



Mount Union Football

RAIDERS Newsletter



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10 Time Division III Football National Champions
1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008

March 2009 Edition

Spring Outlook

On March 18th, the Mount Union Purple Raider football team will begin the spring practice schedule. In preparation for the 2009 season, the Purple Raiders will compete in sixteen practices over the span of a month. So far this offseason, the team has been hard at work in the weight room, highlighted by weekly “jumpstretch” workouts that emphasize speed, quickness, and explosive power.

Expectations remain high in Alliance as the defending National Champions return 16 starters and 47 lettermen from the 2008 squad. Although some key components have graduated, many young and talented players will look to continue the tradition of Mount Union football.



Defensively, Mount Union returns 9 starters. Seven of the top eight tacklers return for the Purple Raiders, highlighted by Senior 1st Team D3football.com All-American defensive end James Herbert. Along with Herbert, six All-OAC performers return including senior defensive linemen Joe Millings and Matt Williamson, junior linebacker Sam Kershaw, and senior safeties Roger Stewart and Drew McClain.

Spring Outlook



Offensively, the Purple Raiders return 7 starters. Even though All-Americans Greg Micheli, Nate Kmic, and Luke Summers have been lost to graduation, Mount returns a number of experienced players, led by the Ed Sherman Award recipient and All-American Cecil Shorts III. Shorts set a school record in 2008 with 23 touchdown receptions.

Three of the top four receivers return in 2009, including senior Vince Petruziello (Honorable Mention All-OAC), junior A.J. Claycomb, and Shorts (1st Team All-OAC). Senior running back Scott Panchik, who had 466 rushing yards in 2008, returns in the backfield with a wealth of young talent.

The offensive line will be anchored by seniors James Bird and Mike Nitz, both of whom were All-OAC recipients in 2008.

On special teams, Mount Union returns two of three starters in senior kicker/punter Jay Carpenter and sophomore kicker Tyler Almeida.





Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction



Get
your
tickets
now!

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Skyland Pines

3550 Columbus Rd. NE, Canton, OH

\$100 ticket

(includes admission, raffle number, dinner and cash bar for one.)

Additional dinner tickets are available

(no raffle) for \$25 a piece.

Call (330) 823-2030 to purchase your ticket!

Visit www.muc.edu/alumni for more information.

Only 200 tickets will be sold.

A Message from Coach Kehres

Raiders: I am serving as President of M Club. The reverse raffle is an important fund-raiser for the Athletic department. I am asking the football captains who have led the teams during my 23 years to step up as leaders and purchase a raffle ticket. I know these are tough times, but I have seldom asked for your participation in a fund-raiser. This is an important event and I feel responsible for making it successful. I need your help. Call or email me if you have questions. I realize you may not be able to attend but it will mean a lot to me to know you helped by buying a ticket.

Questions? -Call the office at (330) 823-2030 or email alumni@muc.edu.

Senior Spotlight: Drew McClain

Year: Junior
Position: Strong Safety
Jersey #: 32
Hometown/High School:
Newark, OH/ Licking Valley High School



Major/Minor: Business Administration/
Accounting

GPA: 3.83

Activities: Officer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes;
In charge of the Raider Buddy program.

Athletic + Academic Honors:

Football: Second Team All-OAC
First Team All North Region
First Team Academic All District

Academic: Dean's list every semester at Mount Union.

Why did I choose Mount?

Mount Union's football program was the biggest influence in me choosing to enroll here. The up-to-date facilities and the size of the campus also played a significant factor in my decision. After being a Mount student for the past three years I have no regrets.

Other Schools: Otterbein and Wooster



Senior Spotlight

Two Memories:

I have so many memories from Mount Union. Winning the national championship last season was something I'll remember for the rest of my life. There are really no words that can describe how my teammates and I felt after that last second ticked off the clock. Last year there was an outdoor event on campus called "Praise God in the Quad". It was a great experience seeing everyone fellowship together through music, games, and skits. I'm really looking forward to this year's "Praise God in the Quad".

Where do I see myself in 10 years?

Hopefully in ten years I will be well into a successful career with a wife and kids back in my hometown. I also want to keep in close contact with the friends I've made here at Mount Union.

Quote on Mount Program:

"Mount Union is the pinnacle of division three football. What Coach Kehres and his staff have accomplished these past twenty years is something that will never be matched. I will always feel proud to say that I played football at Mount Union College."

