

UTM PRE-SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



First Scrimmage Shows Big Plays for Both Sides of UTM Football Team

MARTIN (August 14) — After seven days of productive practices through the first half of fall camp, the University of Tennessee at Martin football team turned up the intensity on a recent Saturday afternoon by hosting the squad's first scrimmage.

Both teams showed glimpses of explosiveness as the Skyhawk offense threw for three touchdowns and rushed for another. Then on the defensive side, the blue squad combined to tally six sacks, four forced turnovers — including three interceptions and one fumble recovery — while also recording four pass breakups and a safety.

"There were a lot of positives today," UT Martin head coach Jason Simpson said. "I liked how we approached the day. They came out and competed while maintaining a professional mindset to get better. Now we start going a certain direction based on our personnel that has risen to the top. After that towards the end of the week we still start looking forward to our first opponent."

Five touchdowns were scored on the day including the first touchdown coming on a 27-yard interception return by Tamel McCall early on.

The offense then got on the board as freshman quarterback Josh Lundy led the third team down the field with a short pass to fellow freshman Sam Franklin who scampered down the right sideline for a 71-yard touchdown.

Another newcomer left an early mark as Memphis graduate transfer Tim Taylor pushed into the endzone off a four-yard carry. A little bit later it was Tulane graduate transfer quarterback Keon Howard who found Donnell Williams in the left corner of the endzone for a two-yard touchdown.

The defense made another stand with the offense pinned against their end zone as freshman Christian Dowell notched his second sack of the day — this time for a safety.

The afternoon's scoring ended in an overtime scenario as the tandem of Howard and Donnell Williams connected once again, this time for a 15-yard touchdown on third and long.

With the second team defense looking to make a stand, recent Tennessee transfer Shawn Shamburger brought practice to a close with an interception in the endzone.

When the day came to a close the Skyhawk offense completed 27-of-46 pass attempts for 298 yards and three touchdowns while recording 37 carries for 54 yards and one touchdown. Howard proved to be a dual-threat at quarterback where he passed for

156 yards and two touchdowns while also tallying 21 rushing yards.

Stewart Howell led the second team where he threw for 65 yards but tossed three interceptions. Lundy completed his day with 77 passing yards and one touchdown.

Taylor led the Skyhawk backfield featuring seven different ball carriers with a team-high 11 carries along with his rushing touchdown.

Zak Wallace made the most of his four carries by posting a team-high 25 yards on the ground. Maryland transfer Jordan Castleberry tallied six carries for 20 yards.

Rodney Williams II paced the receiving core which saw 14 different receivers in the mix with a team-high five receptions for 32 yards.

Donnell Williams finished the day with two receptions for 17 yards and two touchdowns while Colton Dowell also had two receptions — including a 59-yard reception from Howard to highlight a scoring drive.

Defensively the Skyhawks found contributions from 28 different players which made a tackle. The group was led by John Ford who notched a team-high seven tackles. The pair of Shamburger and Chris Hunter also posted big afternoons with five tackles and a pass breakup each.

Freshman Christian Dowell made a big impact on the defensive line with two sacks on the second team while the secondary trio of McCall, Shamburger and AJ Moss each recorded interceptions. The squad's fourth turnover came off a forced fumble by Austin Pickett which was scooped up by Korbin Harmon.

The 2021 season marks the 16th for head coach Jason Simpson, who has 90 victories during his Skyhawk career, which is just two away from fifth place in OVC history. The Skyhawks return nine starters on both sides of the ball from the team's abbreviated spring season: including six Preseason All-OVC honorees.

UT Martin opens the season on Thursday, September 2, when traveling to Football Bowl Subdivision foe Western Kentucky. The Skyhawks will then make their home debut at Hardy M. Graham Stadium for Family Weekend on Saturday, September 11, against Samford.

Single game and season-ticket packages are available to be purchased online at www.UTMSports.com/tickets, through the UT Martin Ticket Office by calling 731-881-7207 or by emailing athletic.events@utm.edu.

Winn Earns Spot on All-Conference Squad

MARTIN (August 17) — A total of 14 University of Tennessee at Martin football players earned All-Conference honors courtesy of Phil Steele last week. Among those is punter and Dresden High School alumnus, Dresser Winn.

A native of Dresden, Winn proved to be a versatile weapon for the Skyhawks last season. Entering his fifth season in the program as a quarterback, he also served as the team's primary punter before suffering a season-ending injury last season. The Week 1 OVC Specialist of the Week tallied 22 punts for 904 yards while averaging 41.1 yards per punt. He booted a season-long 67-yard punt against Austin Peay while having five others of 50 yards or more. He also pinned six of his attempts inside the 20-yard line.

