

MISSISSIPPI REBELS



DL MARQUIS HAYNES

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2016

QUARTERBACKS - Eli Manning set or tied 47 UM records before he departed after the '03 ssn (#1 DC NYG, 2 Super Bowl wins). Over the next 8Y, UM QB's comb to hit between 48-56% each ssn. In '12 Bo Wallace (NJCAA single ssn rec pass yds, 4604 and TD passes w/53) won the st'g job and over his 3 yrs in Oxford, accumulated 9,534 (63%, 62-41). He finished #2 on the Rebels car list behind Manning in both yds & td's. In '14 DeVante Kincade (PS#43) and 6'3" Ryan Buchanan were the bkps. They added Chad Kelly (PS#12 orig Clemson) who led his team to the NJCAA Nat'l Title (3906, 47 td's). Despite the loss of a 3Y str I did not expect a drastic drop. After 3 yrs of Good Bo, Bad Bo, Kelly was more consistent and threw for 4,042 (65.1%, 31-13, 500 rush). The bkps comb'd for 17-28-175 and both transferred. Kelly (NFL HOF'r Jim's nephew) is one of the top QB's in the country and has a pair of new VHT (PS#2, #35) backups.

RUNNING BACKS - This unit is usually loaded with VHT's but none have stepped up and taken charge. In '13 I Tavious Mathers (PS#30) led w/563 (5.9) while Jaylen Walton (PS#41) had 523 (4.6). In '14 Mathers slipped to 290 (4.3). The diminutive Walton (5'8" 172) led w/586 (5.5) basically adding a yd to his ypc with a 91 yd td run. RFR Jordan Wilkins (PS#29) had 10-171 vs Presb (#2, 361, 6.9). Mathers trans LY but they added in PS#30JC Akem Judd & PS#19 true frosh Eric Swinney. Walton had 133 vs Vandy but was banged up and had just 62 the next 3 gms. He led with 730 (5.1) and QB Kelly was #2. Judd had 68 vs A&M and was #3 (421, 5.5) while Wilkins was #4 w/379 (5.3). They lose Walton but could top LY's overall production.

RECEIVERS - In '13 true frosh Laquan Treadwell (6'2", PS#2) became UM's 1st ever SEC Frosh POY as he led the team in rec's (72) but was a distant #2 in yds (608, 8.4). In '14 they had to replace their #1 Donté Moncrief (#3DC) and #3WR's (comb 1521, 14.8). Cody Core (5' rec '12-13) had 195 yds in the first 2 (#4 w/558, 13.6). Treadwell was #1 (632, 13.2) prior to breaking his leg vs Auburn. TE Ingram finished #2 (1st Tm SEC, 662, 17.4). LY they lost their #1 (696, 17.8) but also added in PS#8 & #16 true frosh. Treadwell had six 100 yard gms and led with 1,153 (14.1) while 6'3" Quincy Adeboyejo (PS#84) was #3 (604, 15.9). Soph Damore'ea Stringfellow (PS#13) had 503 (14.0). This year they lose 3rd Tm AA Treadwell (11 st, #1DC MIN) and #2 Core (9 st, 644, 17.4, #6DC CIN). With 4 of the top 6 back and the addition of 4 VHT's, this unit will be close to '15 despite the departure of their top 2.

OFFENSIVE LINE - This unit was a ? in '14 with just 2 str's back (55 car sts). The rush ypg dropped to 155 (4.2, 31 sk). Everyone from the 2 deep ret'd LY (12 car st) but unfortunately they had 27 starts lost to injury or susp in the group. Laremy Tunsil had to sit out the first 7 and when he ret'd the line was

much stronger with Fahn Cooper being able to move back to his preferred RT spot. C Robert Conyers was OFY after 5 sts. The Rebels still improved to 183 ypg rush (5.1, 19 sk). TY they lose LT Tunsil (6/26, #1DC MIA), Cooper (13/39, #5DC SF), RG Justin Bell (5/31), LG Aaron Morris (9/40) and C Ben Still (8/20). They do return 6 with starting exp (36 car st) with 10 VHT's and add in PS#1 Greg Little. They should remain healthier and be a solid unit despite dropping to 36 car sts.

