First week complete; Raiders hold kicking scrimmage

Team going through first two-a-day

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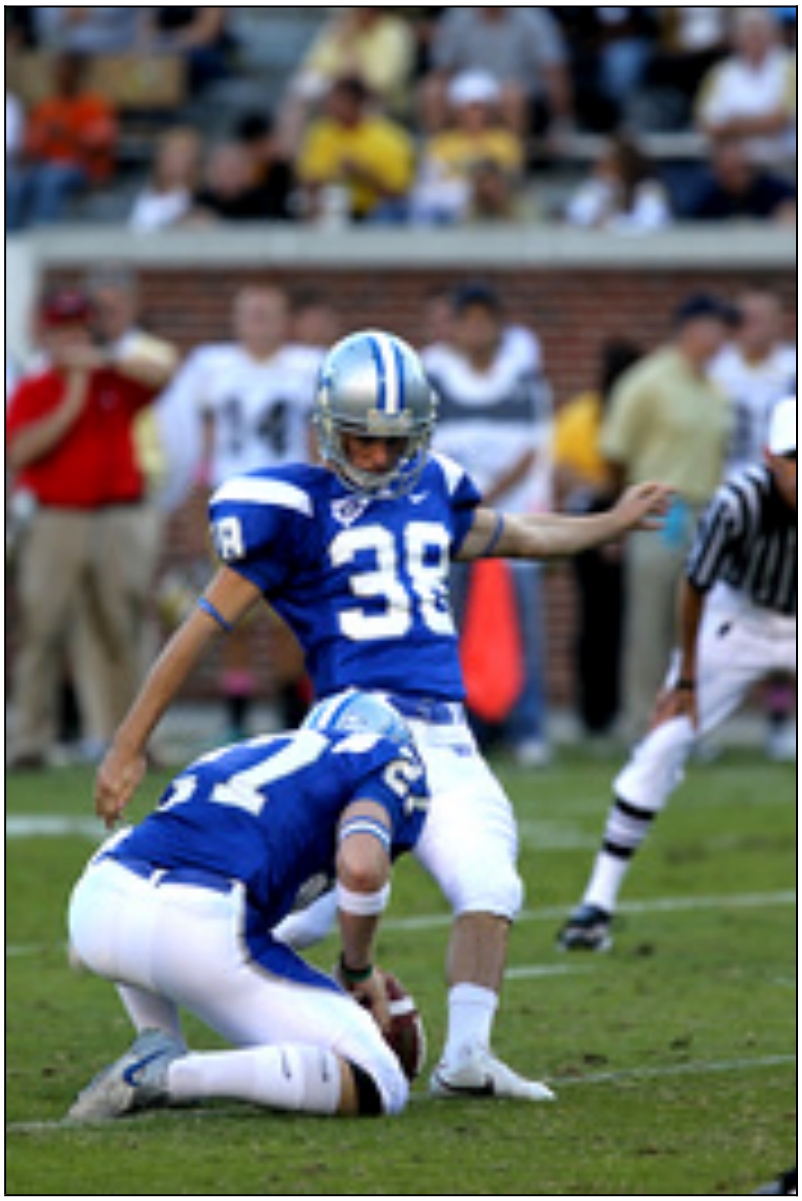

COACH RICK STOCKSTILL: (On kicking practice in the morning session): I thought it went well. Our scout team guys did a really, really nice job. Our graduate assistants did a nice job getting them lined up, and overall I thought we got something done in the kicking game today. The guys on our special teams worked hard. They were into it mentally as well as physically, so I would characterize it as a good day in the kicking game.

(On progress in the first week of fall camp) We had five days of practice last week, and then the scrimmage Saturday. I thought it was a solid first week, but not as crisp as you'd like it to be.

(On tap for this week) We are in the installation process, installing all our offense, defense, and kicking game, so there is a little bit of a learning curve, especially with so many young people on defense. I think this coming week is critical. We've got to get better on both sides of the ball, and the kicking game. We have to make sure we are into it mentally, that we correct the mistakes that we made last week. We as coaches have got to find out what we can do and what we can't do, what our players can and can't do, and make sure that we are not giving them too much. You know the old saying, "Paralysis by analysis". We can't overload them where they can't play fast, can't use their athleticism, because they are out there having to think so much. We've got to do a good job as coaches of making sure we don't overload them.