The group of Colton Dowell (wide receiver), Donnell Williams (wide receiver), Rodney Williams II (tight end), Jaquez Akins (safety) and Deven Sims (safety) earned first team honors. The second team was highlighted by Matthan Hatchie (offensive line), Gavin Olson (offensive line), Austin Pickett (defensive line), Jay Woods (cornerback), Tyler Larco (place kicker) and Dresser Winn (punter) while Chris Jackson (offensive line), John Ford (linebacker) and Brock Powers (long snapper) were tabbed to the third team.

A native of Lebanon, Tenn., Dowell is a two-time All-OVC selection after tallying 78 receptions, 1,224 yards and eight touchdowns over the past two seasons. Hailing from St. Louis, Missouri, Donnell Williams posted a breakout season this spring for the Skyhawks. He tallied 29 receptions for 445 yards and three touchdowns en route to All-OVC second team honors.

Memphis-native Rodney Williams II added to his preseason honors after garnering All-American honors last offseason. The tight end tallied 30 receptions for



Dresser Winn

327 yards and four touchdowns en route to a pair of All-American honors.

A Starkville, Mississippi native, Akins earned his second All-OVC honors in both seasons in a Skyhawk uniform after ranking third on the team with 38 combined tackles and 3.0 tackles for loss.

Hailing from Smyrna, Sims posted a huge campaign in his first season as a full-time starter by leading the team with 60 total tackles — including 29 solo stops — while recording 5.0 tackles for loss.

A native of Haleiwa, Hawaii, Hatchie wasted very little time making an impact for the Skyhawks in his debut season. The junior college transfer played and started in all seven games on the offensive line at center and the guard positions.

Entering his third season as a starter on the offensive line, Olson has been a model of consistency for the Skyhawks. After starting nine games as a true freshman in 2019, the Memphis native started the first six games last season before missing the finale with an injury.

Hailing from Lake Minneola, Florida, Pickett returns for his sixth season in a Skyhawk uniform. With 29 career games

played, he has 86 career tackles while tallying 14.0 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks.

Woods also made a splash in his debut season for the Skyhawks by tallying 23 tackles and 2.0 tackles for loss while recovering a fumble against nationally ranked Jacksonville State. The Pinson, Alabama, native led the OVC with nine pass breakups while ranking 22nd nationally in passes defended with 1.3 per game.

Larco took over the reigns of the kicking duties as a red-shirt-freshman and was nearly automatic en route a pair of OVC Specialist of the Week honors and being named a Freshman All-American. The Miami, Florida, native made 10-of-12 field goal attempts on the year — including a season-long 47-yard attempt.

A mainstay on the offensive line over the years, Jackson returns to the fold with 29 games played over his career. The graduate student from Lexington, Kentucky, has started in 11 career games at various positions on the offensive line while primarily seeing action at left guard, right guard and left tackle.

Ford, a Nashville native, is tabbed to play a significant role for the Skyhawks after starting all seven games at linebacker last season. He compiled 43 total tackles while notching 3.0 tackles for loss and a sack.

Hailing from Cornersville, Powers has proved to be an integral piece of the special teams' puzzle. Entering his fourth year in the program, he has played in every game of his career while seeing action in 29 games as the team's long-snapper.

UT Martin opens the 2021 season on Thursday, September 2, with a road matchup at Western Kentucky. Fans can purchase single-game or season ticket packages for the Skyhawks five home games by going to www.UTMSports.com/Tickets or by calling the Ticket Office at 731-881-7207.

UT MARTIN 2021 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Time	Venue	Opponent
Sept. 2 @ 7 p.m.	Bowling Green, Kentucky	Western Kentucky University
Sept. 11 @ 6 p.m.	Home	Samford
Sept. 18 @ 3 p.m.	Natchitoches, Louisiana	Northwestern State
Sept. 25 @ 3 p.m.	(Jacksonville, Alabama)	Jacksonville State University
Oct. 9 @ 2 p.m.	Home	Murray State
Oct. 16 @ 2 p.m.	Charleston, Illinois	Eastern Illinois
Oct. 23 @ 2 p.m.	Home	SEMO
Oct. 30 @ 2 p.m.	Home	Austin Peay
Nov. 6 @ 2 p.m.	Home	Tennessee State University
Nov. 13 @ 1:30 p.m.	Cookeville	Tennessee Tech
Nov. 20 @ 1 p.m.	Cape Girardeau, Missouri	SEMO

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