

TIGER KICKOFF // Published by the Columbia Missourian

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FLORIDA AT MISSOURI » 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY

TV: SEC NETWORK RADIO: TIGER NETWORK

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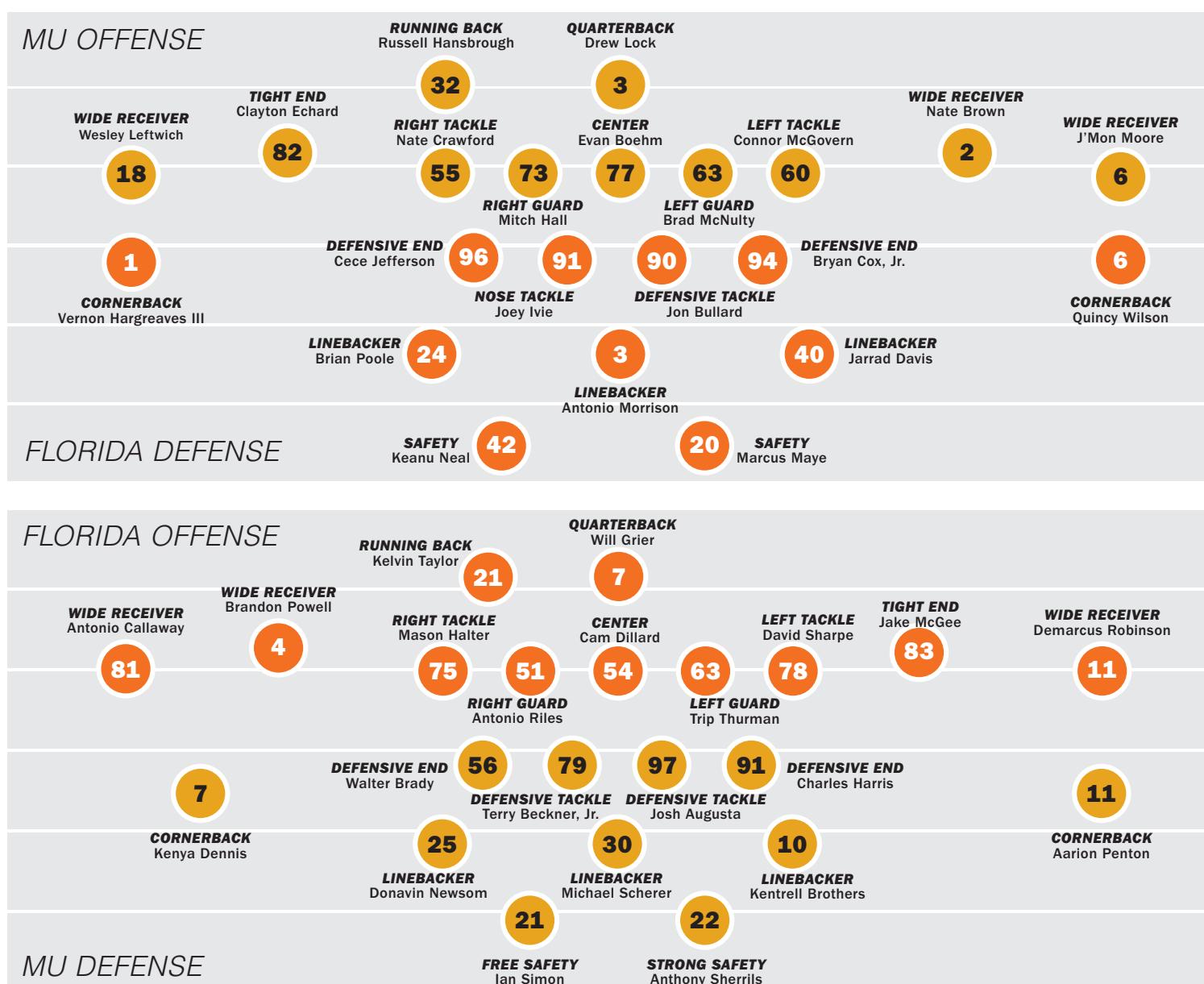
WHERE ARE THEY NOW

CATCH UP WITH FORMER
MISSOURI FOOTBALL PLAYERS,
INCLUDING THE BAREFOOT KICKER
WHO HOLDS THE SCHOOL RECORD
FOR LONGEST FIELD GOAL.

PAGE 8



STARTING LINEUPS

● MISSOURI ● FLORIDA


DEPTH CHART » MISSOURI

OFFENSE

	1ST STRING	2ND STRING
QB	Drew Lock	E. Printz or M. Zanders
RB	Russell Hansbrough	Ish Witter
WR1	J'Mon Moore	DeSean Blair
WR2	Nate Brown	Ray Wingo
WR3	Wesley Leftwich	Keyon Dilosa
TE	Clayton Echard	Jason Reese
LT	Connor McGovern	Malik Cuellar
LG	Brad McNulty	Alec Abeln
C	Evan Boehm	Sam Bailey
RG	Mitch Hall	Kevin Pendleton
RT	Nate Crawford	Taylor Chappell

DEFENSE

	1ST STRING	2ND STRING
DE	Walter Brady	Marcell Frazier
DT	Terry Beckner, Jr.	A.J. Logan
DT	Josh Augusta	Rickey Hatley
DE	Charles Harris	Nate Howard
SLB	Donavin Newsom	Clarence Green
MLB	Michael Scherer	Brandon Lee
WLB	Kentrell Brothers	Joey Burkett
CB1	Kenya Dennis	John Gibson
CB2	Aarion Penton	Logan Cheadle
SS	Anthony Sherrills	Thomas Wilson
FS	Ian Simon	Cortland Browning

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 (33) Cam Hilton

SPECIAL TEAMS » FLORIDA

KICKER (98) Jorge Powell
PUNTER (19) Johnny Townsend
KICK RETURNER (4) Brandon Powell
PUNT RETURNER (81) Antonio Callaway
LONG SNAPPER (41) Ryan Farr
HOLDER (19) Johnny Townsend

