

The Student Printz

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Fall semester kicks off with GEWW

By Ja'Terrica Wilson
SM2 Content Creator

Welcome back, Golden Eagles!

Students on the Hattiesburg campus of the University of Southern Mississippi have started the new semester off with eagerness and excitement.

There were recent activities for students, such as Golden Eagle Welcome Week (GEWW) and the Welcome Back Festival hosted by the Southern Miss Activities Council (SMAC), held the week before the first day of classes.

This gave students the opportunity to meet new people, learn or refresh their memory on where things are on campus, and have fun before classes began.

"GEWW is a week-long event with the mission of welcoming incoming freshmen and transfer students onto our campus," says Mackenzie Kuykendoll, a senior majoring in Voice.

"I had the role of serving as a GEWW Crew Leader," says Kuykendoll. "My role was being the leader and helping incoming freshmen with their transition and being a mentor figure."

Events like these, such as GEWW, are designed to help students quickly switch from "summer mode" to "back to school mode."

Additionally, it allows freshmen

students, who have just finished high school, to feel more comfortable with the quick change that is about to occur in their lives.

As a GEWW crew leader, Kuykendoll knew how important this event was to those students, and that they would never forget it throughout their college careers.

"This moment in their lives is so specific and a serious milestone for them, and GEWW helps set the stage for their college career and the new journey that they are about to embark on."

The Welcome Back Festival was an on-campus event that took place in Spirit Park. There were games, photo booths, food and even a truck with ax throwing.

Hosted by SMAC, this event and many other upcoming SMAC events are highly supported by students through their participation and eagerness.

For more information about how you can participate in these exciting events, follow SMAC on Instagram at ([usm_smac](#)), Southern Miss Leadership and Student Involvement at ([usm_lsi](#)) and The Southern Miss Student Media Center at ([sm2.usm](#)), in which different events will be posted on these Instagram accounts.

Welcome home, Golden Eagles. Have a great year!

Have a great year, Golden Eagles!



By ABIGAIL TROTH

Students were welcomed for the new school year by participating in the traditional Golden Eagle Welcome Week, or GEWW. GEWW has become a staple of the Golden Eagle experience for years now, with the famous Painting of the Eagle Walk being the most notable event. Seymour greeted students at the Eagle Walk on Aug. 17 to paint the Eagle Walk and welcome students to their new home.

INSIDE: Football Preview



Stay cool in extreme heat

By Abigail Troth
SM2 Assignments Editor

Weeks have passed with only a few droplets of rain and sweltering heat here in the Magnolia State. Due to this powerful heat and rising temperatures, many have fallen sick with heat exhaustion. According to Merit Health Wesley, the number of patients diagnosed with heat exhaustion between May and September has risen by 53 percent.

As Golden Eagles are welcomed home to the beautiful city of Hattiesburg, many can be found sweating as they walk to class under the beating sun. Students, as we battle this unwelcome heat, there are many ways to stay safe in this extreme weather.

When dealing with extreme

temperatures in this unusually hot summer, there are three goals to maintain. Stay hydrated, stay in air-conditioned areas, and limit outdoor activities. Two of these goals are easily attainable, since water fountains are available in every building, and you can stop at the P.O.D.s on campus to purchase a bottle of water. All classrooms, dormitories, and other buildings are equipped with air-conditioning to provide relief from the heat. However, avoiding the outdoors is not easy for people on campus. To get from place to place on campus, that requires walking outdoors.

There are remedies to this. You can carry an umbrella to avoid the sun and keep in the shade.

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The Student Printz

THE STUDENT PRINTZ

The Student Printz is the student newspaper of the University of Southern Mississippi. It is published by the Southern Miss Student Media Center (SM2) in the School of Media and Communication.

It is published every Wednesday morning, and new content is consistently published online at sm2media.com. The newspaper has been printed since 1927 and is proud to serve the Southern Miss campus and community.

SM2 student-journalists and student-producers create and share stories through multiple mediums and across multiple platforms using the most modern technology. SM2 includes Southern Miss Radio, Southern Miss TV, and the Creative and Strategic Communication divisions.

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Opinions expressed in The Student Printz are those of the writer and not necessarily those of its student or professional staffs, the university community, the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning or the USM Board of Student Publications.

To submit an editorial, please do so by email before 5 p.m. on the date of desired publication. Email your letters to printzeditors@gmail.com. We will publish up to 500 words, but we reserve the right to refuse to publish your letter or to edit it for clarity and space reasons.

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Department of Parking and Transit Services 2023-2024 Parking and Traffic Regulations ENACTMENT AND PUBLICATION

The Rules and Regulations herein promulgated shall become effective only after notice of enactment of the same has been published in three consecutive issues of the university newspaper and in a newspaper having a general circulation in the county and municipality where a University of Southern Mississippi campus or teaching/research site is located. Such notice shall state where the full text of such rules and regulations may be found on file. In addition, such rules and regulations shall be posted on five bulletin boards at the campuses/sites of the University for a period of four weeks after their promulgation (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-105-3).

These rules and regulations are enacted by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi, and effective from and after August 1, 2023. Find the full text of such rules and regulations at usm.edu/parking-transit-services or by hard copy at the Department of Parking and Transit Services in McLemore Hall on the Hattiesburg campus, University Police and Parking on the Gulf Park campus, and at the Oceanography Building and Cedar Point locations at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

Department of Parking and Transit Services FOOTBALL GAME DAY PARKING NOTICE RESERVED AREAS

The Southern Miss vs. Alcorn State game is Saturday, Sept. 2.

