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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERV

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A.J. BROWN SHEA PATTERSON



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GREGLITTLE



The best and worst recruiting classes

PAGE 8

@thedm_news

Freeze, Rebels prove relevance in SEC

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Meet the 2016 recruitment class **PAGE 12**

DESIGN: CAROLINE CALLAW

opinion

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Becoming a Rebel: Learning to love the game



HOLLY BAER

thedmopinion@gmail.com

I didn't grow up in the cult of SEC and NFL football. I picked teams by the color of the jerseys and basically ate nachos instead of watching for first downs. Despite naving the privilege of going to several Denver Broncos games with my uncle — a proud season pass holder — I mostly looked at the horses and cheerlead-

My mother is a die-hard Al-

abama fan, but she never instilled in me the proper Southern SEC football worship habits. When I came to the University of Mississippi, she decided she would pretend to support Ole Miss football for me - despite my lack of appreciation. My first semester, I went groving, another experience I didn't appreciate. My step-aunt and uncle are loyal Ole Miss fans, going so far as owning a home in Oxford and setting up a tent every home game in front of Lamar. I couldn't appreciate the almost-reverent atmosphere.

I didn't make a turnaround in regards to football until my junior year. After years of getting friends to explain little moves and rules regarding football, I finally started cheering on accident. I watched an Ole Miss game and finally felt that rush of heat to my face when we made a bad

play. It seemed to snowball from there.

I never sought out games, but I enjoyed them when they were on. I'd quickly pick a team to root for (if one of mine wasn't playing), and I'd learned enough lingo to appropriately root for them or criticize bad plays. Before I knew it, I was even checking scores online for my Broncos and Landsharks when I didn't get a chance to watch.

The first time I sought out a game purposefully was this year's game against Alabama. Despite searching, I couldn't find a place to watch it and kept up to date with Twitter (which will always update faster than Google). I cheered when we did well, and I cursed when we failed.

During the Egg Bowl, I sat with my mom's neighbors, drinking beer and hollering like a real fan. My mom gloated over Alabama's victory earlier that night, but I was too excited to care. Whether or not I had intended it, football had grown on me.

This weekend, Superbowl 50 features one of my teams. With my newfound appreciation for the South's favorite sport, I'm giddily anticipating how they will do. I believe in Peyton Manning more than I believe in any religion, and that man better not let me down again. I only wish I could be in Colorado to watch the game with my grandparents and father, the other die-hard fans in my life.

I still don't love football, but, like a proper lapsed practitioner, I appreciate it and pay reverence at the important holy dates-the Egg Bowl and the Superbowl.

Holly is a religious studies major from Flowood.

MISSISSIPPIAN

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, P.O. Box 1848, University, MS, 38677-1848, or e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

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

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.



MEMBER NEWSPAPER

opinion

COLUMN

Caucus narrows pool of candidates, excludes others

DALTON CAPPS

RDCapps@go.olemiss.edu

I have not paid much attention to the caucuses until this year. As I try to find a candidate worth voting for, Republican or Democrat, I will be paying close attention to the caucus results. The Iowa caucus was our first chance to see how the nation views its potential presidents. The next caucus takes place in New Hampshire on Feb. 8.

Although I am not surprised with who placed first and second, Ted Cruz and Donald Trump respectively, it does not make me feel confident in conservatism in the United States. I find myself questioning why candidates whom I consider to be much more qualified and moderate are not beginning to pull away from the more extreme.

Jeb Bush and John Kasich are more moderate and more capable of working with Democrats in Congress than the other Republican candidates. Despite this, Bush and Kasich together garnered less than five percent of the total votes, according to the numbers published by the Associated Press. The one saving grace on the Republican side of things is how close Marco Rubio came in votes to overcoming Donald Trump. That being said, Marco Rubio has yet to convince me of his worth or his chances of winning over Clinton or Sand-

The Democratic side of the Iowa caucus was not surprising to me in the least. Even though Hillary Clinton led in the polls before the caucus, she escaped Iowa by the narrowest of margins— three-tenths of a percent.

