A Q&A with Taron Henry

Senior poised for big year

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- **Audio:** Practice Report

Last season, you recorded a career high 247 receiving yards. How do you plan to improve upon last year's numbers?
First of all I plan to catch more balls than I did last year and getting more yards after the catch. I want to pose more of an offensive threat and be used wherever the coaching staff wants to use me.

How does playing in tough conditions such as this summer help you during the rigors of the season?
I think it helps a lot. Early in the season, a lot of teams start to 'huff and puff' toward the end of the fourth quarter. Coach Patterson's off-season conditioning program really helps keep us in top-notch shape and it helps prepare us for those late game situations. I believe we are one of the best conditioned teams in the nation and that will only help us once the season begins.

What expectations have you placed on yourself for this season?
I want to have more catches and receiving yards than last season. I also need to work harder and show my teammates that I'm a leader rather than just being another player on this team.

You played in all 13 games last year with quarterback Clint Marks. How do you think Joe Craddock will fit in as a first year starter with the squad?

I think Joe will do fine. He has been practicing for this position for the past three years. He works hard everyday and really wants his team to succeed. He works well with everyone on the offense and is developing into a solid leader. I think Joe will have a great season.

A lot of people have been talking about the defense and might be overlooking the offense. How do you think this motivates the offense?
It motivates us a lot, but at the same time it keeps us hidden from our opponents. There will be teams that play us this season that think we will win all our games on defense. This year we are going to win games with our offense and stop them with our defense. I think people will be really surprised about our offense this season.

The three starting wide receivers all have previous experience from the past few seasons. How does this help quarterback Joe Craddock gel into the starting rotation?
He has been practicing with the first and second team guys for the past couple of years. We have been developing chemistry over the past few years and I believe we will be right on que before the season starts.

Justin Watts is in his second season as the wide receivers coach for the Blue Raiders. How does his previous experience in the ACC help you enhance your skills as a wide out?
Coach Watts' experience helps us understand techniques that we may have not seen in our conference. He has been on that big stage before and his past experiences help mold us into better players. I think Coach Watts has been a great asset for our wide receivers.

In your mind, what does it take to be an effective wide receiver in division one?
Physically, it takes strength and speed. However, you can still be an effective wide receiver if you go out there and work hard everyday.

How does bringing in top quality opponents such as Virginia validate Middle Tennessee's rise in division one football?
Our fans are always out there supporting us no matter what, but it really helps solidify our program when you bring in a quality opponent like Virginia because it shows that teams are willing to take a chance by playing us at our home turf. It should provide for a great atmosphere that night.

Which is more difficult, the off-season conditioning program or fall practice?
The off-season conditioning is more difficult because it seems so far away from the football season. When fall practice comes around, you can start counting days to kickoff.

What was the last thing you ate? Pasta

Jay Leno or David Letterman? Jay Leno

What is your favorite thing to do when you leave practice? Play my Playstation

What is your favorite pre-game meal? Spaghetti

Day or night games? Night Games

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