TIGER KICKOFF

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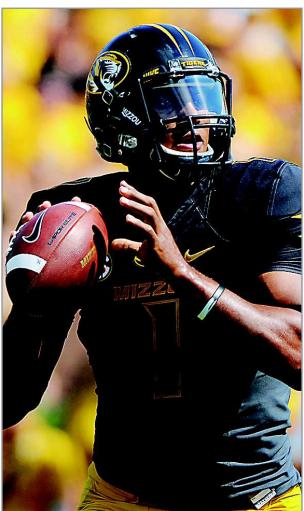
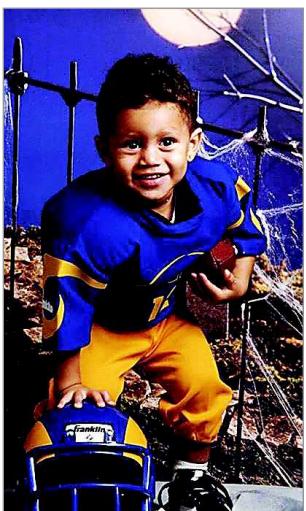


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WHAT'S INSIDE



IMPOSSIBLE?

This week's quiz is easy. Well, compared to last week's anyway. Take your best shot at conquering the test about the Sunshine State.

06

13

15

TODDLERS TO TIGERS

The future wide receiver's mom tried her best to prevent her son from playing football, but his passion never stopped.

OH, CANADA

Former quarterback James Franklin is now called "Franklin the Turtle" in the Canadian Football League, where former teammate Henry Josey also plays.

SCHEDULE

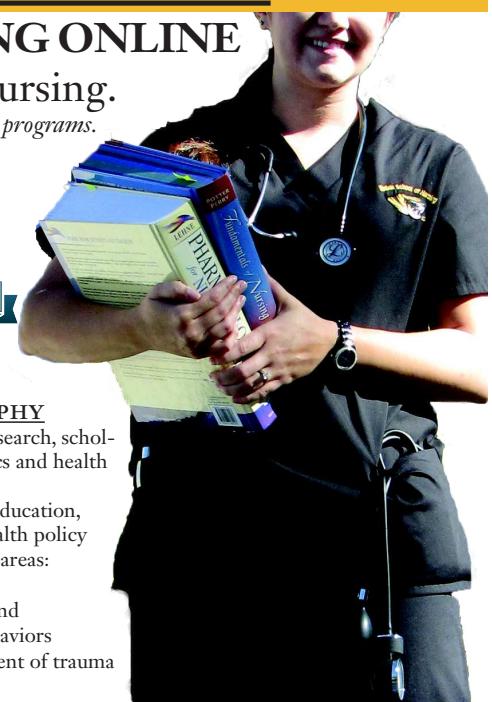
09/05	VS. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	W 34-3
09/12	@ ARKANSAS STATE	W 27-20
	FAMILY WEEKEND/TIGER STRIPE	
09/19	VS. CONNECTICUT	W 9-6
09/26	@ KENTUCKY	L 13-21
	GOLD RUSH/MILITARY APPRECIATION	
10/03	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA	W 24-10
	HOMECOMING	
10/10	VS. FLORIDA	6:30 P.M.
10/17	@ GEORGIA	6:30 P.M.
10/24	@ VANDERBILT	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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COPELAND'S CRANIUM

ON TAKING TIME TO REMEMBER

In 2013, as part of an ongoing series, then-Missouri offensive lineman Max Copeland shared what's brewing in "Copeland's Cranium." His views on life made us laugh and made us think. And in the spirit of Homecoming, we caught up with the man who recently starred in an independent horror film. Here's what Copeland had to say:

By MAX COPELAND, as told to JACOB BOGAGE

My earliest memory? I remember I was 2 years old being carried by a construction worker down the street, and I just remember that. I remember him feeling weird and smelling weird.

There were three things I liked in life up to that point: eating toothpaste, eating dog food and setting things on fire. I snuck out of my crib, walked downstairs, opened the door and walked out of my house. I was sucking on a tube of toothpaste, and I was trying to play with matches about a block away. A construction worker saw me and brought me home. But that last part, just being carried, that's all I remember. The rest has been explained to me since then.

I think the most vivid things, where I really remember how stuff smells and how stuff felt and how it tasted and what the grass smelled like and what the air smelled like, where I recognized there were things going on that I didn't really know the whole story.

I knew there were extra factors at play that I didn't know about, that I don't get to know. So I just can accept there's a couple things that I can control and that's about it. You gotta let whatever factors you can't control be resolved by whoever's in charge of resolving them. That's probably the most spiritual feeling that I get; those were the weird, kind of mystic moments. You have to submit to the fact that you don't always know everything.

I think that's kinda my struggle, my cross to bear. But that struggle is a worthy cause, because that's also a big component of wellness, right? Being able to accept the things you can control and submitting to things you can't. That keeps you moving.

When you're in your comfort zone, you start taking short cuts mentally, and I think that's why traditions and routines, people like them, because you can start taking shortcuts and you

can zone out. When you're out of your comfort zone, every sense is sharp and everything you taste, you really taste. Every moment becomes a really crazy sensory experience because you're so out of your comfort zone and everything is unfamiliar. It's hard to do that, but everything I remember in my life so far has been so incredibly vivid. There hasn't been a fog of time that I just don't really remember.

I'm traveling from muse to muse for that reason. I'm a bit of a rolling stone. Football was a huge expression of who I was and what I believed. But at the same time, I think just with how I am, sometimes you get too comfortable with how the brush fits in the hand. You get too complacent with the color palette you've been using. So maybe I want to ditch the canvas and move to a harp.