Martin O'Malley received no delegates and only three percent of total votes. O'Malley suspended his presidential campaign upon seeing the re-



Republican front runner Ted Cruz speaks at a rally earlier this year.

sults. Iowa was an immense win for Bernie Sanders, who is currently leading in the New Hampshire polls by more than 30 points, according to the **Huffington Post.**

So what does this mean for the candidates going forward?

I think it's still too early to really make a sound guess for the Republicans with so many candidates still in the race. If

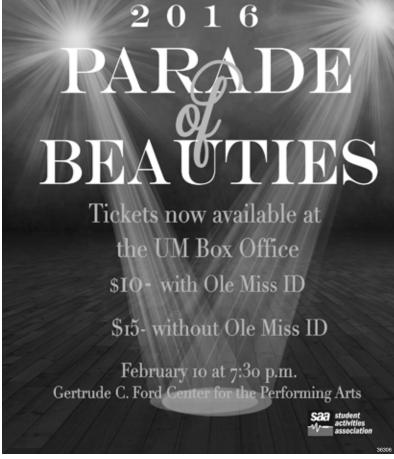
Trump can get a win in New Hampshire it may help him regain his momentum, but if Cruz can get a second win in a major area it may spell the end for many candidates. Unfortunately, I don't know what is worse: Trump winning his first primary or Cruz winning his second.

Bernie Sanders gained the most of any candidate from either side in the Iowa caucus. He showed he is a viable candidate and may very well pull ahead of Clinton in the long run. However, one big question arises out of the Iowa caucus:

With whom will O'Malley and his supporters side? If I had to guess, I would bet that Clinton wins over O'Malley's group, but with so few votes in Iowa, would it actually help her in the long run?

Dalton Capps is a senior history major from Goldwater.





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UM campaign highlights untold stories of student life

BLAKE ALSUP

mbalsup@go.olemiss.edu

More Than A Month is a new storytelling campaign sharing photos and personal anecdotes from students to empower and inspire the University community.

The goal of the campaign created by senior psychology major Summer Wigley is to "celebrate those around us who are history in the making."

The campaign is sponsored by the UM Black Student Union and the UM National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

More Than A Month began Feb. 1 to coincide with the beginning of Black History Month, but the goal is to continue the campaign in some capacity even after the month ends.

Wigley said several ideas inspired her to start the campaign.

"I'm a photographer on the side, and I asked myself 'What are you doing with your gift?' I've always had a passion for photojournalism and I'm a huge fan of Humans of New York, so it was a big inspiration," Wigley said.

The name More Than A Month was derived from a campaign that the Baptist Student Union did last year



CAPTION

called I Am More Than. Wigley said the name was chosen to demonstrate that young people are history in the making and should be celebrated.

Reuben Johnson, senior broadcast journalism major, was one of the first people to be featured in the campaign.

"The More Than A Month

campaign is a very refreshing platform that provides different perspectives on what blackness entails," Johnson said. "I can definitely see a lot of positive dialogue coming from this and I am so excited to see the impact it will have on race relations on campus."

Wigley said she made a vow to do whatever she could to learn and understand her best friend's experiences after she realized her friend would be treated differently based on the color of her skin.

"I didn't want to simply sit back and sympathize from a distance, but be proactive and empathize with those different than me. There's no growth when you feel for someone, only when you feel with him," Wigley said. "It's been a really growing experience and I think people can learn a lot when people open their hearts and their minds to things different than them."

The stories the students tell through More Than A Month aims to help educate University students and the Oxford community.