USM Athletics has reserved parking lots for this event and vehicles must be relocated based on the following:

Friday, Sept. 1: Entry into Century Park North and Payne Center lots will close at NOON, and all vehicles should be removed from the lot before 5 p.m. Vehicles will be TOWED from these lots beginning at 5 p.m. The lots will remain closed until 10 a.m. Sunday morning.

Saturday, Sept. 2: Vehicles must be moved or will be towed at 8 a.m. from the following lots: McCarty Hall, Wilbur Hall, Hillcrest, Bolton Hall, Eagle Walk Lot, Ray Guy Way and Eagle Walk Numbered Spaces.

Vehicles parked in ALL other Eagle Club reserved areas must be moved by 8 a.m. on game day Saturday or be towed at owner's expense.

OPEN PARKING for game day is available in the following locations: 34th Ave Lot, Hillcrest Gravel Lot, Sports Field Lot, Ross Boulevard North/South Lots, Montague Open Zone, Arthell Kelley Lot and Fraternity Drive.

If a vehicle is towed for football, an \$100 towing fee must be paid to Parking and Transit Services before release. For more information, please contact Parking and Transit Services at 601-266-4948 or email parking@usm.edu.

Football Game Day Parking Map:
(Scan the QR code)



University Forum dates announced

From submitted reports

The guest speakers for this fall's University Forum series at the University of Southern Mississippi are equal parts passionate and fearless in the work of their callings, whether in the fields of science or politics.

Presenters for the series, titled "Dare to Disagree," include Dr. Jamil Zaki, a noted Stanford University psychology professor who writes about the need for more empathy; Adam Kinzinger, one of only two Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives to serve on its Jan. 6 Committee investigating the U.S. Capitol riot in 2021; and Dr. Jay Hakes, an energy policy expert with a long record of service in federal and state government.

Forum events will take place at Bennett Auditorium on the USM Hattiesburg campus, except for the Hakes presentation, which will be held at the Fleming Education Center on the university's Gulf Park campus in Long Beach and live-streamed at Bennett Auditorium.

"This year's University Forum reminds us that the personal is always political," said Dr. Andrew Haley, director of University Forum and a professor of history. "Whether scientist or politician, each presenter draws on their experience to confront new challenges, both individual and global. As University Forum nears its 50th anniversary of bringing provocative speakers to Southern Miss, we invite followers of our programming to join us in conversations certain to challenge how you see yourself and the world."

The program schedule is as follows:

— Zaki, "The War for Kindness," scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Hakes is director of Stanford's Social Neuroscience Laboratory and a collaborating scientist with its Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education.

— Kinzinger, "An Evening with Adam Kinzinger," scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 10. Kinzinger is a former U.S. representative and an active member of the Air Nation-



Speakers are, from left, Zaki, Kinzinger and Hakes.

al Guard. He will soon publish an autobiography, "My Life in Faith, the Military, and Defending America from Trump's Attack on Democracy."

— Hakes, "Biggest Resilience Challenge: 20-Year Strategy on Climate Change," scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Hakes was admin-

istrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration and served for 13 years as director of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Registration is not required, and admission is free to the public.

For more information about the forum, visit usm.edu/forum.

Symphony season dates set

From submitted reports

The University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra recently announced its 104th season, opening Oct. 3, 2023, and offering a concert a month throughout the academic year.

Season tickets are now on sale at usm.edu/symphony. Individual tickets begin sales Sept. 5.

"We are once again pleased to bring you the very best in symphonic

music as we continue our mission of education and community outreach," said Dr. Michael Miles, director of the orchestra. "This will be a wonderful season of world-class guest artists, conductors and music from all over the globe."

The 2023-24 symphony season series is titled "Voyages," exploring music from all around the globe to familiarize students and patrons with the many styles of music that exist in

the world. Audiences will hear the Latin rhythms of South America, the stylish music of Spain, and the power and expression of the Austro-German symphonic tradition.

Along the way, patrons will hear music depicting pine forests in Rome, songs about lost love and an opera inspired by the painting "The Adoration of the Magi." Patrons can also ring in the season with the annual Holiday Choral Spectacular.

The symphony recently moved to a new ticketing system in hopes of making the patron experience as simple as possible.

However, this system does not allow reserved seats.

Ticket prices will remain at \$20 general admission.

Season-ticket purchasers will enjoy a discount equal to one free concert, and students are always welcome at concerts free of admission with ID.

HEAT

Continued from Page 1

Walk under trees, in the shade, or pass through buildings to avoid being overheated by the sun. Carry a bottle of water with you at all times so you can stay hydrated in the heat.

Hydration is key during the dangerous heat. You can drink things like Gatorade or Powerade to stay hydrated, but water is always important and should be on hand constantly. Caffeine and alcoholic beverages can contribute to dehydration if taken in consumption. Lower your caffeine intake during this time, and make sure you're drinking enough water.

Always wear sunscreen so you can avoid painful sunburns and keep your skin healthy in the long run. Try to wear broad-spectrum sunscreen of 15, but 30 to 50 would be better for sunburn prevention.

Try to wear lightweight or loose-fitting clothes. Heavy clothes such as hoodies or thick blue jeans can put you at a high risk for heat-related illness and can cause weakness.

If you begin feeling weak in the heat, take a moment and recompose yourself. Drink water slowly, rest for a minute in the shade, and then see how you feel. If you begin feeling too

weak or dizzy, visit Moffitt Health at Century Park South to receive proper care. You can also take cold showers or baths to cool down in your dorm or apartment.