DEFENSIVE LINE - LY the Rebels had to replace 4 DL (18 st, 103 tkl, 8 sk) as CJ Johnson moved to MLB. They had 3 ret str's (4 of top 5 DL tkl's) incl Robert Nkemdiche. They added in PS#4JC DJ Jones. NT Issac Gross was OFY in the opener and Nkemdiche missed 4 sts. The numbers improved slightly to 127 (3.3, 29 sk). TY they lose 2nd Tm AA Nkemdiche (11 st, 29 tkl, 7 tfl, #1DC ARZ), DE Channing Ward (4 st, 35 tkl, 6.5 tfl, UFA TB) and DT Woodrow Hamilton (12 st, 29 tkl, 1 sk, UFA NE). Gross (114 car tkl, 7 sk) returns as does DE Fadil Brown (turn down NFL) and 2nd Tm SEC Marquis Haynes (43 tkl, 10 sk). Despite the loss of their star, they should be just as strong.

LINEBACKERS - In '13 HC Hugh Freeze recruited PS#4 Tony Conner for the Husky pos and he was the #3 tkl'r. In '14 they only had to replace their #5 tkl'r (12 st). I had the Rebels rated as my #3 LB corps. During the reg ssn they gave up just 13.8 ppg and the 3-man unit had 4 of the team's top 7 tkl's. LY they lost their #3, #4 & #7 tkl's but CJ Johnson (PS#11) moved in from the DL. Injuries hurt the unit as Johnson and Denzel Nkemdiche each missed 4 sts while Conner missed 8. Ole Miss allowed 386 ypg (highest under Freeze) and the ppg went from 16.0 in '14 to 22.6 LY. This year they lose Nkemdiche (9 st, #4 tkl'r, 6.5 tfl), CJ Johnson (9 st, #5 tkl'r, 2 sk, UFA NE) and Christian Russell (1 st, #10 tkl'r, 4.5 tfl). Soph DeMarquis Gates (PS#29) only st'd 4 but was the #1 tkl'r. With a healthy Conner back and the addition of Oregon St's #1 tkl'r Rommel Mageo and former Georgia LB Detric Bing-Dukes, this unit could be stronger with 6 of the top 9 back.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - In '10 the Rebels had to replace 3 str's and plummeted to #104 (61%, 24-6) in my PDR. The unit improved 4 straight yrs (#77, #61, #51, #15). In '14 they had 2 DB's make the 15 semis for the Thorpe Award in CB Senzeque Golsen (#2DC PIT) and FS Cody Prewitt while all'g just 12 td passes. LY they had to replace both. Freeze signed 6'0" PS#6JC Tony Bridges. They ret'd their #1 and #6 tkl's but slipped to #45 (59.8% 23-15). TY they lose 2nd Tm AA S Trae Elston (13 st, #2 tkl'r, 4 int, 14 pbu, UFA NO), 2nd Tm SEC S Mike Hilton (11 st, #3 tkl'r, 11 tfl, 13 pbu, 2 int, UFA JAX), and S Chief Brown (2 st, 26 tkl, 3 pbu). They again have 2 str's back (#7 & #9 tkl's) but should move up in my PDR.

SPECIAL TEAMS - In '14 I said this unit figured to drop a few notches losing their P, K & PR and they did, down to #80. All 3 kicking positions had split duties. True frosh Gary Wunderlich (PS#6) avg 45.2 on 10 punts, had 13 TB on 35 KO and was their long fg man (6-8, L47, 2 miss 50+). Will Gleeson was the top P (42.9, tm net 41.7). The return game was avg in '14 and again in '15 (3.7 PR, 17.7 KR). Nathan Noble had 54 tb on 94 KO's. Gleeson avg 40.7 (tm net 39.3) and Wunderlich (63-63 PAT) hit 19-25 FG (long 48). They moved up to #71 and could make a large climb if they get some production out of the return game.

COACHES - MS native Hugh Freeze starts yr #5 as HC in Oxford on a roll! He took over a 2-10 Rebels squad in '12 and has led them to 7, 8, 9 & 10 wins his first 4Y, including the 43-37 win over then #2 'Bama in Tuscaloosa last Sept. He is the first coach in Ole Miss history to get to bowls in each of his first 4 yrs. In '11, he became just the 14th FBS HC to win 10 games his first yr as HC (Ark St). Also back for a 5th year are co-OC's and

Ole Miss alum Matt Luke (Duke's OC 4Y) and Dan Werner (QB cch for 4 Nat'l Title teams at Miami). The fifth yr DC is 35 yr vet Dave Wommack who has been a DC at 7 diff schools incl Ark St ('11), Ga Tech ('08-'09) and Ark ('02-'04). Jason Jones was hired as a co-DC in '13 (5Y Okla St). Corey Batton is in his 2nd year as ST cch.

