into the program in their past two classes. They secured three commitments from Missouri high schoolers in the Class of 2018 and just one in the season before, compared to an average of 7.7 per year from Gary Pinkel’s first class in 2001 through the Pinkel-Barry Odom hodgepodge group in 2016, according to 247Sports.

Missouri natives such as Drew Lock, Kevin Pendleton, Kendall Blanton and Cam Hilton will play the final home game of their careers on Friday against Arkansas. Colon-Castillo and Kearney product Cale Garrett are expected to return next season. Behind them, however, only a small handful of Show-Me Staters seem poised to contribute regularly.

That’s what makes the 15-member (so far) Class of 2019 so vital. Odom has already gained commitments from six Missourians, with room to add a few more. The Tigers picked up 13 recruits after their final regular-season game last year.

Of course, talent is talent no matter where it comes from. Pinkel won back-to-back Southeastern Conference East championships in 2013 and 2014 after his lowest dip in Missouri-based commitments the three years prior — although those teams still featured in-state players such as defensive ends Markus Golden and Kony Ealy, offensive linemen Evan Boehm and Justin Britt, cornerback E.J. Gaines and kicker Andrew Baggett.

That being said, recruiting the state of Missouri well is crucial to the program’s stability. Since 2003,
Pinkel’s third season at the helm, Tigers teams that received commitments from a total of more than 33 in-state high schoolers in the classes one to four years prior, were 9-18 with nine wins per year against four losses, only falling below eight wins once in seven seasons. (That 2005 team still finished 7-5.) Those that included fewer than 33 come in at an average of 7 wins against 5.5 losses, an average record that plummets to 5.7-6.5 if the 2013-14 teams are removed.

Perhaps these numbers are an indicator that Missouri athletes are more likely to stay at home when the program is consistently above average. Maybe there’s something to be said for the devotion and pride most in-state players take in suiting up for Missouri. Either way, if the Tigers are picking up players in their own state, it’s typically a sign of good things to come.

**Show-Me State of mind**

Most Missourians take pride in their home’s “Show-Me State” nickname. The official Mizzou Football Twitter account uses “#ShowMe” as part of the signature on the majority of their tweets. It’s a convenient phrase that helps instill a culture of accountability and work ethic while simultaneously promoting the program’s identity.

Blanton, from Blue Springs, is a beneficiary of the “Show-Me” mindset. When he arrived at the university, the tight end was “a hard-headed kid who didn’t want to listen to anybody.” Blanton thought he was already good enough to be the go-to player at his position. Instead, the team tagged him as a redshirt, effectively humbling the young athlete.

“You can ask a lot of people about me. They probably didn’t like me,” Blanton said. “I got here and kind of got sacked in the face a little bit. I kind of went to look at everybody and see how the older guys were working. And I wasn’t working like that. (I’d) see how the older guys were in this and I wasn’t watching film like that. And all the extra work the other guys did, I (went), ‘OK, I do have to be better. I’ve got to go harder.’”

The redshirt senior said he is blessed to have played football for Missouri and is thankful for the school’s coaches, teachers, fans and others who have helped him become the person he is today.

Colon-Castillo shared a similar story. He was named to the SEC’s all-freshman team after the 2017 season, and it went to his head. “I thought I was hot s--- coming into the spring,” Colon-Castillo shared a similar story. He was named to the SEC’s all-freshman team after the 2017 season, and it went to his head. “I thought I was hot s--- coming into the spring,” Colon-Castillo said. “I thought I was on top of the world, (could) do whatever I want.”

By the third or fourth practice of the spring, recently hired offensive line coach Brad Davis had enough of the redshirt sophomore’s boasting. He started pulling Colon-Castillo aside on and off the field to get a message across: “It doesn’t matter what happened last year. This is a new season. I’m a new coach.”

Colon-Castillo has since improved his demeanor, but he and Davis still talk regularly to stave off the temptation of complacency. “It doesn’t matter who you are, where you are, where you’re at. You’ve got to show me, regardless,” the center said. “You can play for whatever team, whoever you’re playing. We can play in the backyard. We can play in the parking lot or on the football field. It’s the Show-Me State.”

**Growing up with Tigers fans**

Penelton grew up in the Kansas City area with a family divided by the Border War rivalry. His mom, Barbara Heizman, is from Kansas and grew up a Jayhawks fan. His dad, Maurice Penelton, is from Kansas City and grew up a Tigers fan. Kevin Pendleton always loved Missouri, but his younger brother, Joe Pendleton, favored Kansas. Even his stepmother, Kathy Wimpey-Pendleton, is a Kansas alum.

Kevin Pendleton never realized his dream of attending a Border War game at Arrowhead Sta-
“You’ve got to win in your own state,” Garrett added. “We have a lot of talent from out of state as well. But getting guys from Missouri, they’re going to take pride in this being their state and their university and they’re going to want to represent it more than just being a good football team.”

Buford said this recruiting class overall, and especially the in-state recruits, feels a pressure to represent the state and elevate the Missouri program. And they’re embracing it. According to the offensive lineman, those expectations make them want to play harder and “put on a show” for Tigers fans.