"The stories shared will, without a doubt, open the eyes of many who may be unaware of the challenges faced by members of my community," Johnson said. "I also believe that the stories being shared will support the idea of black people being multi-dimensional beings, an idea that is

hardly backed by society."

morethanamonth

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cant_even_dyl, spottieottiesam and

morethanamonth "Despite what many

speaking, I do not talk "white"... After all,

the change, the one that most members

speaks just as properly as I do, and we

call him the first black President of the

people think when they hear me

of my community have believed in,

morethanamonth

camilleviviana, erika.kamille,

deja.pocahontas, uneque91,

tmichelle_tales, bukaokoye,

cant_even_dyl and _idreamofwhitley

morethanamonth "And in a way, Black

History Month is multi-dimensional, too. It

can be powerful. It can be entertaining. It

can be inspiring. It can be painful. But in

COURTESY: INSTAGRAM

lairry_ like this

FOLLOW

FOLLOW

Wigley said she hopes people will learn something new as they follow the posts from More Than A Month.

"I just hope that one person is inspired or (their) heart is changed," Wigley said. "I want people to see it and engage with it. Hopefully there will be an open, continuous conversation about people. Don't be afraid to be who you are and share your story because our campus has proved that when you speak up, people will listen and things can change because of it."

More Than A Month can be found on Facebook and Instagram.





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RebelWell betters student nutrition through education

ABBIE MCINTOSH

mamcint1@go.olemiss.edu

Beginning Feb. 1, RebelWell kicked off their Spring into Motion: Wellness Challenge. The challenge asks participants to change small habits, which in turn will alter unhealthy behaviors. The challenge runs through March 11 and offers wellness seminars on topics such as "Smart Meals," "Transformation Tuesdays" and "Smoke-Free Presentations" throughout the course of the challenge.

The Spring into Motion challenge is not the only program RebelWell offers. RebelWell facilitates wellness activities and challenges, wellness events, demonstrations, wellness courses, individual fitness assessments, screening programs for specific health risks and meetings with a registered

Mariana A. Jurss, RebelWell's registered dietitian, said anyone can set up an appointment with

"As long as someone is participating in a RebelWell program, we offer five complimentary visits with me," Jurss said.

Getting involved with Rebel-



Mariana Jurss records Angie Gurner's height during the Kick Off Wellness Check In, for the Spring into Motion Challenge hosted by RebelWell.

Well is easy, Jurss said.

"For example, this past Monday we had our Spring into Motion challenge where people could just come in, check their blood pressure, check their weight, and check other health

factors and just for participating, (people) are eligible for a meeting," Jurss said.

RebelWell has also partnered with other organizations on campus, like the Turner Center and Ole Miss Dining to offer more to its participants.

"We noticed a lot of people saying 'What do I eat? I want to avoid the freshman 15,' when visiting dining halls. So we created an option called Campus Dish," Jurss said. "(Campus

Dish) is an app you can download on your phone that gives you a complete nutrition breakdown of all the food offered in the dining hall that day."

At first, RebelWell only reached out to the faculty and staff of the University, but has now reached out to include students in their programs. Freshman biology and math major Savannah Culver heard about RebelWell from an e-mail.

"I've wanted to get healthier, and I just heard about RebelWell this semester," Culver said. "I think getting involved in their programs will help me reach the healthier lifestyle I've been wanting."

Culver is not the only student who wants to get involved with RebelWell.

"I've been on a health kick this semester," freshman psychology major Hatten Livingston said. "I know RebelWell offers some nutrition options and I'm interested to see what they're all about."

For those wishing to learn more in depth details about specific events and programs RebelWell offers, more information is available on their website.

THE UNIVERSITY of MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Dean of Students

CONGRATULATIONS 2015-2016 Who's Who Recipients

Hillary Ake Bjad Khalaf Almutairy Kaitlin Aspinwall Jack Badger Ethan Baker Destinee Ball France Beard Silas Beebe Alexandra Bensel Mary Katherine Berger Robert Bobo Mary Bracken Denae Bradley Allison Bradshaw Robert Brady Bramlett **Rod Bridges** Lauren Briscoe Brianna Burse Kristin Buskirk Brittany Byrd Melissa Capocaccia Alix Cawthon **Brittany Clark** Laura Cline Jeremy Coleman Mary Chandler Cossar Maia Cotelo Joe Curry T'Keyah Davis Anne DeLee