I've always seen the path I take to be a bunch of different weird stops. I don't want to spend too much time in one place. I've said it for a long time, but as soon as you feel like you belong, it's time to disappear. I feel like I can make good on that promise I made about my life. Before I die, I'm gonna have made a bunch of really cool stops to a bunch of really weird places.

That's how I started acting. I was living in New York and I had just got done with working out so I kinda looked like a crazy person. Someone approached me off the street and asked me if I wanted to be in a movie. He asked, 'Do you act?' and I just kind of BS-ed my way through it.

That was probably the best acting practice — acting like I knew how to act. And so all of a sudden I'm on set and I'm pretending like I have a bunch of methods for how I get into character.

When you're out of your comfort zone, every sense is sharp and everything you taste, you really taste. Every moment becomes a really crazy sensory experience because you're so out of your comfort zone and everything is unfamiliar."

MAX COPELAND, former Missouri offensive lineman

I consider myself a bit of a transient, a bit of a rebel. I think I had this tendency when I was younger that whatever I was told I was supposed to do or supposed to think or feel, I just did the opposite, because that meant there was a boundary, and if I could go past the boundary not a lot of people had been there. I took pride in breaking the rules because I knew I was going to places other people hadn't been.

The famous story in my family is how my mom was holding me in the kitchen and she was

cooking and she pointed to the pan and said, 'Max, don't touch that. That's hot.' And I just looked at her and I put my hand straight down in the pan and just burned the flesh right off my hand.

She told me not to, so I'm gonna do it. That's led me to a lot of conclusions that there's no way I could have come to had I not forced my own path. It's really safe to go where people tell you to go because, in a way, you're giving up power to them. You're giving them responsibility over where you go. I

maintain that freedom and safety are mutually exclusive and I'll take freedom over safety any day.

Supervising editor is Mark Selig: mark.selig@mail.missouri.edu, 882-5729.

File photo by KEVIN COOK
Missourian



THE IMPOSSIBLE QUIZ

FLORIDA EDITION

The Tigers are set to celebrate their Homecoming game against their first ranked opponent of the season — the No. 11 Florida Gators. See how much you know about the University of Florida and one of America's most populous states. By MICHAEL MANDELL

1 Where did the school's 'Gators' nickname originate?

- A Alachua County is home to the largest alligator population in the U.S.
- B A merchant sold school pennants with pictures of alligators on them
- C A former university president offered to wrestle an alligator if the football team defeated rival Florida State in 1905
- D A regiment from Gainesville, Florida, was said to have "fought like Gators" during World War I

2 A national magazine gave the city of Gainesville which of the following titles in 2008?

- A "America's Meanest Place to the Homeless"
- B "Best Place to Raise a Family in Florida"
- C "Best Place to Start a Band in the United States"
- D "College Town with the Worst Traffic"

3 Spring fed Lake DeFuniak in northern Florida is known for which of the following?

- A An island on the lake has the world's largest Willow tree
- B It's the only such naturally round lake in North America
- C It's the only lake in the world with a limestone basin
- D The world-record largemouth bass was caught there in 1988



4 Prior to the Tigers joining the SEC, the Missouri and Florida football teams only met in which bowl game?

- A Cotton Bowl
- B Gator Bowl
- C Orange Bowl
- D Sugar Bowl

5 The perfectly round Lake Kingsley near Gainesville was created as the result of what?

- A A hurricane that transferred water into an empty basin
- B A meteor that struck over 50,000 years ago
- C A sinkhole that formed during the Pleistocene era
- D Glaciation in the region during the last ice age

6 In which sport has Florida NOT won a national championship?

- A Men's cross country
- B Men's outdoor track and field
- C Women's indoor track and field
- D Women's swimming and diving

7 In 2000, the University of Florida began a partnership with Spain and Mexico that sought to create which of the following?

- A Solar-powered elevators
- B The world's largest manatee preserve
- C The world's largest telescope
- D The world's strongest prosthetic limb

8 The winner of the rivalry game between Florida and Georgia receives which trophy?

- A Ben Schwartzwalder Trophy
- B Chief Suwanee's Spear
- C Okefenokee Oar
- D Paddlewheel Trophy

9 Which of these is NOT an official Florida state symbol?

- A Agatized coral
- B Horse conch
- C Sun tortoise
- D Zebra longwing

10 In 2014, the University of Florida was named the nation's best large university for which of the following?

- A Greek life
- B Students with handicaps
- C Off-campus parties
- D Vegans

Answers

1. B — Although the merchant began selling the pennants in 1908, it wasn't until 1911 that Florida officially adopted the nickname for its athletic teams.

2. C — Blender magazine gave Gainesville the ranking because of the city's impressive live music venues and large student body.

3. B — The lake, which is located in Florida's panhandle, is one of two naturally round, spring-fed lakes in the world. The other is located near Zürich, Switzerland.

4. D — The Tigers beat QB Steve Spurrier and the Gators 20-18 on Jan. 1, 1966, to win their third bowl game under legendary coach Dan Devine.

5. C — The lake is now one of the most popular inland vacation destinations in northern Florida, and a recent engineering study for Florida's Clay County suggests that it's also the oldest lake in the state.

6. A — Although the University of Florida has won 35 team NCAA

championships — 33 more than Missouri — men's cross country isn't one of them.

7. C — The Gran Telescopio Canarias, which is over 34 feet in diameter, sits atop a volcano in Spain's Canary Islands. It began scientific use in 2009 and will remain the world's largest until the European Extremely Large Telescope — yes, that's a real name — is completed in 2024.

8. C — Although the schools first played in either 1904 (according to Georgia) or 1915 (according to Florida), the Okefenokee Oar was first introduced in 2009. It was carved from a 1,000-year old tree that once sat in a swamp along the border between the two states.

9. C — Although agatized coral (state stone), the horse conch (state shell) and zebra longwing (state butterfly) are all real, the sun tortoise is not.

