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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 Visit theDMonline.com @thedm_news

NCAA delivers ruling on football allegations today

LANA FERGUSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ole Miss' fate is almost decided.

After receiving its 24-hour notice from the NCAA, the university will receive its final ruling from the Committee on Infractions today. The ruling will arrive via email around 8:30 a.m. with the full report document.

The Ole Miss football program is currently facing 21 allegations of improper conduct, 15 of

which are Level I violations, which constitute a 'severe breach of contract.'

Ole Miss contested at least nine of the allegations at the Committee on Infractions hearing in Covington, Kentucky, in September.

Ole Miss is facing allegations ranging from academic fraud, to boosters giving cash payments to recruits, to recruits and athletes receiving impermissible merchandise. The most serious allegation against Ole Miss was lack of institutional control.

The NCAA's Enforcement Staff gave the Notice of Allegations to the university back in February. Athletics Director Ross Bjork and the university acknowledged the truth behind certain allegations and announced a self-imposed postseason ban the same day. If it hadn't been for the ban, this year's team would have

played in a bowl game after beating Mississippi State 31-28 last week

in the Egg Bowl and finishing the season 6-6 under head coach Matt Luke.

No postseason play means no postseason revenue, so the university lost out on making nearly \$8 million. It's already spent \$4.5 million fighting the case so far.

Over the last four years, Ole Miss has also eliminated 13 scholarships.

There are seven other involved at-risk parties, who will be notified of the decision and penalties at the same time as the university. Some of these parties include former head coach Hugh Freeze, former staffer Barney Farrar and former defensive line coach Chris Kiffin.

The Committee on Infractions could accept some of the self-imposed penalties the university gave itself earlier this year or add more. Either way, Ole Miss still has a chance to appeal after the ruling is announced, which would extend the process by months.

These allegations and the ruling have loomed over the Ole Miss football program its entire season.

Following the final game of the season, Matt Luke was

named the official head coach. The NCAA proceedings were brought up in his introductory press conference Monday. Bjork said neither he nor anyone else at the university knows what's going to be on the final report.

"We're prepared. We're ready. We're on go, whenever we might get our final report. And we'll deal with it. We've hit this thing head-on every single time. We've taken responsibility where needed. We're fought back where we needed to," he said. "Obviously, we're ready to get this over with. No one's more ready than myself, Chancellor Vitter and now coach Luke. We're ready, and we're prepared, but we have no idea when and what might be coming."

A lot might change for the future of Ole Miss football today, but for now,

all anyone can do is wait and see what the verdict is.

The Daily Mississippian will continue to report on this story as it develops.

See The DM Online, @thedm_news on Twitter and our Facebook for updates throughout the day.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

OPD recommends extending bar hours on Square

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this week, the Oxford Police Department recommended the Board of Aldermen change the alcohol ordinances to extend the bar hours to 1 a.m. every night except Sundays. They said the purpose of the change is to make the laws more consistent and less confusing for citizens and visitors.

The current ordinance states bars can serve alco-

hol until midnight Monday through Wednesday and Saturdays, until 1 a.m. Thursday and Friday and until 9 p.m. Sundays. Right now, bars and other businesses are allowed to stay open past these hours, but cannot serve alcohol.

"We made this recommendation because the current ordinance is confusing for everyone," said Rusty Rasberry, Oxford Police Department assistant code enforcement officer. "With this change, we hope

to streamline the hours to make things easier for everyone."

This recommendation is part of OPD's larger recommendation to make the Oxford Square a special "Downtown District." Doing so would designate the Square as a separate place from the rest of the city.

Some local bar owners said they support these recommendations because it would help their businesses in the long-run.

"I absolutely support

these changes," said Lee Harris, owner of Funky's Pizza and Daiquiri Bar. "I would extend my hours to 1 a.m."

Harris said there wouldn't be a huge revenue increase, but it would "eliminate confusion and helps in the long-run."