THIS DECADE 40-36 (52.6%) #67 - From 1954-1971, the Rebels went to 17 bowls (12 NY's Day). From '05-'11 they had only 2 winning ssns finishing 9-4 (#14) in '08 and 9-4 (#20) in '09. (63-58 from '00-'09). After B2B losing years to open this decade they let go of Houston Nutt. In '12 I pointed out that my Stock Market Indicator was +4.5 and they had 16 str's back for new HC Freeze who clearly got the most out of his '11 Ark St and '12 Ole Miss squads. Freeze even admitted mid '12 that he was not really expecting Miss to get to a bowl. In '13 they avoided the big 3 out of the East and had 19 ret str's. Freeze pointed out they were fortunate with injuries in '12. The '13 ssn was a diff story as their D was banged up which resulted in improving to just 8-5. In 2014 Ole Miss had 15 ret str's (#18 AP pressn). They got to #3 in the country at 7-0 but lost 3 of the next 4 (inj plagued). They were hammered 42-3 by #6 TCU in the Peach Bowl to finish 9-4 and #17. LY they got to #3 again and after a bowl blowout win finished #10. They are 40-36 this decade.

2015 ANALYSIS 10-3 - Ole Miss had 16 ret str's and avoided Georgia, Tenn and Missouri out of the East. Four of my 9 sets of power ratings called for their first DD win season in 12 years. Ole Miss scored 76 & 73 their first two games then dealt eventual Nat'l Champ Alabama their only loss of the season. They rose to #3 but were upset in The Swamp by Florida 38-10. Two weeks later they were up 14-0 but got ambushed in Memphis 37-24. After wins vs A&M and Auburn, Ark got a 48-25 backwards lateral FD and rallied to beat the Rebels in OT 58-52. Had that play not happened, Ole Miss would have been in the SEC Title game as they beat LSU and Miss St by DD's. They were better prepared for their NY's 6 bowl and whipped Okla St 48-20 to finish 10-3 and #10 with the most impressive regular season win of any team in the country.

ALSO ON ROSTER:			
RB Nathan Vanderburg 5'7" 167 Jr	TE Taz Zettergren 6'3" 218 Sr	DL Elliot Markuson 6'0" 235 Jr	DL Alex Ashlock 6'2" 225 Jr
RB Martin Johnson 6'0" 192 Sr	DL Jordan Hebert 6'0" 230 So	LB Jack Raborn 6'1" 217 So	LB John-Patrick Sterling 5'11" 224 Jr
TE Ty Quick 6'3" 257 Jr	DT Tyler Pittman 6'0" 232 Jr		

PHIL'S FORECAST

OFFENSE - There were questions at QB heading into last year but Chad Kelly answered them tenfold. The school lists just 3 ret str's but the OL coming back comb'd to start 26 gms LY so I have 2 OL ret str's (schl 0) and 5 str's back. I do not see them putting up 149 pts their first two games so they will have a tough time matching '15's 40.8 ppg but are potent.

DEFENSE - The Rebels lose 4 of their top 5 tkl's and only return 5 str's although DeMarquis Gates was the #1 tkl'r despite not being a full-time starter. The Land Shark defense will be tough again and could lower the ppg allowed.

2016 - Ole Miss is still the only original SEC West team without a trip to the SEC Title game. Their last SEC Title was in 1963. They do go from being the #43 most exp'd team to just #106 but have QB Chad Kelley back and Freeze continues to bring in top notch recruiting classes. They did have an Off YPP of 12.7 (pg 25) and are -28 All conf Pts (pg 33). Ole Miss is one wacky lateral play vs Arkansas from getting to the SEC title gm LY and have gone from 8 to 9 to 10 wins. The Rebels are one of the most talented teams in the country and showed last year they could win on the road when they knocked off Bama. This team is capable of contending for the SEC title but I will call for their streak of improving their win total to stop this year.