The hottest part of the day during this time is usually 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The sun beats down during this time, meaning that heat exhaustion and sunburns are much more common. During this time, stay indoors as much as you can. This is easy for us students as we are usually inside during this time anyway!

Rest is of the utmost importance. If you must participate in outdoor activities (which can be unavoidable for some), carry a wet towel or a rag to wipe your face or to keep cool.

One of the funnest remedies during this time is swimming. Luckily for those at USM, the Payne Center has the M.C. Johnson Natatorium available for people to cool off in. The pool opens at 6 a.m. until 8 a.m. Monday through Friday for lap swimming. The pool reopens for more lap swimming from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lap swimming continues from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., when the pool closes. On Wednesdays, an aqua boot camp is available from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. On weekends, the pool is open for recreational and lap swimming from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The natatorium is not only fun and great for exercise, but a wonderful resource



By SEAN SMITH

University of Southern Mississippi President Joe Paul recently provided popsicles to students to combat the extreme heat on campus and throughout the area.

for those who need a break from the sweltering heat.

Remember, Eagles.

Cold weather will be coming soon

and there will be relief to this heat.

Until then, stay hydrated and cool and continue doing your best this semester!

Wiles to be starting quarterback; first game is Saturday

By Dima Mixon
Editor

Southern Miss head coach Will Hall recently announced at practice that Clemson transfer Billy Wiles will be the starting quarterback for the Golden Eagles this season.

"We are going to name Billy Wiles as the starter. Two things have been evident to me throughout this fall camp. One, Holman and Billy are both really good players, good leaders, and we can win with both of them. And two, Billy has been better; he's just been a little bit better." Hall said.



WILES

This announcement comes after a tight quarterback battle in fall camp between Wiles and Houston transfer Holman Edwards. Hall had stated back at Sun Belt media days that the battle was between those two players. All throughout fall camp, these two players have been going back and forth in one of the tighter QB races that Hall and company has seen in his tenure.

But Hall made it clear that Wiles won the job because he was just a fraction better than Edwards. He didn't have to be light years better, but just a bit better to win back the job, and he did that. Hall made it clear that both players were really good, but Wiles just won the job. He couldn't go wrong with a player, but he had to choose one.

"Holman is a really good football player. Billy has just been a little bit better, and he has done some things better, so he's going to be the starter moving forward, and we will roll with that." Hall said.

Hall has always touted that the player that will win the job is the one that will be able to run his offense the best. Obviously, this may seem like a no-brainer, but Hall hasn't been able to use his style of offense practically at all in the two years he has been here. Because of that, the decision rested on the sort of "game manager" player that can last a full season. Hall believes that that job and idea have been won by Mr. Wiles.

"Yeah, I mean, it's exciting," Wiles said on winning the job. "Little less than two weeks until our first game, so I'm just excited to go and compete with everybody. It was a really fun competition, and I'm happy we are here and the season is ready to go."

Coming into fall camp, Edwards seemed to be in the lead, especially with Wiles playing through an oblique injury. So, the job needed to be won by Wiles coming into fall camp, but not only be won but taken from Edwards. Throughout all of fall camp, that seemed to be what aligned at practice.

Wiles looked more comfortable in the pocket and was definitely more consistent, making easy completions over the middle. Edwards is more of your big play creator. He will be able to spot a beautiful deep ball down the field a lot better than Wiles can. However, there are times he just made mistakes that cost drives, and Wiles made fewer of those errors.

The QB with the cleaner play is the pick here, and Hall didn't shy away. Hall did mention there was not a specific moment that Wiles won the job during camp, but rather a more complete showing out of all of fall camp from Wiles.

"I never thought there was a moment [Wiles won the job], because I wanted to let it play out. I wanted to scrimmage twice. I wanted every practice to matter, and I think they did. I think they were both really good, I just think Billy was a little bit better. And I know he was a little bit better consistently." Hall said.

That's why Wiles was named the QB, he was just a little bit better, but more importantly, just a little bit more consistent, exactly what Hall needs in a quarterback with his offense.

Not to mention that Hall goes back with Wiles all the way back to the days at Tulane when he recruited him back when Hall was there.

So, he has known Wiles and watched him play for a long time, and when Wiles announced he was coming to Southern Miss, it almost seemed like a formality he would start at quarterback. But, good for both Edwards and Wiles, they pushed each other to be even better than they might have been had there been now competition.

Now with the starting QB being named for Southern Miss, Hall can move forward with a central approach to running the offense with one guy. One guy, one leader: Billy Wiles

"Let's go. Let's compete. Let's win a lot of ball games and go chase the Sun Belt," Wiles said.

Southern Miss opens the season on September 3 against Alcorn State.

Follow @dima_mixon on Twitter for continuing coverage of Southern Miss athletics.



Game-by-Game Football Season Predictions

By Dima Mixon
Editor

Southern Miss football is just days away, and the time for season projections is here. This article will review every game on Southern Miss's schedule and give score projections.

Week 1: vs. Alcorn State
When: September 2, 2023
Where: Hattiesburg, MS
When: 6 PM CT
Watch: ESPN+

The Golden Eagles will open the season at home for the second straight season when they welcome the in-state foe Alcorn State. The Braves are supposed to be very talented this season, being picked to finish second in the SWAC Western Division.

Alcorn State landed six players on the SWAC preseason team, including five in the first team.

This is not your casual FCS opponent; the Braves are an experienced ball club competing tightly in their respective league. Southern Miss leads the all-time series 3-0, with Alcorn State not challenging them outside of the 2014 game, where Southern Miss squeaked by 26-20.