Alderman Mark Huelse said he supports the ordinance change, especially "if it cleans up the confusion" of the currently inconsistent bar hours. The other hope is to avoid everyone

leaving the bars at one time, which could pose a safety threat and major traffic congestion.

"The ultimate goal is easing people out of bars," Huelse said. "I hope this ordinance change helps with that and people will start to leave before the rush when the bars close."

The recommended ordinance change includes two more aspects. The first change is that commercial stores such as convenience

SEE RECOMMENDATION PAGE 3

Don't forget to pick up a **Finals Frenzy** on Monday

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In the past few years, the media has had a field day talking about the negatives regarding fraternities, and many are now proposing that they be kicked off college campuses. As ridiculous as that sounds to some, others find that idea not too far-fetched with the recent events in LSU, Penn State and Texas State. I urge everyone to stop generalizing fraternity life, as the recent events in no way, shape or form resemble what fraternities are actually founded upon.

It seems ordinary to generalize everyone who is a part of something and stereotype them, even though they might be against what they are being stereotyped for. And that is exactly what is happening now: Fraternities nationwide are getting bashed for the wrongdoing of a handful of people who happen to be a part of a fraternity.

White people are not all racist. All Muslims aren't terrorists. And in fraternities' case — just because a few degenerates decided to take part in obscenely harassing women and hazing incidents doesn't mean that everyone who is a member of a fraternity has the desire to take part in any of those activities. In fact, I would strongly argue that the vast majority of those who are a part of a fraternity would unanimously disagree with those despicable actions.

Fraternities were founded upon honor, respect and love for one another. Outsiders may have a lot of misperceptions on the way fraternities truly work, but I can guarantee you that it extends beyond alcohol, partying and bad decisions. Fraternities help communities become better places, so take a deeper look and find out all the virtue that fraternities offer and don't give in to the stereotypes others have created due to some reprehensible actions only a few people partook in.

George Withers is a freshman business major.

Young freshmen — scared, uncomfortable and trying to find where they belong in the new, intimidating world of college life — are the perfect targets for hazing. Fraternities across America participate in hazing because they view it as a necessity, a way to test the loyalty of the new members in their brotherhoods. Although, just because some of these young men believe hazing to be an acceptable tradition doesn't mean that the abuse of those who are pledging their allegiance to a fraternity is acceptable or tolerable.

Being forced to drink excessive amounts of alcohol and use prescription or illegal drugs is an overly common practice among active members within fraternities. Naive and nervous new members, also known as pledges, are highly susceptible to being victims of forced, outrageous alcohol and drug consumption as forms of punishment or just for the amusement of the older members. The well-known fact that these young men endure extreme physical, as well as mental, abuse makes it easy to believe that some of the boys are permanently damaged.

The only reason the blunt abuse of humans is allowed by universities is because fraternities are notorious for donating extravagant amounts of money to campus, which helps pay for many of the amenities the schools have to pay for. So, the cruel treatment of pledges is dismissed by authorities in exchange for the almighty dollar. Go figure.

Greek life publicly promotes these fraternities as ways to become part of a "family" and says their intentions are to do things such as show leadership, be inclusive and serve others, but those intentions are not carried out by most. A program that started with plans to do good things for its members has developed a vicious tendency to flex its power over the less-experienced members.

Harris Milson is a freshman business major.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.

**MISSISSIPPI
press
ASSOCIATION**

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Black Student Union celebrates 50th anniversary

KENDALL PATTERSON
STAFF WRITER

The Black Student Union at Ole Miss is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary next semester. Founded in March 1968, the group has special events planned from now through March to commemorate its golden anniversary.

As the Black Student Union grows, its leaders continue to try to build on previous successes by hosting more annual events. Such events include the third "I Am BSU" Week, its second annual Service and Supper Thanksgiving Dinner and its fifth annual Black History Month Gala.

As a special event to honor the 50th anniversary, the chapter is inviting past presidents and members to come back and celebrate together for the fifth annual Black Student Union Black History Month Gala in February.