OFFENSIVE LINE COACH JIMMY RAY STEPHENS: (On injury to Jason Rexroad) Jason suffered a sprained MCL and the sports medicine staff is thinking he'll be out one to two weeks, and that is very positive for us from a depth standpoint.

(On younger players filling in until the injured veterans are ready to play) This is like the spring when we missed four starters, cleaning up some old injuries with surgeries. We are able to bring some of the young guys along and get them a lot of reps, and you are developing depth when you can do that. It has been a little of that this fall. We've been missing a couple of guys in fall camp, but we expect them back soon. Hopefully at the end of our second week of camp, we'll have everybody back and it will be a lot more fun with everybody healthy.

KICKING SCRIMMAGE STATISTICS: Senior PK Alan Gendreau was his usual steady self by connecting on 8 of 9 field goal attempts with his lone miss coming from 56 yards out … Gendreau hit from 22, 26, 41, 44, 47, 49, 50, and 51 … Punter Josh Davis booted eight for an average of 37.5 while Nate Toulson kicked two for a 42.5-yard average.

SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH … ERIC RUSSELL
What is the best Halloween Costume that you ever wore? When I was in the 8th grade, I dressed up as a fat lady, stuffed pillows on me and walked around.
What is the craziest thing you ever did in high school? We had a teacher that was mean to everybody, so we put crazy glue in the door lock, and he couldn't get in his room. They had to come and get it out for him.
What famous person would you like to have following you on Twitter? Ed Reed, safety for the Baltimore Ravens
What is the worst part of pre-season camp? Waking up early every morning.
What is the best part of pre-season camp? Coming out and competing with your fellow teammates for a starting job.
What is your dream job? Playing in the NFL
What is your home town, and what is it famous for? LA, and its famous for a lot of stuff

SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH … REGGIE WHATLEY
What is the best Halloween Costume that you ever wore? Batman
What is the craziest thing you ever did in High School? Pulled a fire alarm.
What famous person would you like to have following you on twitter? Barack Obama.
What is the worst part of pre-season camp? The first day, killer day.
What is the best part of pre-season camp? The competition.
What is your hometown, and what is it famous for? Rome, Georgia, and its famous for high school football.

SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH … BRANDON MCLEROY
What is the best Halloween Costume that you ever wore? I think the one I have for this year is the best. It is the dog from the TV show "Wilfred" on FX.
What is the craziest thing you ever did in high school? We duct-taped a friend of ours to a door. We didn't leave him up there very long.
What famous person would you like to have following you on Twitter? I don't have a twitter, but if I did, it would be Jeff Saturday, my favorite O-lineman.
What is the worst part of pre-season camp? As much as I enjoy this beautiful weather, I'd have to say the heat.

What is the best part of pre-season camp? Contact. Getting down and hitting somebody else. I love hitting the D linemen.
What is your dream job? Playing in the NFL
What is your home town, and what is it famous for? Rhea County, Dayton, TN. We are known for the Scopes Trial.

SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH … BENNY CUNNINGHAM
What is the best Halloween Costume that you ever wore? The scariest costume was when I dressed up like (cornerback) Kenneth Gilstrap
What is the craziest thing you ever did in High School? Skip a class and get caught.
What famous person would you like to have following you on twitter? President Obama.
What is the worst part of pre-season camp? The last day.
What is the best part of pre-season camp? The first day.
What is your hometown, and what is it famous for? Nashville, Tennessee, and its famous for country music.

FAMILY 4-PACK: When Middle Tennessee opens the 2011 home football season on September 10th against Georgia Tech, families should be well represented among the anticipated sell-out crowd with the debut of the Family-4-Pack. The "Family-4-Pack will consist of four reserved seat tickets, four hot dog vouchers, four Pepsi vouchers and four rally towels. The Family-4-Pack will sell for $100. Family-4-Packs as well as season tickets, and individual game tickets are available by calling 1-888-YES-MTSU or by going online at www.GoBlue Raiders.com/GameDay.

NEXT PRACTICE: The Blue Raiders will practice on Tuesday at 4:10 PM in shells. The practice is open.

SEASON TICKETS: 1-888-YES-MTSU OR GoBlueRaiders.com.

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