10. D — People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) gave Florida the distinction over Ohio's Kent State University in 2014.



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Photo by BISWARUP GANGULY/Wikimedia Commons

On Oct. 11, 1986, with his right foot bare and the wind at his back, **Tom Whelihan** kicked a ball and rewrote the Missouri football record books.

It was 60 degrees, and the Tigers trailed visiting Colorado 14-3 with the first half nearing completion. Missouri was on the Buffaloes' 45-yard line, and coach Woody Widenhofer asked the sure-footed Whelihan if he was ready to kick a field goal. With the goal posts 10 yards into the end zone and the holder seven yards behind the line of scrimmage, the kick would have to travel more than 62 yards.

Whelihan, who was one of the best kickers in the country at the time, told his coach he had the leg to make it from there.

Holder Jeff Henningsen was dazed as he trotted onto the field with the special teams unit. He'd suffered a concussion on the previous play, but in 1986, you shook it off. Still, the wooziness made such a long field goal attempt seem like a hallucination.

"Are we faking this?" Henningsen asked.
"Shut up and hold the damn ball," Whelihan replied.

Hold the ball Henningsen did, and Whelihan's kick soared through the air and cleared the crossbar in Memorial Stadium's north end zone.

Whelihan, tailwind or not, had made the longest field goal in Missouri history.

PAINTING OVER A MEMENTO IN KANSAS COLORS

The National Climatic Data Center indicates there was a wind of about 10 mph blowing toward the north end zone that day. Whelihan and Henningsen vehemently deny that.

Memories are powerful and fickle. If Whelihan says there wasn't any wind that day, that's the story he can tell.

Memories, also, are often jogged by personal objects. Which makes what you're about to read so odd.

The 49-year-old Whelihan, who lives in Columbia and is now an elementary school physical education teacher, has two sons. The younger one, 12-year-old Brady,



MICHAEL MANDELL/Missourian

Former Missouri kicker Tom Whelihan holds a decorative Missouri football helmet at his home in northern Columbia. Whelihan took his real playing helmet, front, and painted it over with Kansas colors for his son. To his right is both the turf hashmark from which he kicked his record 62-yard field goal in 1986 and a piece of the goal post from that game.

loves the Kansas Jayhawks. So much so, in fact, that Whelihan took his old Missouri football helmet — yes, the one he wore when he kicked his 62-yarder — and repainted it with the Jayhawks' "KU" logo a few years ago.

"If he likes the Jayhawks, who I am I to say that he can't like the Jayhawks?" Whelihan said. "It just doesn't bother me. That's the team that makes him happy, even though he knows how big of a Mizzou buff I am and what I did."

In addition to painting over his old helmet, Whelihan also built Brady a Kansas-themed tree house in his backyard. The two worked on it during the summer of 2012, months before the Tigers played their first Southeastern Conference football game.

To some Missouri fans, that Border War disloyalty might sound blasphemous. But Whelihan says there's reason — beyond avoiding an extra expense to a teacher's salary — to why he painted over his old helmet instead of buying a new one.

"That was part of my life then, but it's not my life anymore," he said.

Brady, whom Whelihan took to Lawrence, Kansas, to watch the final Big 12 men's basketball game between the Tigers and Jayhawks in 2012, said the helmet is one of his prized possessions. He keeps it by his nightstand and wakes up looking at it every morning.

"That's my favorite," Brady said. "I show it to everybody, but they get confused when I say it was my dad's helmet."

THE MAN WITHOUT A SHOE

Confusion regarding football equipment is nothing new to the Whelihan family.

In the Southwest, where Whelihan grew up, the only two seasons were "hot" and "hotter." The summer sun could melt the sides off of rubber cleats. So Whelihan, a former soccer player from the Dallas suburb of Carrollton, Texas, kicked a football without footwear.

"It was just the thing down there at the time," Whelihan said of barefoot kicking. "That was what was popular. You had Tony Franklin, who kicked for (Texas) A&M and then played for the (Philadelphia) Eagles, and there were a bunch of other guys who did it, too."

Nothing separated the leather football from the skin on Whelihan's right, kicking foot — no brace, no sock, no bandage. For him, kicking without a shoe was comparable to a baseball pitcher feeling the seams while throwing a fastball.

A better reference, perhaps, would be comparing it to a wide receiver not wearing gloves. Doing so would allow a player catching a pass to get a more natural feel on the football, and Whelihan had the same reasoning for kicking barefooted. Striking the football without a shoe allowed him to get a better feel for the sweet spot, which is located about two inches below the widest part of the ball.

"It's all psychological," Whelihan said. "If I feel I can get quicker to the ball and get a better feel for it when I'm barefooted, that's what I was going to do. ➤

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It's all psychological. If I feel I can get quicker to the ball and get a better feel for it when I'm barefooted, that's what I was going to do."

TOM WHELIHAN, former Missouri kicker

It was all a matter of personal style, and that just worked for me and a few other guys I knew in high school."

The 5-foot-11 kicker said it didn't hurt, either. When Whelihan first came to Missouri, some teammates voiced concern about his style. Whelihan hushed them by going 4-for-4 on kicks 48 yards or longer.

"I remember looking around at them after I kicked, and everybody was just stunned," said Whelihan, who made 44 of 63 field goal attempts in his career and led the Tigers in scoring in the 1985, 1986 and 1987 seasons. "None of them knew who this hotshot kicker was who just bombing them from deep, but they couldn't argue with the results."

By the end of his freshman season, Whelihan had also taken over Missouri's punting duties. He held the school record for average punt distance until Kyle Pooler (1991-94) broke it the following decade. Some of Whelihan's practice punts traveled so far that assistant coach Mike

Wynn yelled at him for launching them toward where the defensive line was practicing.

"He was one of the strongest kickers I've ever seen, and being barefoot suited him," former Missouri quarterback Warren Seitz said. "He's outgoing and social, and he did things in a way that got him noticed. What he did worked."