"The gala was created as a night to celebrate black excellence and achievement here at the university," BSU President Nekkita Beans said. "This year, the gala will be expanded to accommodate 500 guests. That will include students, faculty and staff as well as past BSU presidents and members."

Beans said it's a night of dancing, good food and fel-

lowship.

"I think it's a great night for current members to network with alumni, which is really important," Beans said.

Beans said current members will have even more opportunities to meet one another this year at the BSU's 50th anniversary reception dinner. At the dinner, members will cover the history of the Black Student Union, make connections and celebrate the chapter's work on campus.

She said the chapter was organized when black students felt their voices weren't being heard on campus. They wanted to come together and represent themselves because they felt their needs weren't being met.

"It's been the voice of the black students here on campus," said Christopher Cross, the BSU president's chief of staff. "That's what it has been, that's what it's doing and that's what it will continue to do."

Though the University of Mississippi was not integrated until 1962 with the enrollment of James Meredith, Beans said African-Americans have been an important part in the university since its founding.

"African-Americans have played a critical role in the development of the University of Mississippi that we see



PHOTO COURTESY: BSU

today," Beans said.

She said this role can be seen in several forms, from the slave labor used to construct the university to the black maintenance and service staff members on campus and the black faculty and professors in the classrooms.

"This 50th anniversary is not just a celebration of us and our members as an organization," Beans said. "It is a celebration of black community and fellowship here on campus, a reminder that every day, we black people come to campus and contribute to the University of Mississippi in a variety of ways."

Beans said the Black Student Union at Ole Miss is special as a whole in comparison to chapters on other campuses because of the issues and situations black students at

that just because we all look alike, we're all alike, and that's far from the truth," Feazell said. "We come from different places. We have different personalities, and sometimes we even have differences in opinions about things. While we all may look alike, we all are very different, still."

Over the years, the group has grown not only in numbers but also in its voice and social activity on campus. In addition to the membership doubling between last year and this year, Beans said the BSU is one of the organizations from which the university's administration seeks opinions.

She said she believes the current members of the cabinet will continue to improve and bring success to the BSU in its future years once she and other executive board members graduate.

"Seeing that optimism in them and their taking initiative just really makes me excited for what the future will hold," Beans said.

RECOMMENDATION

continued from page 1

stores and grocery stores that sell alcohol cannot allow customers to consume the alcohol on the commercial property. The other change says bars or restaurants cannot sell alcohol "out the door" to allow customers to take alcohol home.

These ordinances may seem obvious, but Rasberry says they are recommended to "clarify and avoid confusion."

At previous meetings, Oxford Police Chief Joey East recommended the board

consider extending the bar hours, but also having a certain time that bars stop serving while continuing to stay open and let customers drink their last drink and eat to "sober up" before exiting.

Rasberry said they are unable to make this change because of state laws.

"The (Alcohol Beverage Control) doesn't differentiate between serving and consuming alcohol," he said. "But we don't need an ordinance for this. Bars can still operate past (1 a.m.). They just can't serve alcohol."

Rasberry encourages bars to do this, but said they aren't required to do so by law.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Emily Holcomb

B.S.C.J. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

"Intelligence Dissemination Among Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement: The Necessity, Gaps, and Recommendations"

Directed by Linda Keena

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Odom Hall Room 303

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Big K.R.I.T. returns to Southern-fried roots with style

JORDAN MAURY
STAFF WRITER

In a region of the country that has become increasingly synonymous with trap music, a forgotten king of the South has returned. Big K.R.I.T. is free at last from the restraints of his record label and is crafting arguably some of the best music of his career on “4eva Is a Mighty Long Time.” The double disc album explores two different concepts, with disc one representing K.R.I.T. and disc two shedding light on the man behind the music, Justin Scott. “4eva Is a Mighty Long Time” enlists a legendary cast of Southern artists and employs a slew of homegrown sounds to give form to K.R.I.T.’s vision.