OFFENSE

JERSEY #
IN RED

2016 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY #
IN RED

DEFENSE

QB 10 CHAD KELLY SR. 6-2 215 PS#12. 5 gm Clemson '13. JC '14. 13 st, 4042 (65%), 500 rush (4.7), 2nd Tm SEC LY. 20 Shaw Patterson is PS#2. IFS. '79 Jason Pellerin (6'4" 229 rFr) PS#35. 16 Drew Davis (6'1" 208 Sr).
RB 22 Jordan Wilkins Jr. 6-1 214 PS#29. 2 st, 379 (5.3) LY. 21 Akem Judd (5'11" 222 Sr) PS#30JC. 1 st, 421 (5.5) LY. 24 Eric Swinney (5'9" 210 rFr) PS#19. 13 Eugene Brazley (5'9" 189 Jr) PS#46. 35 DK Buford (5'11" 221 So) PS#37.
WR 11 Markell Pack Jr. 6-2 193 PS#30. 13 gm, 173 (12.4) '14 as true. 13 gm, 380 (12.3) LY. 12 Van Jefferson (6'2" 190 rFr) PS#16. DK Metcalf (6'4" 206 Fr) PS#11. 27 Cale Luke (6'1" 197 Jr). Alex Weber (6'1" 185 So).
WR 8 QUINCY ADEBOYEJO SR. 6-3 195 PS#84. 5 st, 313 (12.0) '14. 9 st, 604 (15.9) LY. 7 DaMarcus Lodge (6'2" 190 So) PS#8. 7 gm, 1 rec as true. Tre Nixon is PS#58. 81 Trey Bledsoe (6'1" 213 Jr) PS#212. 7 gm, 3 rec LY.
WR 3 Damore'ea Stringfellow Jr. 6-2 220 PS#13. 4 st, 259 (12.9) true @ Wash. Trans '14. 5 st, 503 (14.0) LY. AJ Brown is PS#12. 19 Derrick Jones (6'2" 189 Sr) PS#143. 4 st CB, 27 tkl true. 13 gm, 55 (11.0) at WR '14. 1 st, 120 (20.0) LY.
TE 17 EVAN ENGRAM SR. 6-3 235 PS#40. 12 st, 662 (17.4), 1st Tm SEC '14. 12 st, 464 (12.2), 2nd Tm SEC LY. Gabe Anger (6'3" 218 Fr) PS#11. Hunter Thurlley (6'4" 240 Sr) 2 st, 44 (22.0) LY. Octavious Cooley (6'3" 254 Fr) PS#6.
C 75 Robert Conyers Sr. 6-5 290 PS#189. 5 gm '13. 3 st '14. 5 st, 6 gm-OFF LY. Eli Johnson is PS#64. IFS. 63 Jacob Feeley (6'2" 273 Sr) 3 gm bkp C LY. LS #53 Will Few (6'3" 232 Sr) PS#155. Chadwick Lamar (6'1" 212 So).
RG 70 JORDAN SIMS SO. 6-4 334 PS#63. 4 st LY. 73 Rod Taylor (6'3" 320 Jr) PS#8. 2 st as true. 2 st LY.
SS Tyler Putnam (6'4" 300 So) PS#91. DNP LY. Chandler Tuitt (6'4" 270 Fr) PS#58. Sam Johnson (6'2" 240 rFr).
LG 79 JAVON PATTERSON SO. 6-3 307 PS#9. 6 st as true. 76 Daronte Bouldin (6'5" 327 Jr) PS#158. 9 gm bkp RG '14. 12 gm LY. Bryce Mathews (6'6" 275 Fr) PS#39. Jack DeFord (6'4" 276 Fr) PS#102. 2x 1st Tm All-G in HS.
RT 67 ALEX GIVENS rFR. 6-6 293 PS#109. 50 Sean Rawlings (6'5" 280 So) PS#179. 7 st RT. 10 gm, SEC Fr Tm LY. 77 Talbot Buys (6'8" 310 Sr) 2 gm bkp OT LY. Royce Newman (6'5" 260 Fr) PS#71.
LT NA Greg Little Fr. 6-6 326 PS#1. 78 Jeremy Liggins (6'3" 302 Sr) PS#34JC. 5 st TE, 1 rec '14. 2 st, 1 rec LY. 52 Michael Howard (6'5" 262 Fr) PS#121. 18 Michael Taylor (6'3" 185 Fr). 62 Kamden Darney (6'2" 220 Fr).
K 97 GARY WUNDERLICH JR. 6-0 188 PS#6. 6-8 tfg, L47, 0 blk, 20-20 PAT as true '14. 19-25 tfg, L48, 0 blk, 63-63 PAT LY. 91 Nathan Noble (6'3" 224 Sr) 54TB/94KO LY. 93 Tyler Jackson (5'11" 185 Sr) walk-on LY.