This game will be the first look at recently announced starting quarterback Billy Wiles, and it might take him a couple of drives to settle in.

This game could be close in the first quarter, but expect Southern Miss to blow it open afterward.

Prediction: Southern Miss 45-17
Record: 1-0, 0-0 in Sun Belt

Week 2: at No. 8 Florida State
When: September 9, 2023
Where: Tallahassee, FL
When: 7:30 PM CT
Watch: ACC Network

It is only week two, but Southern Miss already is facing the gauntlet of their demanding schedule.

Going on the road, under the lights, against a top ten team in Florida State in the AP poll will be a tall task. The last time Southern Miss played in a game on this level would have been in 2021 against Alabama, where they lost 63-14.

Florida State will have just been coming off one of the more anticipated week one matchups against LSU. If the Seminoles were to lose that game, that would almost certainly knock them out of the top ten, but still an excellent football team.

This will be a game that Southern Miss will go and try to compete as best they can, but try to avoid injuries to star players and enjoy the moment and compete to the best of your ability.

However, barring a miracle, Southern Miss will take its first loss to the hands of the Noles.

"Let's go. Let's compete. Let's win a lot of ball games and go chase the Sun Belt."

— STARTING QB BILLY WILES

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PREDICTIONS*Continued from Page 4*

Prediction:
Florida State 59-10
Record: 1-1, 0-0 in Sun Belt

Week 3: vs No. 24 Tulane
When: September 16, 2023
Where: Hattiesburg, MS
When: 3 PM CT
Watch: ESPNU

After the game at Florida State, the path does not get any easier for Southern Miss. They return home and welcome the Green Wave of Tulane, who is coming off one of if not the greatest, season in Tulane history after going 11-2 and winning the Cotton Bowl.

The Green Wave and the Golden Eagles fought each other last season in the battle of the bell, with Southern Miss arguably getting their best win of Will Hall's tenure by winning 27-24. This year, Tulane returns star quarterback Michael Pratt and several key players around the team.

Southern Miss will be two games into a brand-new quarterback and coming off a rough week in Tallahassee. Look for them to be energized and ready to play the Green Wave. I think Tulane is a better football club, and they will seek revenge for last year's anomaly defeat. It is a close game, but I am taking a proven quarterback over an unproven quarterback.

Prediction: Tulane 31-28
Record: 1-2, 0-0 in Sun Belt

Week 4: at Arkansas State
When: September 23, 2023
Where: Jonesboro, Arkansas
When: TBA
Watch: TBA

After two rigid back-to-back losses, Southern Miss will go on the road for the second straight year for the Sun Belt opener against the Arkansas State Red Wolves. Last season, this game was controlled by Arkansas State for most of the contest until Southern Miss got new life from quarterback Jake Lange, and he led a rally to help Southern Miss squeak by 20-19.

This season, Southern Miss should have better quarterback play than last season. The Golden Eagles also match up very well against the Red Wolves in this game; they should be more experienced in every area, especially defensively. The Red Wolves will be starting a new quarterback, and even though they are at home, I have Southern Miss coming out of Jonesboro with a win.

Prediction:
Southern Miss 30-20
Record: 2-2, 1-0 in Sun Belt

Week 5: vs Texas State
When: September 30, 2023
Where: Hattiesburg, MS
When: TBA
Watch: TBA

A game that got lost in the shuffle from last season was on October 22 in San Marcos, Texas, where freshman quarterback Zach Wilcke heaved a

hail mary deep to Chandler Pittman. Moreover, it was caught, Pittman scored, and Southern Miss got out of San Marcos by the skin of their teeth.

Southern Miss gets an all-new look at Texas State in Hattiesburg this year. The Bobcats have an all-new head coach, G.J. Kinne, coming from Incarnate Word, where he turned that program around in his one-year stint. He took UIW all the way to the FCS semifinals and is no stranger to the FBS with coaching jobs at SMU, Hawaii, and UCF, among others. Kinne has a talented roster, and the Bobcats will be better than some people give them credit.

However, they will not be good enough to come into the Rock and knock off the Golden Eagles but expect this game to be close.

Prediction: Southern Miss 31-24
Record: 3-2, 2-0 in the Sun Belt

Week 6: vs. Old Dominion (Homecoming)
When: October 7, 2023
Where: Hattiesburg, MS
When: TBA
Watch: TBA

It is the first meeting since 2016 and only the second meeting all-time (Series tied 1-1). Old Dominion qualified for a bowl in 2021 after starting 1-6! Last year, in 2022, Old Dominion had 17 returning starters and upset Virginia Tech in the opener. They almost beat Virginia a couple of weeks later and destroyed Coastal Carolina on the road 49-21. So this is a big surprise team, where sometimes they play well, sometimes they don't.

This year, the Monarchs return just seven starters, so they are a very inexperienced team, and they will be coming to Hattiesburg in what is most likely to be a night game on homecoming. That will be too big of a task for Ricky Rahne's Monarchs. Expect this one to be sured up by halftime.

Prediction: Southern Miss 31-10
Record: 4-2, 3-0 in Sun Belt

Week 7: at South Alabama
When: October 17, 2023
Where: Hattiesburg, MS
When: 6:30 PM CT
Watch: ESPN2

This might be the game of the Sun Belt thus far in the season. Southern Miss and South Alabama both should be undefeated in the Sun Belt play. This will be a battle for the rights to a tie-breaker in the Sun Belt West. Last season, the game was very close for most of the contest until South Alabama eventually pulled away in the end.