Disc one contains everything there is to love about Big K.R.I.T. From the opening tip on “Big K.R.I.T.,” the Meridian native’s pen is crisp as he raps about his arduous ascension in music while holding steadfast to his country roots. On “Confetti,” one can feel K.R.I.T.’s drive from his words alone when he stresses over and over that he is not satisfied with moral victories and

that he desires eternal glory. The songs are not overly lyrical, but his words are so potent that his confidence becomes infectious.

K.R.I.T.’s simplicity is what causes the music to feel authentic. On “Subenstein (My Sub IV),” K.R.I.T. spends the entirety of the song glorifying his subwoofers. It may seem pretty silly when you think about it, but K.R.I.T. raps about it in a way that makes you care just as much about the bass as he does. It is easy to feel equally engrossed in K.R.I.T.’s world on songs like “Aux Cord,” in which he name-drops classic soul records and legendary artists that grace the speakers of his home and car.

The production on “4eva Is a Mighty Long Time” is immaculate. Disc one draws inspiration from K.R.I.T.’s Southern-fried roots as it provokes feelings of nostalgia for artists like UGK. The energy produced by the frantic instrumental on “Big Bank” is so spellbinding that you cannot help but rock uncontrollably to the strong rhythmic beat. The instrumental for “Subenstein (My Sub IV)” feels as though it



PHOTO COURTESY: HIPHOPDX.COM

is a living, breathing monster, before transitioning smoothly not in a more melodic sequence at the end. Moments like this and in songs like “Get Away” show the versatility of the production on this album.

The music on disc two embodies the more spiritual and somewhat personal side of Big K.R.I.T. After K.R.I.T. declares he needs to escape from the worldly matters of disc one on “Get Away,” “Justin Scott” immerses the listener in its glory. While the song plays, it is hard not to imagine yourself walking down the aisle of a small Baptist church in Mississippi on your way to the altar. “Justin Scott” is mostly instrumentation with no lyrics

from Big K.R.I.T., but it is a powerful testament to the journey listeners and K.R.I.T. are about to embark on.

This side of “4eva Is a Mighty Long Time” makes you want to trade in your subwoofers for choir robes and begin praise dancing. This is especially true on “Keep the devil Off,” in which K.R.I.T. emphatically rebukes the devil with the help of a jamming guitar, an enthused organ and a righteous choral group. Again, the approach is different from disc one, but the effect is the same, as one cannot sit still when listening.

The production is superb, but it is K.R.I.T.’s vulnerability that makes disc two so special. “Mixed Messages” reveals the contradictions that plague his existence and cause him to stress over what is right and wrong. However, K.R.I.T. acknowl-

edging his hypocrisy is a beautiful thing because it paints him as an everyday man with problems like everyone else, rather than an all-knowing deity. “Price of Fame” is equally poignant. The songs feel like open letters in which K.R.I.T. details the insecurities and hardships fame has placed on his shoulders.

“4eva Is a Mighty Long Time” is the perfect double disc album. Both possess their own charm and sound while still remaining 100 percent Big K.R.I.T. Whether it’s the illustrious CeeLo Green delivering a surprise verse on “Get Up 2 Come Down” or Bilal guiding the jazz-heavy “The Light” with his vocals, the guest features are all perfect complements. This album is K.R.I.T.’s masterpiece in a catalog of already fantastic projects.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Raquel Espitia

B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

“A Complex Relationship: Civic Education and Political Activism”

Directed by Conor Dowling

Friday, December 1 at 11:00 am

Deupree Hall Conference Room

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Start Your Morning RIGHT

THE DAILY **MISSISSIPPIAN**

Oxford’s Morning Newspaper

From us to you: Preparing for finals

Finals are here, but luckily The Daily Mississippian staff is here to help you through the worst week of the semester.



LANA FERGUSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"I love to-do lists. I write down every small task I need to accomplish for finals week preparation then cross them off as I go. It's a super satisfying feeling."



SLADE RAND
MANAGING EDITOR

"Hand-write anything you think is worth remembering and then go back over your notes with a highlighter for what's important."