DREAMING OF THE PERFECT KICK

Despite having painted his old helmet like the enemy, Whelihan's school and football career seem to mean a lot to him. Walk around his house for more than five minutes, and you begin to understand how much. Missouri posters and photos from his playing days decorate the home.

Two items are treasured most of all.

At the entrance to Whelihan's basement hangs a framed piece of the white hashmark from which he kicked his record field goal, and a piece of the goal post from the north end zone is right beside it.

Whelihan secured a chunk of that goal post when fans took it down and brought it to Harpo's following the Tigers' season-opening win against Baylor in 1987.

Circumstances aligned to give Whelihan the chance to attempt his record-setting kick during the eventual 17-12 loss.

As Whelihan acknowledged, there are so many things that have to go right when it comes to making a field goal of that distance. ➤



MICHAEL MANDELL/Missourian
Former Missouri kicker Tom Whelihan poses in his Kansas Jayhawks-themed tree house with the piece of the goal post through which he kicked his record field goal in 1986. Whelihan built the tree house with the help of his son, Brady.



HOURS

North -

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

Downtown -

M - W 11am - Midnight
Th - Sa 11am - 2am
Sunday 11am - 8pm

South -

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



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Only six Football Bowl Subdivision players have made field goals of 62 yards or longer in games since the start of the 1986 season.

Finding someone who can make that kick is hard enough, but there are also consequences if the attempt fails. Off a miss, the opposing team could get the ball in great field position or it could attempt to return the kick for a touchdown — as Auburn famously did against Alabama on a 57-yard kick to win a 2013 game now known as “Kick Six.”

Seemingly more bad than good can come of a field goal try from that deep. So coaches don’t often send their kickers out for 62-yarders, as Widenhofer did with Whelihan. Only six Football Bowl Subdivision players have made field goals of 62 yards or longer in games since the start of the 1986 season.

Whelihan knows there are more kickers with the ability to make field goals from that distance. He believes Missouri’s current kicker, Andrew Baggett, is one of them.

“I mean, he made that 70-yarder in practice one time,” said Whelihan, who also hosts a weekly radio show in which he discusses Missouri football. “He definitely has that type of distance, but there’s reasons why almost nobody does it in a game even though there are some that do. Again, it’s all about the right conditions.”

Finding the right conditions to kick field goals was something Missouri had to do frequently during Whelihan’s playing days. The Tigers of the 1980s were defined by sputtering offenses, and, unlike Gary Pinkel’s recent teams, losing seasons.

“Whenever we crossed the 50, Woody looked at me and told me to start warming up,” Whelihan said.

The year before his record-breaker, Whelihan set the Missouri mark for the longest field goal when he kicked a 54-yarder against Oklahoma State. Sixty-two was on another level. It was the longest in Big Eight history, and nearly 12 years passed before someone in the conference broke it: Kansas State’s Martin Gramatica kicked a 65-yard field goal in 1998. By then, the Big Eight had expanded to become the Big 12.

Whelihan’s old punting records (45-yard average distance for a single season and 41.3-yard average for a career) no longer stand, but that’s OK with him.

The field goal record, though, he wants untouched.

“I don’t care if every other record I’ve set gets broken, but I’ll be pissed if somebody ever beats 62,” he said. “I want that one to stand forever.”

Supervising editor is Mark Selig: markselig@mail.missouri.edu, 882-5729. 

The last true freshman starting quarterback is now a sports lawyer

By AARON REISS

Bill Odle missed a turn. Like really, really missed a turn.

The lawyer who focuses on issues in amateur and inter-collegiate athletics was headed from Kansas City to Fayetteville to meet with administrators at Arkansas. It was part of a “regulatory review” for one of his clients, the NCAA. The drive to Fayetteville is one he’d done many times before.

Except this time Corby Jones was with him. Jones had recently become a colleague of his, working with him on legal matters in inter-collegiate athletics. The two were so engrossed in a conversation that Odle didn’t realize he’d missed a direction (or a few) until Jones asked, “Are we supposed to go through Oklahoma?”

No, they weren’t. But that’s how interested Odle was in the conversation with Jones.

“We made it to Fayetteville,” Odle said. “But I had to drive like a bat out of hell.”

That wrong turn is Odle’s favorite story to tell about Jones, a former Missouri quarterback who’s recently become a trivia question to Tiger football fans — now that Drew Lock is the first true freshman to start at QB for the team since Jones, a Hickman High School graduate, did in 1995.

Jones now works at the law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon. Odle said Jones’ perspective as a former college athlete is valuable.

“All of the things that I wouldn’t have known could’ve

been issues ... I wouldn’t have known for the fact Corby actually had the experience of playing the game, knowing what happens, the stresses on the body, what’s medically accurate, what’s physiologically happening,” Odle said. “Things like that. Insights about issues that become relevant facts in litigation, he’s got firsthand knowledge about.”

This wasn’t the job Jones envisioned while at MU. He knew he wanted to work in sports, but law wasn’t something he was passionate about. At least he didn’t think it was.

He had money for more school, though. As a player, he was a National Football Foundation National Scholar Athlete. The award came with \$18,000 to spend on graduate studies, he said. Bob Bailey, the father of one of Jones’ former schoolmates at Hickman, told him law school was the right call.

“He’s smart. He’s incredibly hard working. He’s obviously very competitive,” Bailey, Assistant Dean Emeritus at the MU School of Law, said. “I knew that he’d have the characteristics that’d make him a successful law student.

“And he was.”

Jones graduated from the MU School of Law in 2004. He worked at a couple firms — and as a college football analyst for Fox Sports Networks — before beginning to work with Odle at Spencer Fane in spring 2013. The two moved to their current firm in May 2014.

Odle felt ready to make the move thanks to Jones, whom

Odle said has a strong sense of leadership and inspiring confidence.