Daniel Drummond **Emily Rose Duhe** Maggie Durnien Mary Alex England Callie Entwisle Austin Ezell Katherine Farese William Fisher Madeline Friedmann Hunter Gabbard James Galloway Terrian Garvis Kristina Gautier Cassidy Gills Alexandria Gochenauer Whitney Griffin Melissa Griffith Colleen Haadsma Maggie Hall Dana Hanley Gretchen Harknett Cynthia Harris Jamille Hartfield Ann-Marie Herod Claire Nelson Hick Mary Hitt Tanetra Howard Erin Hudnall Lauren Hughes

Austin Ivy

Kaylee Jacks Carole Jennings Mary Kakales Su Kim Sara Kiparizoska Logan Kirkland William Kneip Sabrina Kosloske Lindsey Landrum Mary Langford John Larkin Joseph Latham Elizabeth Leary Elizabeth Lee Mallory Simerville Lehenbauer Michelle Ley Caroline Loveless Kevin Mahalak Mary Martin Natalie Martinez Chastity Massengill Gabrielle Matthews Haley McFall Jennifer Miller Mary Caroline Morris Jacqueline Morris Amber Murphy Quinn Murray Gabrielle Mykytyn Vinayak Nahar

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Ole Miss fans are freaking out over a Top 2 class

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Looking good Ole Miss •• watch out its fina get

What a great day for @OleMissFB. I absolutely love our class and their families!!!Best wishes to those that chose other places. #DoGoodWork

turning into a Top 5 class. What a time to be

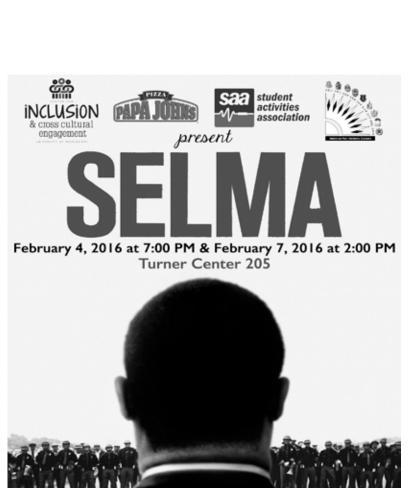
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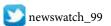
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Students can sign up at http://orgsync.com/38032/forms/177304







Rebels react to top-ranking 2016 recruiting class



"We got some really good players. My favorite is Greg Little, but he's not really little. We'll do well."

Jackson Pierron, sophomore criminal justice major



"I think we did fantastic. We are the wide receiver U of the SEC. Tre Nixon runs a 4.38 on a laser which is incredible."

Harrison Bara, sophomore criminal justice major



"Hell yeah. I don't keep up with high school football anymore, but I do know that we're No. 4. We were No. 2, but that's still bad ass."

Madeline Gibson, junior economics major



"I saw the video of the skydiving guy. That was cool."

Mallory Elam, freshman marketing and orporate relations major



"It's pretty dope. It's a new frontier to replace the old class. I'm most excited about Metcalf."

Que Certion, sophomore accountancy major



"Shea is my favorite. The class is really good and better than I expected. I was thinking we would be top 25, not top 5."

William Buchanan, sophomore accountancy major



"I'm expecting great things. Quality. It's all about quality. We'll have big rings soon."

Noah Kippenbrock, freshman biology major

PHOTOS BY: CAMERON BROOKS

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Justin Hill

~ General Manager



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COLUMN

Freeze, Rebels prove national relevance in SEC

COLLIN BRISTER

thedmsports@gmail.com

Hugh Freeze knew what he had to do when he arrived in Oxford in December of 2011.

He knew what was necessary if he was going to win at Ole Miss.

He knew what he had to do in recruiting.

"When you talk about recruiting, our coaches will clearly understand that we are establishing dynamic relationships with everyone that is involved in our decision making process," new head football coach Hugh Freeze said at his introductory press conference in Dec. 2011.

"We will win a championship. We have to win the state in recruiting and it will start with great coaches."

Ole Miss won the state on Wednesday. They signed three of the top five- nobody else had more than one. They signed four-star defensive lineman Benito Jones from Waynesboro. They signed four-star tight end Octavious Cooley.