RACHEL ISHEE
NEWS EDITOR

"I think it's important to take time for yourself. It's easy to spend six-plus hours staring at your computer screen or memorizing flashcards. If you take 30 minutes to step outside for a bit or take a quick nap, it really will make all the difference when you're studying."



LIAM NIEMAN
OPINION EDITOR

"Don't forget the power of a break."



HAYDEN BENGÉ
DESIGN EDITOR

"I brew myself an entire pot of coffee and get to work. But also don't forget to take breaks and get some sleep."



JONATHAN GIBSON
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

"This has to be serious? Oh. Ok. Um ... Can my deadline be extended for this? I just really didn't plan ahead for this. Like, I knew I'd have to do this, but it snuck up on me so fast, and I didn't realize this was a big deal. That's all. I mean, this prompt is totally different than the one you gave me earlier. Ugh, I guess I should have planned ahead more. ... Wait. That's perfect. Use that. It totally applies to studying for finals."



MARLEE CRAWFORD
PHOTO EDITOR

"I am constantly making to-do lists and updating my agenda. It makes time management a lot easier and declutters your life a bit by providing a way to organize your thoughts. As for studying, I read over everything that I think will be on the test, and then I go back and highlight the most important parts to reread and focus on. Creating acronyms or rhymes is a good way to remember things, as well."



GRAYSON WEIR
SPORTS EDITOR

"Take it day by day, and put it all on paper. Take the time to sit down and plan out what you will be studying when. Plan out each day, and cross things off your agenda as you go. It will ease the stress level running through your head. But be sure to leave yourself time to decompress."

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Kayla Ladner

B.A. IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

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Lady Rebels hope to continue strong start to season

MAGGIE CROUCH
STAFF WRITER

With a combined eight regular-season, exhibition and tournament games under its belt, the Ole Miss women's basketball team hit the ground running.

Though the Rebels have not played against any conference teams yet, head coach Matt Insell has confidence in his team's ability and energy.

"I'm more relaxed this year than I've ever been with this team because I don't really have to talk to them about energy," Insell said during a press conference at the beginning of the season. "I don't have to talk to them about enthusiasm. They come to work."

The team has impressed

thus far, jumping out to an overall record of 6-1 and beating probable NCAA Tournament team Temple.

Upcoming road games will certainly test the team, though. Last year, the Rebels posted an 15-4 home record but went just 1-8 on the road.

This season, the Rebels will travel the SEC for matches against Texas A&M, LSU, Mississippi State and Auburn. If history has any bearing on the Rebels' current endeavors, these games will test the Rebels. The SEC's talent, combined with strong home-court advantages across the region, could prove formidable.

But despite the long road ahead, Insell remains optimistic about the team's potential and the growth since last season.



PHOTO COURTESY: JOSH MCCOY | OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Barbara Johnson dribbles around a defender during the 65-56 win over Middle Tennessee State on Wednesday.

"We have more depth than we had last year," senior guard Shandricka Sessom said. "We have more players who can come off the bench. That is the difference from last year. We have freshmen coming, learning fast and getting the job done."

In addition to conference games, Ole Miss has scheduled a number of out-of-conference games to prepare the team. It will play three consecutive games in Oxford against Arkansas State, South Alabama and Southern Mississippi before heading to the West Coast for matchups with Oregon and Portland State.

Junior guard Madinah Muhammad currently leads the team in points, accumulating 139 over her eight games. Sessom follows with 106 points, and junior guard Alissa Alston trails in third with 73 points.

For Sessom, though, the future of her season depends on the fate of a knee injury that occurred against Middle Tennessee on Wednesday night.

"I feel bad for her. She's such a great kid. She's in great spirits. She's smiling," Insell said. "We've got a lot of injuries right now, but it's next man up. We've got players playing in positions

they've never played before right now, but you tell them what do to do and they do it."

With Sessom benched most of the game, the remaining players found a way to rally and win, a promising signal for the rest of the season, with or without Sessom on the court. The Rebels will need to remain flexible with their personnel choices if they hope to extend their winning streak into conference play.

The Ole Miss Rebels play their next game at home Saturday against Arkansas State. Tipoff is scheduled for 3 p.m. at The Pavilion.