The Jaguars are touted to be the Sun Belt's best shot in years to get to a New Year's Six bowl outside of Coastal Carolina in 2020. In head coach Kane Wommack's first year, the Jaguars failed to reach a bowl. Last season, they returned 16 starters, were just a point away from upsetting UCLA, and lost to Troy at home. They were just four points from going undefeated in the regular season last year. This year they have a whopping 18 returning starters and have the best defensive lines in the Sun Belt.

This game is a weird Tuesday night primetime on ESPN2. I think Southern Miss has vastly improved from last season to this season, but I also think the Jaguars have vastly improved to

an even bigger level. Southern Miss has yet to beat South Alabama in football, which does not change this year.

Prediction: South Alabama 35-20
Record: 4-3, 3-1 in Sun Belt

Week 8: at Appalachian State
When: October 28, 2023
Where: Boone, NC
When: TBA
Watch: TBA

The road gets more challenging after South Alabama. Will Hall must take his Golden Eagles up to Boone, NC to face Appalachian State. App State became a staple team in the beginning weeks of college football. After losing to North Carolina 63-61 in the opener, they upset Texas A&M at Kyle Field in College Station.

After that miracle, they pulled off another miracle with a hail mary against Troy while College Gameday was there in Boone. They fell off after that, and did not reach a bowl game even while going 6-6.

This season, they return eleven starters and draw Coastal Carolina and Marshall at home, where they have been brutal to opponents. They have been 43-6 at home in the last eight years. Southern Miss will have an extra few days to prepare for this game, but will not be able to get the job done in a tough road matchup.

Prediction:
Appalachian State 35-27
Record: 4-4, 3-2 in Sun Belt

Week 9: vs. ULM
When: November 4, 2023
Where: Hattiesburg, MS
When: TBA
Watch: TBA

After two challenging road games, Southern Miss returns to Hattiesburg to take on ULM. Last season, Southern Miss had to travel to Monroe and beat ULM to reach a bowl game for the first time in the Will Hall era. Behind Frank Gore Jr.'s exceptional performance, the Golden Eagles broke through and won 20-10.

Warhawk head coach Terry Bowden always could win, and in his first season with the Warhawks, he even sprung some upsets. They were in so many close games last season, seemingly dropping every one of them. This season, they lost their QB, RB, and top three WR's.

This should be a comfortable bounce-back victory for Southern Miss.

Prediction: Southern Miss 31-7
Record: 5-4, 4-2 in the Sun Belt

Week 10: at Louisiana
When: November 9, 2023
Where: Lafayette, LA
When: 6:30 PM CT
Watch: ESPNU

Southern Miss will play Louisiana on a Thursday night in primetime for the second straight season. Last year, Southern Miss won 39-24 and never lost the lead. This year, the game will be in Lafayette and will likely be pivotal for both squads trying to stay alive in the Sun Belt West.

This is a series that dates back to 1923, with Southern Miss leading the all-time series 41-11. They have won the last ten matchups with the Ragin Cajuns. This season, they have

just nine returning starters and draw South Alabama and Troy on the road.

In hindsight, I think Southern Miss has improved since last season, playing a better Louisiana team last year. I think Southern Miss goes to Lafayette and gets the job done.

Prediction: Southern Miss 28-21
Record: 6-4, 5-2 in the Sun Belt

Week 11: at Mississippi State
When: November 18, 2023
Where: Starkville, MS
When: 11:00 AM CT
Watch: ESPN+

This is one of the most unique matchups this season. In average years, Southern Miss would be playing Mississippi State on the road to open the season, where both teams are fired up. The game would be close for the first two quarters, and then the Bulldogs would impose their will in the second half.

College Football lost a legend in the sport last year when Mike Leech suddenly passed away. This year, new head coach Zach Arnett inherits a Bulldog team with 12 returning starters, including a veteran quarterback. He also inherits a tough schedule where the Bulldogs could be 4-6 going into the Southern Miss game.

They only return one starter on the defensive line, so that I would give the edge to the Southern Miss offensive line. Their secondary was depleted, with only one player back who started last season. The offense is the strength of the team, but not the defense.

This will be Will Hall's Super Bowl, and Mississippi State might be peaking ahead of Ole Miss just enough to give Southern Miss the biggest upset win in the Will Hall era. Will that happen? I will say no as of now, but ask me again in November, and I may have changed my tune—close game.

PICK: Mississippi State 31-30
Record: 6-5, 5-2 in Sun Belt

Week 12: vs. Troy
When: November 25, 2023
Where: Hattiesburg, MS
When: TBA
Watch: TBA

Last season, Southern Miss led Troy at halftime and could have won if they had had better quarterback play. Their defense held up to Troy, and eventually, the turnovers killed them. I do not expect the turnovers to be the catalyst to this game this season, as Billy Wiles will be entering his 12th game and be significantly more experienced than Zach Wilcke was last season in Troy.

Troy is the reigning Sun Belt champions, and they have 12 returning starters and have a great chance at repeating their title. They lose their top two wide receivers and return their quarterback. Their linebacker room is somewhat depleted from last season after losing Carlton Martial.

I expect Southern Miss to be up on Senior Day and give the Trojans everything they got, and I expect that effort to be a victory.

PICK: Southern Miss 27-24
Record: 7-5, 6-2 in the Sun Belt

Follow @dima_mixon on Twitter for continuing coverage of Southern Miss athletics.