The prospects talk among themselves about these topics, and many others, in a Class of 2019 group chat they created. One day, Boone delivered a lofty prediction to his future teammates: Missouri will win a national title in their time with the program, and there will be an ESPN Films “30 for 30” on the St. Louis area players who helped deliver it.

“We want to make history and do what we’ve got to do to change the program,” Buford said. “Because they’re doing great, but we feel like we can push them over that hump.”

**Mizzou-made**

Sometimes on game day, when the Tigers emerge from a tunnel behind the south end zone of Memorial Stadium, Pendleton catches a few seconds of the introductory hype video that announces Missouri’s arrival on Faurot Field. It usually makes him feel a little more amped.

“Just holding up that Missouri state flag,” Pendleton said. “I have so much pride in it and where I’m from, this beautiful state and the beautiful city of Kansas City. ... And the guys like Drew, the guys that are from here and from that city, we take it seriously.

“Guys take pride in their last name and where they’re from. Those are two things that you can’t really choose. ... But you can represent it the right way. And guys — men, men understand that. And women, too, but I’m saying in this sport, guys take that to the extreme. Guys in the locker room will argue about whose state is better. Just little stuff, because that’s what you’re given when you’re brought into this world.”

The Tigers will never be the right team for every single in-state recruit. Picking a college is a very personal decision, and each student-athlete must decide what makes the most sense for himself. But those who do stay tend to bring a chip on their shoulder with them. They want to show out not just for themselves, but for their homes as well. That alone is not enough to win championships, but it can strengthen a program’s identity and sense of purpose.

It’s a good start.

“The Midwest doesn’t always get the (publicity) that Florida gets or Texas gets or California,” Pendleton said. “And we understand that. But we want to go out and show that this is a state that has a lot of pride in what we do. Whether that’s sports, whether that’s in the workforce, whatever that is. We’re a proudful state.

“And we’re going to compete until we can’t anymore.”

Supervising editor is Michael Knisley.
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‘YOU REALLY STARTED TO FEEL IT’: BATTLE LINE RIVALRY PICKING UP STEAM

BY ELI LEDERMAN • Missourian

Like the weight of the rivalry game itself, the Battle Line trophy is heavier than it might appear upon first glance.

Awarded to the winner of the annual day-after-Thanksgiving meeting between Missouri and Arkansas, the silver outline of the two border states stands 4-foot-4, is 2½ feet wide at its base and weighs more than 180 pounds. The strip that stretches across the middle of the trophy is interchangeable — colored in cardinal or gold to signify its most recent recipient — and weighs 25 pounds alone. The trophy is four years old. The rivalry itself is only five.

As with most things, beauty — or in this case importance — lies in the eye of the beholder; the true magnitude of the young Battle Line Rivalry, and in turn the physical trophy that represents it, is still the subject of debate entering the game’s fifth edition Friday afternoon. But for those who have been on the field to experience the rivalry firsthand, like former Missourri linebacker Eric Beisel — who often stoked the flames of the matchup — there is very little question.

This game and this rivalry matters to him, as does the Battle Line trophy. “You play to be able to hoist that trophy at the end of the game,” Beisel said. “It’s an important symbol to us. That trophy has just become a common item in our living room, basically. We own that trophy.”

When Missouri exited the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference in 2012, it left behind long-standing rivalries with Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and, of course, Kansas. In the Jayhawks’ place, the Tigers were given another school from a border state. Missouri has faced the Razorbacks every fall since 2014.

But even now, half a decade removed from its genesis, some within Missouri’s fan base still aren’t sold on the rivalry. To those folks, the annual game is a manufactured event propped up only by its post-Turkey Day billing and the spot it holds

Please see RIVALRY, page 13C

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in recent years, and the return

turn the tide. Trash talk from

the least two years have helped
close out the regular season

though, and tight games to

there with the Razorbacks. Nei-

the football field in 1891, is not

predates their first contest on

Missouri holds with Kansas, which

schedule. The history that Mis-

sas uniforms, a switch flips

out on top in both — but only

once, in 2014, have the teams

met when each had a winning

score. That needs to change

for this rivalry to take the next

step.

But fans won't have to wait

until then if they're looking

for a passionate and ferocious

matchup. The history between

the teams might not be there

yet, but the bad blood certainly

is. It's why even without a true

past to harken back to, this

is. It's why even without a true

past to harken back to, this

This is actually turning into a

war.

whose memories don't stretch

to have energized a younger

generation of Tigers fans

the budding rivalry and seems

for a passionate and ferocious

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is. It's why even without a true

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the early going of this rivalry.

As trash talk and pregame

rhetoric have become a part

of the Battle Line Rivalry,

animosity on the field has fol-

lowed. Whether in Fayetteville

or Columbia, tackles seem to

come in a little higher or a bit

lower, and the hits arrive with

more “purpose,” intended to

send a message. Players get

chippy, which of course only

increases the trash talk, creat-

ing something of a cycle.