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5	She's a Dahl
6	Pisa place
7	Condensed moisture
8	Latin being
9	Breed of sheep
10	Peter or Paul, but not Mary
11	Missing
12	Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon
13	Zaire's Mobutu
14	Seka
15	Actress Taylor
16	Mexican moola
17	Contrary to
18	Water nymph
19	Relieve
20	Composer Berg
21	Trent of the Senate
22	Journalist Jacob
23	Belgian city
24	Salinger girl
25	Once, once
26	Modern surgical tool
27	Seasonal song
28	Clockmaker Thomas
29	More mature
30	Ornamental coronet
31	Stout relatives
32	All thumbs
33	Polite denial
34	Blue book filler
35	Attention getter
36	White as a ghost
37	Romanov rulers
38	Atrocious act
39	Guarantees
40	Reverse rotation in a dive
41	Soft subdued color
42	Words on a Wonderland cake
43	Sphere
44	"On the Waterfront" director Kazan
45	Lincoln and Vigoda
46	Secluded spot
47	Suffix with concession
48	Essence
49	O.T. book
50	Barcelona bear

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SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

1	8		9					
			1	4		9		
4	2		7					8
			8			6		1
	1						4	
5	6			1				
8			4			2	9	
	5		9	7				
			1					7

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

INSANE

7	9	5	8	1	2	4	3	6
4	3	8	7	9	6	1	5	2
9	3	1	3	4	5	7	9	8
3	8	7	1	2	4	6	9	5
2	4	9	6	5	7	8	1	3
5	1	5	6	9	3	8	2	7
8	1	3	5	7	9	6	2	4
5	9	2	4	8	1	3	7	9
6	7	4	2	9	3	5	8	1

Men's basketball hosts Virginia Tech on Saturday

ETHAN WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Ole Miss basketball and 12th-year head coach Andy Kennedy are looking to bounce back following a close overtime loss in The Pavilion earlier this week. The Rebels, who fell at home to South Dakota State 99-97, will return to the court this Saturday for a matchup with Virginia Tech.

The visiting Hokies are 6-1 on the season and will mark one of the more difficult opponents for the Rebels in early-season non-conference play. Ole Miss, 4-2 so far on the year, is still in the forgivable portion of the season. However, a loss to the Hokies could put the Rebels dangerously close to the .500 mark well before SEC play even commences.

To avoid a costly misstep and gain traction moving forward, Ole Miss will need to focus on three main factors in Saturday afternoon's head-to-head:

Bridge the percentage gap

The biggest factor of this already intriguing matchup will be each team's shooting percentage. Ole Miss, shooting a respectable .476, will need to focus on high-percentage looks and simultaneously limit the opportunities of Virginia Tech to do the same.

The Hokies have impressed thus far on the season, shooting .561 from the field and a strong .468 from behind the arc. That average, in comparison to the Rebels, amounts to 20 more made 3-point shots on just three more attempts.

While the Hokies' offensive efficiency is disconcerting enough for the Rebels, their recent defensive surge may be even more deadly. Virginia Tech is coming off a blowout win against a prominent Iowa program.

For Ole Miss to dodge the fate Tech delivered to Iowa, an emphasis on creating high-percentage shots on offense and disrupting it on defense will be key for a victory Saturday.



PHOTOS BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Deandre Burnett muscled past a defender on his way to the rim in the 99-97 loss to South Dakota State Tuesday. Burnett finished with six assists on the night.

Finding the charity stripe

Ole Miss' 69.7 free-throw percentage, good for just 11th in the conference, is in need of some improvement. But just as important as the Rebels' efficiency at the line is their ability to get there in the first place.

On the season, Ole Miss has attempted just 145 free throws through six games. That's 15 fewer than the number Virginia Tech has made this season. The infrequency of the Rebels' free-throw opportunities, coupled with their unimpressive percentage when they actually get there, should be a source of intense scrutiny and preparation moving into their upcoming game.