“All of the things that have made him a great QB make him a really good lawyer,” Odle said.

Jones said he has a more complete view of college athletics than he did during his playing days, though he had “enough to be dangerous back then,” because his dad was a Missouri assistant coach. What he didn’t understand as a player, he said, was the complexity of the NCAA’s structure.

He acknowledged the perceived irony of a former college athlete working for the NCAA’s interest, but he said “I can honestly say I believe in what I do.” He said he knows the plight of the student-athlete, what’s real and what’s not.

Still, he gets letters to join the much-publicized class action lawsuit spearheaded by former UCLA basketball star Ed O’Bannon. That legal battle, against the video game company EA Sports, is over compensation for the profits made off student-athletes’ likenesses.

“That’s the weird dynamic,” Jones said of his current work.

When Jones and Odle took up that “regulatory review” project that had them traveling to Arkansas and other schools throughout the country, the number of people Jones knew amazed Odle. There seemed to always be someone at every school.

Odle and Jones became fast friends — as hard as that might’ve been for Odle to imagine at one point.

“I hated him,” Odle joked. “I’m a Kansas Jayhawk.”

Supervising editor is Mark Selig: markselig@mail.missouri.edu, 882-5729.



CORBY JONES

TODDLERS TO TIGERS

Despite his mother's wishes, freshman Missouri wide receiver **Cam Hilton** refused to quit playing football. **By AARON REISS**

Aimee Simon knew her lie would only hold up for so long.

Her son, Cam Hilton, now a freshman wide receiver for Missouri, kept nagging his mom about playing football. It was his biggest interest since his toddler years. So by age 7, he begged his mother to find him a team.

She lied and said there were no football teams for kids his age. But Hilton didn't quit. He was that obsessed with the sport as a boy.

"Find me a team, find me a team," the mother remembered her son saying.

"I just didn't want my baby playing football," Simon said.

"That was scary."

Eventually, she relented and let Hilton play football with the Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club in St. Louis. When Hilton turned 9, his mother made him stop for a couple of years. Some TV segments about the sports' dangers had spooked her.

But again, Hilton kept pushing. And his mother accepted she wouldn't be able to stop her son from playing football.

In middle school, Hilton began playing for a team coached by Joseph Scherer, the father of Missouri linebacker Michael Scherer.

"That was a huge impact on his life," Simon said, recall-

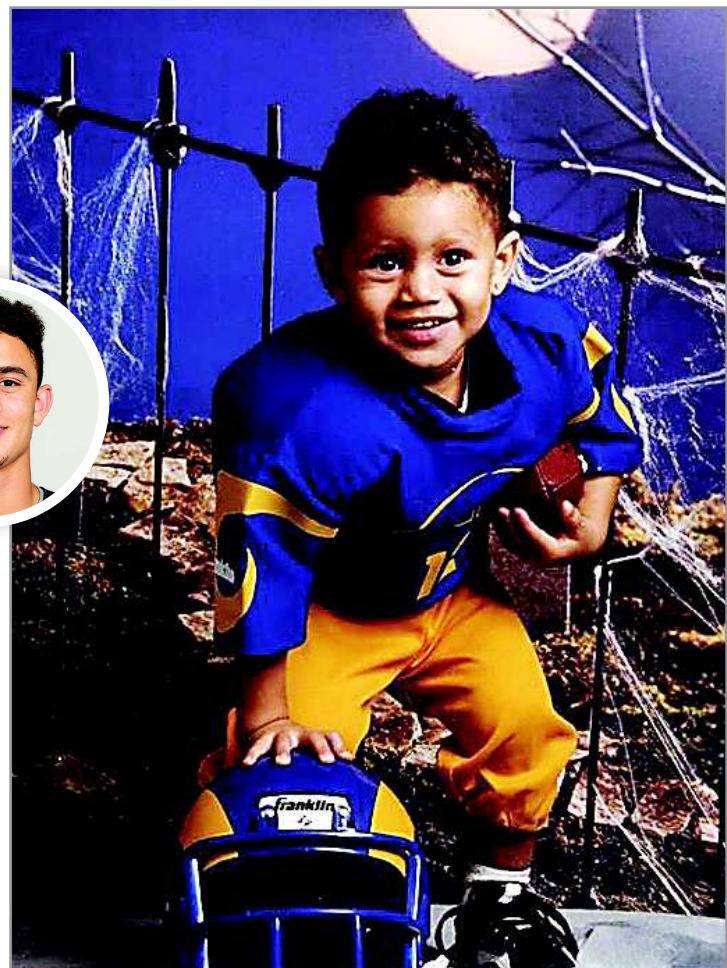
ing the quarterback training Scherer put Hilton through.

Hilton grew up around sports. His mom coached in local basketball leagues, and his aunt and grandfather refereed. The boy was always in gyms — except when he was watching football on TV. He rooted for the St. Louis Rams and Missouri.

Now he plays for the Tigers.

"Since he has been able to crawl and walk, football is his life," Simon said. "Seriously."

Supervising editor is
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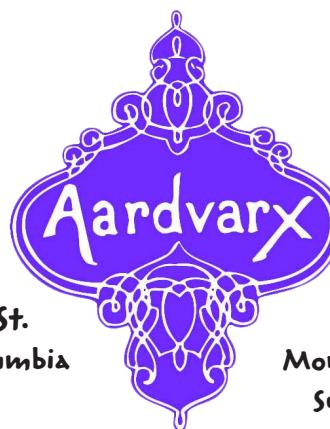
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Where in the NFL are former Tigers?

BY JACOB BOGAGE

Missouri football has more than 20 alumni playing in the NFL. Here's a roundup of all of the Tigers currently playing on Sundays:

1. CHASE DANIEL

QUARTERBACK | LEFT MU: 2009

Daniel is a backup quarterback with the Kansas City Chiefs. He last saw NFL action in Dec. 2014 against San Diego. He won a Super Bowl as a backup with the New Orleans Saints in 2010.