2008 Statistics:

<u>Defensive Leaders</u>	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	Tackles		Sacks		Int-Yds	BrUp	FF	Blkd Kick
					TFL/Yds	No-Yds						
<i>Drew McClain</i>	15	40	20	60	17.0/65	5.0/30	1/78	5	1	2		

Bruney Returns to Lead the Purple Raider Offense



A former All-American quarterback at MUC has returned as the Raiders' offensive coordinator. Zac Bruney, who was the part of the 2001 and 2002 Mount Union national championship teams, replaces Jason Candle on the MUC coaching staff.

Bruney has spent the last two seasons as a graduate assistant at the University of Toledo. He had a variety of responsibilities with Toledo, working with the quarterbacks and wide receivers and scouting the opponents' defense each week along with formulating each week's game plan with the offensive coordinator. Last year, he was given additional responsibilities of recruiting in western Pennsylvania and southeast Ohio.

Bruney will get his first “on-the-field” look at his new team when spring practice begins in March. The Raiders will have to find a new quarterback for the upcoming season. “I’m excited about the guys we have coming back at the quarterback position,” Bruney said. He stressed the need to utilize the 16 spring practice opportunities to get on the field and get better as a team.

After graduating from Mount Union in 2005, Bruney was a graduate assistant with the Raiders for two years. During his six years as a player and coach at MUC, the Raiders only lost three games.



Former Raider All-American Lands MAC Position



Former Mount Union offensive lineman Derek Blanchard is the new graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach at Ball State University. Blanchard, a 2008 graduate of MUC, spent last season on the coaching staff while supervising the weight program for the Raiders.

Blanchard, a finalist for the 2007 Gagliardi Trophy, thinks he is ready for the responsibilities at Ball State. "I feel that working under Coach Kehres and running the weight program here at Mount this past year has really prepared me for this move," he said.



Blanchard thinks strength training is more important than ever. “I think that games are won and lost in the weight room. The bigger, stronger, and faster your team is, the better they are going to be. Hard work in the weight room is essential for any team’s success,” Blanchard added.

Ball State University, a Division I school in Muncie, Indiana, is a member of the Mid-American Conference. The Cardinals were 8-0 in the MAC last season and finished the year at 12-2 after losing to Tulsa in the GMAC Bowl.



13 Purple Raiders Named to Fall 2008 Dean's List

Thirteen members of the Mount Union football team made the Dean's list for the fall semester of 2008. To make the Dean's list, one must achieve at least a 3.55 GPA for the semester and can not have a grade lower than a "B" in any single class. Here are the names of the players who were honored:

- **Jay Carpenter** (Junior, P/K)
- **Troy Chaffin** (Senior, LB)
- **Caleb Crawl** (Junior, OT)
- **Ike Garland** (Freshman, CB)
- **David Giancola** (Freshman, K/S)
- **Judd Harold** (Junior, TE)
- **Sam Kershaw** (Sophomore, LB)
- **Drew McClain** (Junior, S)
- **Greg Micheli** (Senior, QB)
- **Scott Panchik** (Junior, RB)
- **Ben Russell** (Sophomore, P)
- **Joel Swaney** (Freshman, CB)
- **Ehrich Zollinger** (Junior, DE)

MUC Alumni

Coaching Fleet Update

- **Zac Bruney:** Coach Bruney is the new Offensive Coordinator and Wide Receivers Coach at MUC. He comes from the University of Toledo, where he served as an assistant coach.
- **Derek Blanchard:** Coach Blanchard has left his alma mater to become the Assistant Football Strength Coach at Ball State.
- **Jason Candle:** Coach Candle has accepted the Inside Slot Receivers/ Running Backs coaching position at the University of Toledo after serving as the Offensive Coordinator at MUC.
- **Matt Campbell:** Coach Campbell has left his position as O-Line Coach at Bowling Green State University to become the Co-Offensive Coordinator at the University of Toledo.
- **Nick Sirianni:** Coach Sirianni has left his position at IUP to become the Kansas City Chiefs Quality Control Offensive Coach.
- **Beau Balderson:** Coach Balderson is the new head coach at Massillon Jackson High School. Previously, he served as the Offensive Coordinator at Avon High School.
- **Dom Capers:** Coach Capers has joined the Green Bay Packers after his stint with the New England Patriots.

MUC Alumni

Coaching Fleet Update

- **Alex Grinch:** Coach Grinch has accepted an assistant coaching position at the University of Wyoming. Grinch previously coached at the University of New Hampshire.
- **Tom Manning:** Coach Manning has left Emory & Henry to become a graduate assistant at the University of Toledo.



If you know other people who would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please contact Coach Vince Kehres by email at kehresvg@muc.edu. The newsletter is written by Jay Carpenter. Any comments, questions, or ideas for newsletter articles can be forwarded to Carpenjb@muc.edu.

* All photos found in newsletter are courtesy of www.muc.edu or www.mtunionfootball.com