Rebels went into The

Starkville and got a signature from highly coveted receiver A.J. Brown.

Brown said that Ole Miss recruited him the hardest of any school. They didn't concede immediately because

They went national. They fought Alabama. They fought Florida State.

They fought Texas A&M. They won some, they lost some. Freeze said that getting kids to visit makes them want

Texas, according to scout. com, to be the heir appar-

ent of Laremy Tunsil. They signed two highly-rated players in Deontay Anderson and D'Vaughn Pennamon out of Texas A&M's backyard.

"It is top to bottom the best class that we have had, and we've had some good ones," Freeze said.

So, we'll see. Many members of this class won't be on campus again until June. It's 205 days until the Ole Miss vs. Florida State kickoff in Orlando. Nobody won a football game on Wednesday.

But Ole Miss did win. They reminded a nation they're rel-

They proved they're going to compete for the SEC Western Division Championship.

They continued to prove that as long as Hugh Freeze is at Ole Miss, they're a force to be reckoned with in the college football landscape.

Ole Miss has made people mad. Ole Miss is accused of recruiting improprieties every

That didn't happen four years ago when Hugh Freeze took the podium.

"I know we've changed the narrative in college football," Freeze said on Paul Finebaum's show Wednesday afternoon. "And people don't like it."

THE APP FOR REAL REBELS

We've changed the narrative in college football." - Hugh Freeze

he was from Starkville. They made him a priority. They got him to leave Starkville.

They signed four-star receiver DeKaylin Metcalf from Oxford.

Brown said, in response to him and Metcalf playing together, "It's finna get ugly, that's all I can say."

Ole Miss won a lot more than Mississippi on Wednesday.

to come back.

And some did come back. They signed the best quar-

terback in the country, Shea Patterson.

"If you're going to build a championship team, I think you start at quarterback, and obviously we feel like we have the best one in the nation in Shea Patterson," Freeze said.

They signed No. 2 overall prospect Greg Little from

They signed highly-touted wide receiver Tre Nixon out of Florida. Jacob Mathis, a fourstar tight end, also pledged with the Rebels.

The class drew comparisons to the Rebels' 2013 recruiting class, where they landed five-stars Robert Nkemdiche, Laremy Tunsil and Laquon Treadwell.

Fairly or unfairly, that is how the class will be judged.



sports

Hugh Freeze: 'It's the best class we've had'

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE

Bsrippee@go.olemiss.edu

When Hugh Freeze stepped to the podium to address the media on Wednesday, he did so with a smile. The fifth year head coach had just compiled another unprecedented recruiting class that is ranked fourth nationally by ESPN.

"I don't know if our staff has ever done a better job of developing relationships that can withstand the onslaught of difficult things that are thrown at you through the course of recruiting," Freeze said. "We feel like top to bottom its the best class we've had, and we've had some good ones."

Ole Miss signed 24 players in the 2016 recruiting class, including the nation's top quarterback and offensive tackle in the country. Eight of the 24 were early enrollees and are already on campus.

"If you're going to put together a championship class, I think

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Head coach Hugh Freeze answers questions at the National Signing Day press conference Wednesday afternoon.

you always start at quarterback," Freeze said. "And obviously we feel like we have the best one in the nation in Shea Patterson. I love everything about that kid."

The Rebels addressed a number of weaknesses across the board in this 2016 class, including at running back. Ole Miss added four star D'Vaughn Pennamon out of Manvel Texas. They also added three-star Jarrion Street of Trussville Alabama. Street was the 7A player of the year in the state of Alabama.

"Two guys that are really athletic, Pennamon is a big, strong kid and Jarrion, a more athletic kid," Freeze said of the two backs. "We had to fight off schools at the end with both of them. They're quality kids."

The Rebels were thin on the offensive line in 2015, and there were holes that needed to be filled. Ole Miss did just that as it signed five offensive linemen, including the nation's top offensive line prospect in Greg Little.