2. BLAINE GABBERT

QUARTERBACK | LEFT MU: 2011

Gabbert is a backup quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers. He last saw NFL action in Nov. 2014 against Denver. He was a first round NFL Draft choice of the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2011.

3. MARCUS MURPHY

TAILBACK/KICK RETURNER | LEFT MU: 2015

Murphy was a seventh-round NFL Draft choice of the New Orleans Saints in 2015. He made the team as a kick returner. He is one of four players this season to have a kick return touchdown.

4. CHASE COFFMAN

TIGHT END | LEFT MU: 2009

Coffman is a tight end with the Tennessee Titans, where he has four catches for 42 yards this season. He was a 2009 third-round NFL Draft choice of the Cincinnati Bengals.

5. JUSTIN BRITT

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN | LEFT MU: 2014

Britt is the starting left guard for the Seattle Seahawks, which drafted him in the second round of the 2014 NFL Draft. He went to a Super Bowl with Seattle in 2015. The Seahawks lost to New England.

6. MITCH MORSE

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN | LEFT MU: 2014

Morse is the starting center for the Kansas City Chiefs, which drafted him in the second round of the 2015 NFL Draft.

7. TIM BARNES

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN | LEFT MU: 2011

Barnes is the starting center for the St. Louis Rams, which signed him as a free agent in 2011. He entered the league as an undrafted free agent with Baltimore.

8. BRAD SMITH

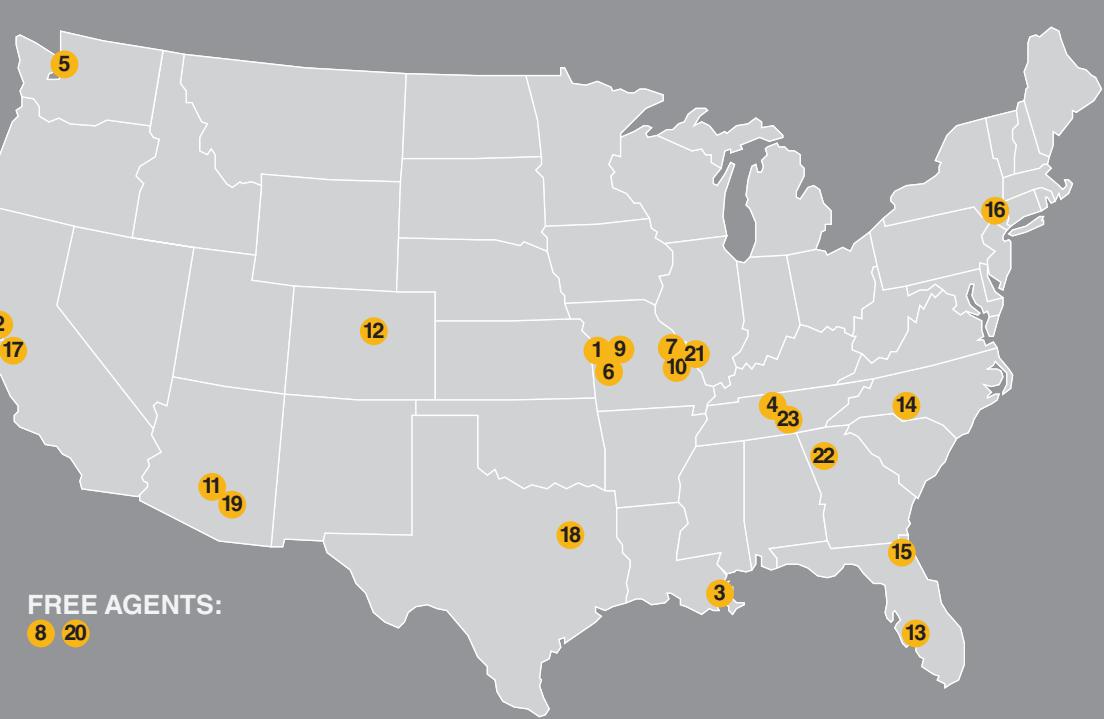
WIDE RECEIVER | LEFT MU: 2006

Smith is a free agent wide receiver who last saw NFL action with the Philadelphia Eagles in Dec. 2014. He is the only NFL player to score a touchdown via kick return, punt block, pass reception, rush and pass.

FORMER MIZZOU ATHLETES PLAYING FOR NFL TEAMS

While Kansas City and St. Louis hold the gold for the most #MizzouMade players in the NFL, Missouri alumni can be found on teams from coast to coast.

BRENDAN WRAY/Missourian



9. JEREMY MACLIN

WIDE RECEIVER | LEFT MU: 2009

Maclin is a starting wide receiver with the Kansas City Chiefs, which signed him to a 5-year, \$55 million deal as a free agent in 2015. He was a first round NFL Draft selection of the Philadelphia Eagles in 2009.

10. BUD SASSER

WIDE RECEIVER | LEFT MU: 2015

Sasser is the external football affairs coordinator for the St. Louis Rams, which drafted him in the sixth round 2015 NFL Draft. He was released by the team in June after doctors found a dangerous pre-existing heart condition. The team signed him to its front office in August.

11. MARKUS GOLDEN

DEFENSIVE END | LEFT MU: 2015

Golden is a backup linebacker with the Arizona Cardinals, which drafted him in the second round of the 2015 NFL Draft. He recorded his first career sack Oct. 4 against the St. Louis Rams.

12. SHANE RAY

DEFENSIVE END | LEFT MU: 2015

Ray is a backup linebacker with the Denver Broncos, which drafted him in the first round of the 2015 NFL Draft. He recorded his first career sack Oct. 4 against the Minnesota Vikings.

13. JACQUIES SMITH

DEFENSIVE END | LEFT MU: 2012

Smith is a starting defensive end with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He led the team in sacks in 2014. He has four sacks in 2015. He originally signed with the Miami Dolphins as an undrafted free agent in 2012.

