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Where are they now?

GoBlueRaiders.com catches up with Hansford Johnson

Sarah Fryar

Hansford Johnson lettered as a wide receiver for the Blue Raiders from 1998 to 2001 and has the distinction of playing on the first I-A team and the first Sun Belt Conference championship team. Johnson hauled in 109 receptions during his career to rank sixth all-time at Middle Tennessee while still ranking fifth in career punt return yards. Johnson still owns the single-game record with 120 punt return yards set against UT-Martin in 1999. The Norcross, Ga., native also had the rare distinction of throwing a touchdown pass, receiving a touchdown pass, and recording a rushing touchdown when he did it in 2000.

GoBlueRaiders.com reporter Sarah Fryar recently talked with Hansford:

After ten years, you are ranked sixth in career receptions and longest reception and tenth in receptions per game (season). Describe what it feels like to still be in the record books? It's great to be a part of history at Middle Tennessee. I am extremely flattered to still be in the books after ten years. Records are meant to be broken, though. If I am still in there after 30 years please call me.

As a member of the first Middle Tennessee Sun Belt Championship Team, have your emotions regarding that championship changed over the years? It has and it hasn't. A decade is a long time and many things can happen in that time span. I have gotten married and had children in the past ten years. But to be a part of the first I-A team and the first Sun Belt Championship team can't be changed. I will always be a part of that and I will always have the ring to prove it.

What did you do after your last season as a Blue Raider? I graduated from Middle Tennessee with a Bachelors of Science in Finance then studied at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California where I received my Masters of Arts in Intercultural Anthropology. Then, I got my Masters of Business Administration from Kellar Graduate School.

Where are you now in your career? I am the Director of the Graduate School of Business at Wake Forest University. It is my job to place students in mentoring programs with local CEOs and senior directors to help teach them the culture of business. The name of this program is Executive Partners Mentoring Program.

Talk about your family. I married the former Tiffany Purham who was a member of the Track and Field team at Middle Tennessee from 1999-2001. We have two daughters, 2½ year old Jayda and 1½ year old Jordyn and a son Josyah, who is due in December. Tiffany taught high school for five years and is now a stay-at-home mom.

When was the last time you attended a Middle Tennessee football game? The last game I attended was when MT played at Florida in 2004. I worked at USF then and would take kids over to watch the games.

Explain your means of keeping up with Blue Raider Football. GoBlueRaiders.com is the number one source for Blue Raider athletics.

How do you stay in contact with your former teammates? Facebook.com is the best and easiest way to keep up and stay in touch with the guys. And it is so addictive!



Hansford Johnson played for the Blue Raiders from 1998 to 2001. ()

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