Women's soccer secures first win

By Zion Cochran
SM2 Staff

Southern Miss women's soccer (1-2-0, 0-0-0 SBC) secured their first win of the season by beating Mississippi Valley State in the home opener 2-1.

The Golden Eagles began the first half with a slow pace, allowing the Delta Devilettes forward Jaslyn Sanders to score a goal at 10 minutes into the first period. The Golden Eagles had ample opportunities at a goal but did not quite capitalize on an opportunity.

Still, the Golden Eagles played tremendous defense, allowing only one point in the first half while goalkeeper Alex Helbling had two saves.

At the 36-minute mark, Parker Martin, assisted by Rebeka Vega scored a goal past goalkeeper Ludesha Reynolds making the score 1-1 closing out the first period. This marked Martin's first collegiate goal and her first of the season.

"The team's attitude during half-time was calm and poised. "The players had an opportunity to settle down, resting their minds and bodies. There was no panic nor fear, and everyone was focused." Southern Miss head coach Mohammed El-Zare said.

The Golden Eagles more or less dominated the second period, having

eleven shot opportunities, while the Devilettes only had three shot opportunities. Although the scoreboard does not quite tell the game's story, it was obvious that the Golden Eagles were in complete control of the second period, allowing the Devilettes to cross midfield only seven times in the second period.

At the 70-minute mark, midfielder Adaira Nakano scored an unassisted goal, making the score 2-1 in favor of the Golden Eagles.

This goal marked Nakano's first of the season.

Devilettes struggled with getting opportunities at the goal line due to the outstanding defense of the Golden Eagles, only having three shot opportunities during the second period. The defense carried the team for the rest of the game.

"The objective of today's game was to control the ball, move the ball, and switch points of attack to get in between the teeth of the defense. We hope to build off this win and carry it into their next game versus Northwestern State." El-Zare said.

The Golden Eagles improved to 1-2 on the season.

Next, the Golden Eagles will welcome Northwestern State on Aug. 31 at the Southern Miss Soccer Complex at 4 PM.



By SEAN SMITH

Good luck, Golden Eagles!



By SEAN SMITH

Hall strategically using transfer portal

By Jackson Kennedy
SM2 Content Creator

Whether anyone likes it or not, the transfer portal is here to stay.

Head Coach Will Hall has turned it into his most dangerous weapon during his tenure at Southern Miss.

With bringing in key players in the past, like Jay Stanley, to the additions he brought in this offseason, Hall has made the portal a tool to patch holes Southern Miss may have or may need a year or two to develop fully.

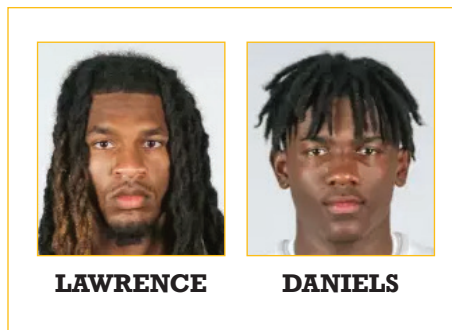
This team has become much more dynamic and competitive than they would be without it.

Hall added many additions to this Golden Eagle roster through the transfer portal this season, but this

article will cover the most impactful ones.

Grabbing starting quarterback Billy Wiles was huge for this Southern Miss offense, where, had they possessed a quarterback who could stay consistently healthy and play consistently well, this team could have won nine, maybe ten games last year. Now, Hall has his guy.

Wiles originally committed to Tulane back when Hall was OC there, and less than two weeks after Hall got hired at Southern Miss, Wiles withdrew his commitment from the school and walked on to Clemson. Before his freshman season ended, Wiles earned a scholarship and became a well-liked team member. Now, Wiles and Hall are reunited.



LAWRENCE

DANIELS

Transfer Dylan Lawrence will be a name all the Golden Eagles faithful will be more than acquainted with. The 6'5" safety is one of the most physically imposing people on the roster, as his size gives him an advantage over just about anyone he will ever face. Defensive coordinator Dan

O'Brien called Lawrence "a freak of nature."

Lawrence transferred from Mississippi State to reunite with an old friend from his earlier days: MJ Daniels.

Daniels is a cornerback out of Ole Miss coming off his redshirt season. In his first year, he played one snap in a fifth game, causing his redshirt season to be nullified and lose an extra year of eligibility and development. Daniels transferred and is entering as a true junior, but even with his young age comes a great deal of talent.

Daniels and Lawrence always dreamed of playing in college ball together, and thanks to Southern Miss, Will Hall, and the transfer portal, they have done just that.

Defense poised to dominate

By Jackson Kennedy
SM2 Content Creator

With a dominant defensive line, overwhelming linebackers, and a backfield of DBs that sent two players to the NFL, it will be hard to top the 2022 Southern Miss Defense. This season, the Golden Eagles are returning seven players on the defense, and the positions that did lose starting players got reloaded in the transfer portal and recruited to be poised to match or potentially surpass last year's defense.

This front seven is stacked. The defensive line is set to be among the best in the Sun Belt. With stars like Quentin Bivens, Jalen Williams, Josh Ratcliff, and Kristin Booth, the big guys are strong, domineering, and very mature. The linebacker core is a testament to how deep and dangerous this roster has become. Star Linebackers Swayze Bozeman and Hayes Maples both went down on

injury last year, and some real studs took their place and developed into their own. Bozeman and Maples join TQ Newsome, Jalil Clemons, Josh Carr, and transfer addition Kolbe Cage. The linebacker room did take a hit, losing veteran Averie Habas to an undisclosed injury. Two seasons ago, losing someone like Habas would have sent the defense into a spiral, but this year, they have two or three other members at the JACK position who could quickly get the start on any other Sun Belt team. Expect this front seven to be among the best, if not the best, in the conference and potentially in the entire Group of Five.