14. KONY EALY

DEFENSIVE END | LEFT MU: 2014

Ealy is a starting defensive end with the Carolina Panthers, which made him a second round draft choice in the 2014 NFL Draft. He had five tackles in the Panthers' last game against Tampa Bay.

15. ZIGGY HOOD

DEFENSIVE TACKLE | LEFT MU: 2009

Hood is a defensive tackle with the Jacksonville Jaguars. He is currently on the injured reserve list. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first round of the 2009 NFL Draft.

16. SHELDON RICHARDSON

DEFENSIVE TACKLE | LEFT MU: 2013

Richardson is a starting defensive tackle with the New York Jets, which drafted him in the first round of the 2013 NFL Draft. He won rookie of the year honors that year. He has two career rushing touchdowns for his use in goal line offensive situations. He returns from a four-game suspension this week after being punished for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

17. ALDON SMITH

DEFENSIVE END | LEFT MU: 2011

Smith is a backup linebacker with the Oakland Raiders, which signed him as a free agent in September after he was released by San Francisco because of a DUI arrest, his fifth arrest since 2011. He was originally a first round draft choice of San Francisco in 2011.

18. ANDREW GACHKAR

LINEBACKER | LEFT MU: 2011

Gachkar is a starting linebacker with the Dallas Cowboys, which signed him as a free

agent in March. He was originally a seventh round NFL Draft pick of the San Diego Chargers in 2011.

19. SEAN WEATHERSPOON

LINEBACKER | LEFT MU: 2010

Weatherspoon is a starting linebacker with the Arizona Cardinals, which signed him as a free agent in March. He was originally a first round NFL Draft pick of the Atlanta Falcons in 2010.

20. ZAVIAR GOODEN

LINEBACKER | LEFT MU: 2013

Gooden is a free agent linebacker who was released by the Tennessee Titans in September. He was a third round NFL Draft selection of the Titans in 2013.

21. E.J. GAINES

CORNERBACK | LEFT MU: 2014

Gaines is a cornerback with the St. Louis Rams, which drafted him in the sixth round of the NFL Draft in 2014. He is currently on the injured reserve list and out for the season with a foot injury. He had two interceptions in his rookie season.

22. WILLIAM MOORE

SAFETY | LEFT MU: 2009

Moore is a starting safety with the Atlanta Falcons, which selected him in the second round of the 2009 NFL Draft. He went to the 2012 Pro Bowl after recording four interceptions and 59 tackles.

23. BEAU BRINKLEY

LONG SNAPPER | LEFT MU: 2012

Brinkley is the starting long snapper with the Tennessee Titans, which signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2012. He has played in 48 NFL games.

Former quarterback finds comfort in Canada

By AARON REISS

James Franklin likes his new nickname more than his old one.

Toss out "Frank the Tank," the moniker Missouri fans used for the former quarterback who helped orchestrate the Tigers' 2014 Cotton Bowl-winning season. It's "Franklin the Turtle" now.

Sound familiar? You must be into Canadian children's books. Or the television series that became popular in America.

"I'm not the fastest guy," the football-slinging Franklin said over the phone last week after an Edmonton Eskimos' practice. "I'm slow like a turtle. But the shell, it's hard like a tank. I'll take that."

In his rookie season in the Canadian Football League, Franklin has gone from practice squad member, to change-of-pace quarterback, to starter, to backup. He's shifted roles faster than a turtle can make it across the U.S.-Canada border.

Still, to feel the embrace of a team and fanbase is a welcome change for Franklin. He went undrafted by NFL teams after finishing his career at Missouri

and signed a contract with the Detroit Lions. Detroit cut him in August 2014, though. Soon, the quarterback realized his dreams of the NFL might never materialize. He gave himself until July 2015 to find another football team.

That's when the CFL season was scheduled to begin. He hopped around CFL tryouts in Nebraska, Louisiana and Texas. Eventually, he landed with Edmonton.

After Edmonton's starting quarterback went down with an injury early in the season, Franklin moved from the practice squad to the active roster. He began playing parts of games, beginning in the Eskimos' second contest of the season.

He made his first start Week 10, against the Toronto Argonauts. The Eskimos won 38-15. What made it better? One of Franklin's best friends from Mis-

souri, running back Henry Josey, plays for Toronto. A game against each other in Edmonton wasn't something the two envisioned when they suited up together in Columbia.

"That's probably the last thing we were thinking," Josey said.

Michael Sam, another prominent Tiger from the 2014 team, also played in the CFL this year, but played just 12 snaps in one game before quitting the Montreal Alouettes and returning to Columbia to attend graduate school.

Franklin and Josey, meanwhile, both said they've enjoyed their venture up north. Neither said they feel as though the NFL is a must for them.

The Eskimos won one of Franklin's two starts. He completed 42 of 66 passes for 440 yards and a touchdown. "The Turtle" also ran for a score.

He's since returned to being a backup in the Eskimos' past four games and hasn't played. No complaints, though. He said he didn't expect to play this season. He needed time to learn the differences between American and Canadian football, as Josey, who has 16 carries for 30 yards this season, said he's done.

A few differences: Canadian teams get three downs, not four. The Canadian field is 10 yards longer, roughly 12 yards wider and has end zones twice the size of American ones. Because of the bigger field, Canadian teams have 12 players on the field at once, as opposed to the 11 in America.

"Like there's 15 people out there, man," Josey joked.

There are, of course, cultural differences, too. What Americans call sweet potatoes, Canadians call yams, and vice versa. Franklin said he and his wife had "the hardest time figuring that out."

Josey said he avoided the issue.

"I just get french fries."

Supervising editor is Mark Selig: mark.selig@mail.missouri.edu, 882-5729.

Photo by JACOB HAMILTON/Missourian



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