"Many are saying it may be the best in the nation as a unit," Freeze said of the group. "I know we are very pleased. We think these kids and families fit ideally with who we are."

With the departure of Laremy Tunsil, perhaps the most gaping hole was at left tackle, but Freeze and Matt Luke found a more than capable replacement in Little.

"With us losing Laremy, of course you're looking for the best available, and we think Greg Little is that," Freeze said "We think he has the best feet in America." Freeze called the offensive line

class "a home run."

Another area where the Rebels' have hit home runs in the past is at wide receiver, and it was no different in 2016. Ole Miss grabbed three wide receivers, including the top two prospects in the state of Mississippi in D.K. Metcalf and A.J. Brown.

"We continue to put in that room guys that I think are phenomenal," Freeze said. "The kids that commit to where they want to go and are loyal, and recruit for you, and never waver are kids that you have an extra appreciation for and (Metcalf) was that way for us."

Brown, a Starkville native, was the biggest steal of the day for Freeze and his staff as they were able to lure him away from Starkville and his hometown university in Mississippi State.

"I really enjoyed the building of that relationship with he and his father Arthur," Freeze said. "The moment he told me that he grew up wanting to play for Ole Miss, I knew we had a chance."

If there was one weakness in this class, Freeze thinks it may be on the defensive line and at linebacker

"I'd probably say in the defensive line or a linebacker or two," Freeze said when asked about where he might have missed in this class. "We're battling a lot of good places, and they've got a lot of good options."

All in all, it was the strongest class in program history, and Freeze feels as if he has established a confident way to go about recruiting.

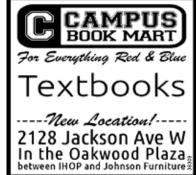
"I think we can go nationally and win our share. We'll continue to do it. Ole Miss is a great place," Freeze said "If you get people here, they'll want to come back."



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COLUMN

Mississippi State wanted him, Ole Miss wanted him more

CODY THOMASON

csthoma1@go.olemiss.edu

Starkville - A. J. Brown knew where he wanted to go all along. He knew what he was about to do. He saw the reaction Kobe Jones got for choosing Mississippi State.

"I would like to thank everybody that came out, and for supporting me throughout this entire process, the recruiting process has it's ups and downs, but I'm truly blessed to be put in this situation," Brown said.

He took a deep breath.

"The next 3 or 4 years, I will be taking my talent to the University of Mississippi," Brown said.

The room filled with cheers and applause again.

"I wanted to go to Ole Miss for a long time, I just had to go with my heart, go with my gut," Brown said. "I knew it was going to be a big one, because I live in Starkville."

Brown, from Starkville, the home of Mississippi State University, said the Bulldogs didn't do an adequate job of



PHOTO BY: COLLIN BRISTER

A.J. Brown talks to media after signing his letter of intent to Ole Miss over Mississippi State in Starkville.

recruiting him.

"I mean, I was going to stay, but I felt like (Mississippi ed to be honest," Brown said. Starkville I would expect Mis-

State) didn't do a good job of "I felt like other schools wantrecruiting. I didn't feel want-

ed me more. I mean I live in

sissippi State would be hard everyday here, I'd get tired of seeing them, but it wasn't like that.'

Brown took his official visit to Ole Miss last weekend, and said it solidified his decision

"Just the relationship I built with the coaches, me talking to them numerous times, I felt wanted," Brown said.

The Rebels having Chad Kelly and Shea Patterson on the roster was a definite benefit for the Rebels in garnering Brown's signature.

"Those guys can sling it," Brown said.

Brown also liked the idea of playing next to fellow Mississippi receiver D. K. Metcalf in the Ole Miss offense, which already featured a number of talented wideouts.

In addition to football, Brown said he will also play on the baseball at Ole Miss.

Brown was just relieved that the recruiting process was finally finished.

"To be honest, I'm glad it's over with," Brown said. "I'm ready to go back to square one and go to work."

Mojo Performing Tonight & Friday Night

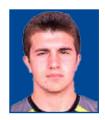


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6-foot-3 223 pounds, Tampa, FL
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