Down the field is where question marks lie, but do not take that as there is a lack of talent or potential. Stars like Malik Shorts, Natrone Brooks, Jay Stanley, and Eric Scott Jr. dominated any opponent's passing game. Three stars are gone, leaving Stanley as the sole veteran out deep. However,



Action photos by SEAN SMITH

there are plenty of players that have gotten meaningful game time. As Head Coach Will Hall pointed out, Brendan Toles and Michael Carraway Jr. played "meaningful minutes" in the 4th Quarter of the Tulane game last year. Look for them to come into their own and fill the void left by the three veterans lost last year. Helping fill that gap some more are two transfers who will be making an immediate impact: MJ Daniels and

Dylan Lawrence. Daniels is a cornerback out of Ole Miss who is incredibly talented and has earned a starting job throughout spring and fall camp. Lawrence is a safety out of Mississippi State and an absolute beast. At 6'5", he is the most physically imposing player in the backfield, and his speed and athleticism are far greater than someone his height ought to be.

One of the biggest things that has been overlooked, though, is the transition from Austin Armstrong to Dan O'Brien.

Promoting from within is one of the better things seen in College Athletics, and to see Southern Miss doing just that is great to watch as a fan and encouraging to see as a player. O'Brien's style is very similar to Armstrong's; the main difference is a change in terminology, which will make the transition seamless for players and assistant coaches.

Expect a very similar defense.

Golden Eagles ready to face Alcorn

By Dima Mixon
Editor

Southern Miss is set to host the Alcorn State Braves to open the 2023 football season. This is the first time in four seasons that Southern Miss will open with an FCS foe. The last time was in 2019 when Southern Miss beat Alcorn State 38-10.

The Braves were picked second in the preseason media poll to win their division of the SWAC and look to dethrone Jackson State in the race for the SWAC title. Last season, Alcorn State posted a 5-6 record, losing to Jackson State by 11 points in their final game. They also played the same opponent that Southern Miss did in Tulane, losing that matchup 52-0. Of course, Southern Miss would beat Tulane 27-24.

Last season, Alcorn State averaged just 20.7 points per game and accumulated only 27 touchdowns through their eleven games. They do not score the ball much, but they play good defense.

The Braves are playing in the tough SWAC west division in 2023, which last year saw four separate teams having



a chance to win the crown in the final weeks. The Southern Jaguars eventually clinched the division after beating Grambling State. This year will see no change in the tightness of the race in the SWAC west, and the Braves have a great shot at coming on top. Southern Miss head coach Will Hall has said that he thinks and picks that Alcorn will win their respective division and potentially even the SWAC.

Alcorn State made the most significant roster shuffle in the SWAC after grabbing Tyler Macon out of the transfer portal from Missouri. Macon was a former four-star recruit and one of the top quarterbacks in the 2021

class. He was ranked as the 13th-best dual-threat quarterback by Rivals.com and 247Sports.com. Macon had offers from multiple universities, including Michigan State, UCLA, and Illinois.

Unfortunately for Macon, he did not see much playing time at Missouri. He played a handful of snaps in 2021 and none in 2022. After 2022, he entered the transfer portal and landed at Alcorn State. He might be the best quarterback the Braves have had facing Southern Miss in their history.

The Braves also welcome their All-SWAC running back, Jarveon Howard, who netted 1,270 yards and 12 touchdowns in his 2022 campaign. The rest of the Braves team might be more straightforward for Southern Miss to match up against, but this quarterback-running back duo will be very similar, if not just as good, to the Sun Belt teams that Southern Miss will face this season.

"We're going down there to win a ball game. We're not going down there to show up and collect a check. It's not just a game." Alcorn State head coach Fred McNair told WLBT in Jackson.

This is no Northwestern State from last season; this team could win the SWAC with a former four-star recruit with the reigns taking the snaps. The Braves will give Southern Miss all they can handle, and it would not be a shock if this game looked a lot like it did in 2019, where Southern Miss only led 10-0 at halftime.

Southern Miss and Alcorn State have met three times, with Southern Miss leading the series 3-0. The closest Alcorn State came to beating Southern Miss was in 2014, where they lost 26-20 but were driving to take the lead in the final moments.

It has been 36 years since Southern Miss last to a non-FBS program, Louisiana-Monroe, back when they were not a part of the FBS. Ironically, they now are in the Sun Belt with Southern Miss. I do not expect Alcorn State to end that streak. This game might be close at halftime, but the star power on offense for Southern Miss will be too much for the Braves to keep up. USM will blow this open in the second half.

Paul outlines yearly priorities

By Simeon Gates
SM2 Content Creator

University president Dr. Joe Paul sat down with the Southern Miss Student Media Center to discuss his plans for the new school year.

Class is back in session at the University of Southern Mississippi. And the university's administration is working to face unique challenges. Enrollment has been declining for years, for a number of complex reasons. There are concerns about improving diversity amongst the faculty and the student body. And the recent Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action and student loan debt may complicate issues around diversity and affordability for students.

Read below for Paul's plans on diversity, administrative changes, and more.

What are your goals for this year and how will recent hires like Lance Nail and Kelly Lucas help you achieve them?