Fans on either side can say

what they want; but down on

the field, the rivalry has turned

into something real.

“Every year I've been here,

it's gotten more and more

intense,” Missouri left guard

Kevin Pendleton said. “Every-

body has bought into it. It's

natural when the games start

mattering. You really started
to feel it at (Arkansas') place

last year.”

Although the intensity has

grown steadily in a short peri-

od of time, the Battle Line is

still a long way away from the

Border War. The elevation of

this rivalry will require time

and the development of a histo-

ry between the two teams.

For the latter to come to fru-

ition, Missouri and Arkansas

are going to need to start play-

ing more high-stakes games.

The matchups in 2016 and 2017

were competitive — decided by

four and three points, respec-

tively, with the Tigers coming

out on top in both — but only

once, in 2014, have the teams

met when each had a winning

record. That needs to change

for this rivalry to take the next

step.

The Razorbacks, who come
to Columbia on Friday with a

2-9 record on the season, are

looking to win back the Battle

Line trophy for the first time

since 2015. Missouri's 3-1 edge

over Arkansas has given the

Tigers a "big brother" status in

the early going of this rivalry.

It isn't a status anyone in black

and gold, past or present, is

ready to give up.

“If they want that trophy,

they're going to have to walk

into Missouri's living room and
eat our peanut butter and jelly
sandwich and take our milk,”

Beisel said. "I just don't see

that happening anytime soon.

Supervising editor is Eric Lee.
Razorbacks slouch into Battle Line Rivalry

BY ELI LEDERMAN
sports@columbiamissourian.com

By the time his Tigers strutted off the field at Neyland Stadium after Saturday’s imposing 50-17 win over Tennessee in Knoxville, Barry Odom was already living in a Sunday night world. When he reached the podium for his postgame press conference, he’d already shifted his attention to the future.

Missouri’s annual day-after-Thanksgiving matchup with Arkansas was just five days away.

The short week for the Tigers means every aspect of the team’s preparation was pushed up a day. Activities typically held on Tuesdays took place on Monday. Practice drills reserved for Wednesdays were done on Tuesday, and so on.

“It’s a sprint until Friday,” Odom said Saturday evening. “We’ve got to get back and go to work because it’ll be here really quick.”

When they play host to the Razorbacks in another edition of the recently minted Battle Line Rivalry on Friday afternoon, the Tigers will be facing Arkansas (2-9, 0-7 SEC) for the fifth time since they joined the Southeastern Conference in 2012. Missouri (7-4, 3-4 SEC) enters the contest with a 6-3 record in the cellar of the conference standings, and they come to Columbia on the heels of a 52-6 drubbing at the hands of Mississippi State last week. This season in Fayetteville has featured just two victories over then-No.13 Florida, Vanderbilt and Tennessee. Following a midseason dip that threatened to crater the season, Missouri has been playing its best football of the Odom era in the final third of 2018. Quarterback Drew Lock has regained his form, the offense has begun finding on all cylinders again with the Emanuel Hall back in the fold, and the defense has delivered one powerful performance after another.

All the pieces have come together in the last month; and for a second consecutive year, the Tigers are surging toward the end of the season as one of the hottest teams in the country. Missouri has been playing its best football of the Odom era in the final third of 2018. Quarterback Drew Lock has regained his form, the offense has began finding on all cylinders again with the Emanuel Hall back in the fold, and the defense has delivered one powerful performance after another.

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The Razorbacks’ first-year starting quarterback, Ty Storey, has been inconsistent, and their offense has suffered for it. In nine starts, the junior passer has thrown 11 touchdowns and nine interceptions, providing Arkansas with an offense ranked No. 109 in the nation and averaging a measer 23.6 points per game. Rakeem Boyd’s contributions on the ground have been among the few bright spots on offense. The sophomore from Texas is averaging 6.9 yards a carry; and on the Razorbacks’ most productive days this fall in games against Ole Miss and Vanderbilt, Boyd has been the driving force.

Arkansas’ offense won’t receive much of a respite against the Tigers. Missouri’s defense has turned into a suffocating force in the second half of 2018, holding three of its last four opponents under 20 points and 400 yards of total offense. Friday may prove to be a long day for Storey, in particular, the Tigers’ secondary allowed only seven completions against Tennessee. On the other side of the ball, the Razorbacks are allowing 34.5 points per game, as opposing offenses have gashed Arkansas’ defense through the air and on the ground. On the rare occasion when the offense has been on its game, their inability to get stops has sunk the Razorbacks.

That malleable defense could set things up for a high-octane senior day at Memorial Stadium for the Tigers.

A victory Saturday will bring Missouri to eight wins on the year, its best finish since 2014, and cap off the most successful season the Tigers have had under Odom. It would also help bolster Missouri’s bowl credentials, as representatives from several different bowl games are expected to be on hand.

Kickoff is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday with Carter Blackburn, Aaron Taylor and Rick Neuheisel on the call and John Schriffen reporting from the sideline on the national CBS broadcast.

Supervising editor is Michael Knisley.
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