Glass cleanup

One interesting and important factor of this matchup will be the rebounding battle. While the Hokies have been strong in this aspect, their attack of the glass offensively has been underwhelming.

The Rebels, while fairly average in the defensive category, have been quite impressive in their offensive hustle for the ball. Marcanvis Hymon, who leads the team with 20 offensive and 31 defensive rebounds, will need to be in full form to offer second-chance opportunities on offense.

If Ole Miss can focus and deliver on these simple yet necessary points, an already important game could become an even more important victory.

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Dominik Olejniczak tries to shoot around a defender during the upset by South Dakota State on Tuesday.

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Rebel Olympian to accept Jesse Owens Award

ETHAN WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

As if winning the U.S. a bronze medal and dominating the entire sport of pole vaulting throughout 2017 wasn't enough, Ole Miss track and field alumnus Sam Kendricks just had to outdo himself. The 25-year-old capped off an undefeated season this month with the prestigious Jesse Owens Award, given to the top U.S. male track and field competitor.

"To win the Jesse Owens Award is kind of putting my name out there on a plaque with guys I've looked up to for a long time," Kendricks said. "You don't get that chance doing a lot of things. Being a world champion kind of put me on a list with a lot of great men and women. But being recognized by my peers and a lot of other great athletes in America as, 'Hey, you are the pinnacle of what we've made the sport this year. We value you enough to name you the most valuable athlete.' I think that's amazing."

Kendricks' national and global recognition began in August 2016 as the Oxford native and first-time Olympian earned a bronze medal for the U.S. in the Rio games, the first American to medal in the event in 12 years. Upon his return to the States, Kendricks was a new man and an unstoppable force while competing.

Going an incredible 17-0 in competitions across the globe, Kendricks continuously put on a spectacle and finished with one of the greatest years ever for an American pole vaulter. International competitions in Shanghai, Paris, Zurich, Berlin and stateside in Or-



PHOTO COURTESY: AP PHOTO | MATT SLOCUM

Sam Kendricks competes during the men's pole vault event at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in July 2016 in Eugene, Ore.

egon all seemed like child's play to the former Rebel as he earned his first IAAF Diamond League title for pole vaulting.

"It's kind of hard to put this kind of year in a box," Kendricks said. "So much happened. If I took a notepad last year after the Olympics, sat down and said 'OK, I want to win every single competition I go to next year. I want to be a world champion. I want to win the Diamond League. I want to be elected the most valuable athlete in America, in track and field.' They'd say, 'You're crazy, Sam. Pick one.'"

Of course, Kendricks' jaw-dropping abilities were present long before

he boarded that plane to Rio. After picking up the sport because he wasn't fast enough for other track and field events, Kendricks quickly excelled in his newfound passion. From Oxford High School to Ole Miss, the star vaulter claimed event after event, eventually posting an undefeated campaign during his senior year in 2014.

While many would attribute Kendricks' success to freakish athleticism and good genes, the real key to the phenom's winning nature is simple dedication and a hardworking attitude.

As cliché as it might sound, those intangibles explain how Kendricks has

made his way to the podium so many times at such a young age. As a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve, Kendricks understands the power of duty and the success one may achieve through the right mindset. That commitment has reflected in Kendricks on and off the field.

Just before winning his first-ever Olympic medal, Kendricks was running to vault in the qualifying round when a familiar tune caused him to stop mid-run. With the national anthem playing over the loud speakers, Kendricks slowed to a halt, dropped his pole and stood at attention for the duration of the anthem. The moment,

which soon after went viral, encompassed the type of competitor and person that Kendricks is.

While his career is just beginning, Kendricks has already achieved outstanding acclaim both in and out of his sport. The Jesse Owens Award, a rightful honor to the star athlete, quite possibly marks the emergence of a future legend.

The esteemed award will be presented Saturday in Columbus, Ohio, at the USA Track & Field annual meeting, but Kendricks will not be in attendance. Once again flashing the true colors of his character, he will instead be fulfilling his commitment to the United States Army Reserve.

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