"Well, I'm excited about this academic year. We are showing some growth in freshman and sophomores [enrollment]. Really glad to have that top team together. So the goals for this year are to continue to grow our enrollment both undergraduate, graduate, and at Gulf Park; to maintain and enhance our Carnegie Research 1 status; and to continue on the path of upward achievement in private fundraising and athletic fundraising. All of those things while kind of onboarding and pulling that top team together. Over the summer we brought on Dr. Kelly Lucas as Vice President of Research, Dr. Lance Nail as Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Kristi Motter as our new Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. So integrating those folks together, pulling together that vision around growth for Southern Miss. We're still really focused on enhancing the quality of student life for all of our students as we raise those private dollars to give us some margin for excellence. So that's what we're up to here and I'm excited about it."

Can you tell me more about this "top team," who is on it and what the purpose is?

"Yes. So it was very important to me - you know I started last summer as interim president and then in November was named president of the university. So I knew in January that I needed to build that top team. It's absolutely essential to growth. So Dr. Lance Nail comes to us Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. He's the number two officer in the institution, and he's over all of the academic affairs...so all the academic offerings, all of that reports to Lance. Lance comes to us with some history at Southern Miss because he'd served as Dean of Business about twelve years ago. But then he had experiences at four other major universities, so he brings both an understanding of our culture and he's seen things done in other and sometimes better ways. He is a high energy leader. He is student-centered. He is very data-driven, very analytical, so that's a great



strength for my team. A lot of those characteristics are gonna be true of the other two as well. Dr. Kelly Lucas will head our research enterprise. When I say maintain and enhance our Carnegie R1 status, it's all about the funded research of our faculty and that's Dr. Lucas' job. She is another high-energy person. She's a legitimate ocean scientist, so she's done research at the highest level. She's worked on capitol hill, on the legislative side, so she knows where appropriations come from. She's worked in private industry and in education. So again, another tremendous asset. And then Dr. Kristi Motter, who was here working under me many years ago - nine and a half or ten - as an associate VP, left here and went to [University of] Alabama [in] Huntsville as Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment there, where she helped grow the freshman enrollment by 36% in a five-year period, and now she's back again. She understands our culture, she's very data-driven, analytical, high-energy, and she's gonna help us enhance student life and grow our undergraduate student enrollment."

You said something about enrollment numbers improving. Can you give some specific numbers and can you name if some strategies that you had implemented have worked?

"Sure. We won't know our total enrollment numbers until much later in the semester. But what we do know is that we've got 5% more new freshmen this year than last, and that's very positive, because it's in a marketplace of a declining number of high school graduates.

And we've got a 5% increase in new transfer students, mostly community college students. I know that our efforts last year, the energy that we poured into it, our investment in scholarships - I visited sixteen high schools last year and twelve community colleges, and I hope some of that had a positive impact. But the best has yet to come in terms of really fine-tuning the strategy for growth for Southern Miss."

Do you have any goals to make

attendance more affordable for students?

"Yes. The reality of it is that even though our state legislature was very generous to us last year, that running this enterprise becomes more and more dependent on student tuition. One of the things that I plan to launch this fall is a private fundraising campaign for a \$30 million endowment for leadership scholarships to recruit students who want to be engaged and become involved at Southern Miss. When that \$30 million is realized, that will be 50 scholarships a year for new freshmen at \$3000 a semester, fall and spring, and that will continue for them for four years. So that's one way that we can bring in students and deter the cost for them while continuing to see the university grow."

The Supreme Court recently ruled that affirmative action in college decisions is unconstitutional. How does that impact your goal to make the campus more diverse?

"I don't see that it will have an adverse impact. So to be clear, they ruled that you can't use race in making admissions decisions for students or graduate students. It does not affect the affirmative action federal laws and equal employment opportunity laws with our employees - with our faculty and our staff. We, in our admissions policies, have never made race preferences, and yet we enjoy the most diverse student body in the state of Mississippi. So we're gonna continue to grow, continue to be diverse, and it shouldn't have any impact on us because it doesn't cause us to change any of our processes."

Earlier this summer, State Auditor Shad White raised some concerns about university spending on DEI initiatives. What is your take on that?

"Well it's an interesting phenomenon. He did ask for an audit to what we were spending, which we fully complied with. I believe that investing in programs for students, faculty, and staff that increase our diversity, that ensure that all are being treated equitably, and that we really not just

create a climate of tolerance, but a climate of celebration, is essential to the life of the university. So we will continue to work in that direction."

Forbes recently ranked USM as Mississippi's 6th best employer. What factors do you think contributed to this ranking and what message does this ranking send to USM's students?

"Well, we certainly were glad to learn that yet again we were named as a top place to work for employees in Mississippi. I hope it has to do with our culture. At Southern Miss, we attract people that want to go big places, that hold audacious dreams and pursue those with passion and persistence. I think we also have a community of caring, and so I think folks look out for one another. We're on a beautiful block of land. And I think one of the things that makes Southern Miss such a great place to work is how great our students are. They come to us, they're earnest, they're engaged, they wanna better themselves, and that makes for a great place to work. You can go home at night knowing you're making an impact that's gonna last a lifetime."

You're known as one of the most active university presidents out there. What keeps you going?

"I love what I do! You know, I think the whole reason for higher education is to help students earn a great living, but create an extraordinary life. And so if you take a student - maybe they're a first-generation college student, and their parents or grandparents didn't have that opportunity - and then they earn that degree, you change that person's life, but you change generations going forward, right? There's a lot of purpose to it, right? And there's a lot of gratification that comes from knowing that you're helping individual students, you're helping families, you're helping communities, you're helping the globe. So what keeps me going is I love Southern Miss."

Photo by SEAN SMITH