DE 6 FADOL BROWN SR. 5'9 13 gm, 12 tkl '14. 2 st, 19 tkl LY. 34 Shawn Curtis (6'3" 247 Jr) PS#218. Garrald McDowell (6'2" 240 So) PS#43.
DT 9 Breeland Speaks So. 6-3 313 PS#44. 2 st, 32 tkl, 5.5 tfl, 3 qb LY. 95 Benito Jones (6'1" 285 Fr) PS#15.
IFS 52 Austrian Robinson (6'4" 296 rFr) PS#102. 89 Herbert Moore (6'1" 322 Jr) PS#128. 6 gm, 3 tkl '14. OFY LY.
DE 10 ISSAC GROSS SR. 6-1 265 PS#67. 7 st, 40 tkl, 10 tfl true. 4 st, 34 tkl, 9 tfl '13. L/6 st, 37 tkl, 8 tfl '14. 1 gm, 3 tkl, med RS LY. 93 DJ Jones (6'0" 324 Sr) PS#4JC. 3 st, 40 tkl, 4 sk LY. Ross Donelly (6'1" 309 So) PS#99.
DE 27 MARQUIS HAYNES JR. 6-3 235 PS#126. 4 st, 31 tkl, 7.5 sk, 8 qb, Frosh AA '14. 12 st, 43 tkl, 10 sk, 6.5 tfl, 8 qb, 2nd Tm SEC LY. 14 Victor Evans (6'3" 250 So) PS#112. 11 gm, 16 tkl LY. Charles Wiley is PS#58. IFS.
STING 31 DeMarquis Gates Jr. 6-2 226 PS#29. 13 gm, 13 tkl true. 4 st, 76 tkl, 2 tfl LY. 21 Terry Caldwell (6'1" 216 Sr) PS#123JC. 3 st, 32 tkl LY. 22 Ray Ray Smith (6'2" 213 Jr) PS#130. 11 gm, 8 tkl LY. Taylor Polk (5'11" 212 Jr).
MLB NA Rommel Mageo Sr. 6-2 233 10 st, 110 tkl LY @ Oregon St. Grad trans TY. Detric Bing-Dukes (6'1" 232 So) PS#59. Georgia to JC in '15. 80 Willie Hibbler (6'3" 238 rFr) PS#14. May also play TE. Tamarion Strong (6'0" 211 Sr).
CB 12 TONY CONNER SR. 6-0 215 PS#4. 12 st, 66 tkl, 5 tfl, 7 pd as true. 13 st, 69 tkl, 9 tfl, 2nd Tm SEC '14. 5 st, 17 tkl LY. 30 AJ Moore (6'0" 210 Jr) PS#111. 13 gm, 16 tkl '14. 2 st, 26 tkl LY. Montrell Custis (6'0" 174 rFr) PS#77.
CB 1 TONY BRIDGES SR. 6-0 183 PS#6JC. 11 st, 36 tkl, 9 pbu, 3 int LY. Jalen Jalen (6'0" 180 rFr) PS#68WR. 23 Carlos Davis (5'8" 171 Sr) PS#345. 7 gm, 13 tkl '13. OFY '14. 21 tkl LY. Jaylon Jones is PS#52.
CB 5 KENDARIUS WEBSTER JR. 5-11 180 PS#60. 2 st, 22 tkl true. 13 st, 41 tkl, 11 pbu LY. 28 Cameron Ordway (5'11" 174 So) PS#70. 7 gm, 6 tkl true. 13 Kaio Moore (5'10" 195 Sr) PS#17. 12 gm RB true. 13 gm, 5 tkl '14. 11 gm, 9 tkl LY.
ROV NA Deontay Anderson Fr. 6-1 212 PS#9. Myles Hartsfield (6'0" 190 Fr) PS#141. 26 CJ Moore (5'11" 195 Jr) PS#19. 13 gm, 9 tkl true. 13 gm, 19 tkl LY. Greg Eisworth (5'11" 190 Fr) PS#86. 41 Antwain Smith (5'9" 175 Jr).
FS 3 CJ Hampton Jr. 6-1 205 PS#26. 13 gm, 10 tkl as true. 4 st, 9 gm, 27 tkl LY. 36 Zedrick Woods (5'11" 197 So) PS#123. 2 st, 25 tkl as true. 29 Armani Linton (6'2" 217 Fr) PS#115. 37 Luke Davis (6'2" 216 Jr).
P 94 WILL GLEESON JR. 6-3 197 58 punts (42.9), 11 tm net, 2 TB, 17 FC, 170 '14. 43 punts (40.7), L/62, 11 In20, tm net 39.3 LY. Gary Wunderlich (6'0" 188 Jr) PS#6. 9 punts (46.9) LY. 98 Grant Warren (6'1" 201 Jr).

SEC - WEST