



The Miracle at Mizzou Could it be this year?

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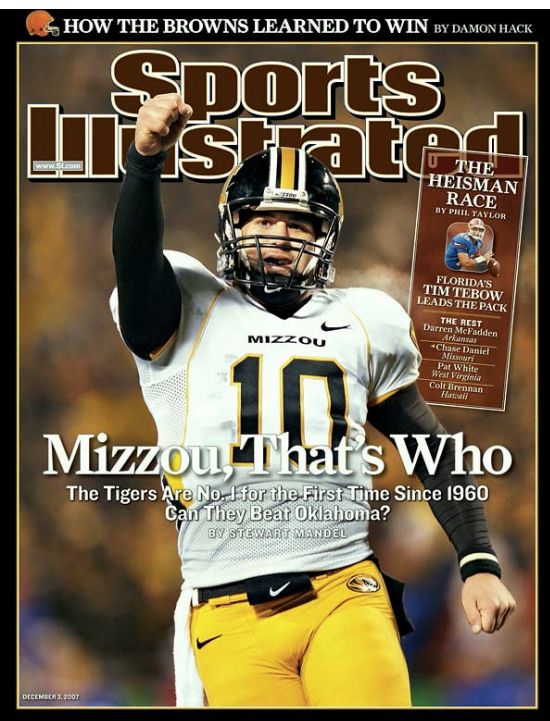
August 30, 2019 — “Make it Right.”

That’s been the saying in Columbia, Missouri over the last six months. On January 31, 2019, the University of Missouri got hit with a one-year postseason ban in Football, Baseball, and Softball.

These issues were brought to attention in November 2016. “We are shocked and dismayed by the penalties that have been imposed today and will aggressively fight for what is right,” says MU athletic director Jim Sterk.

What hurts the most about this bowl ban, is the fact that this Missouri football team is set to explode. Let’s start with the offense. This team brings back 13 starters, six on offense and seven on defense.

This team has all the makings of a 2007 or 2013 type of season. Both of those teams came off of underperforming seasons in 2006 and 2012 respectively. Yet both came within one game from playing for the National Championship. The 2007 team lost to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship and the 2013 team lost to Auburn in the SEC Championship game. Six years apart from each other stands the 2019 edition of Missouri football looking to make it right.



This would be the ultimate comeback for the postseason ban. Going 12-0. Proving the country wrong. In a dream scenario it would be Georgia surrendering their only loss of the season to Mizzou, and then going on to win the National Championship. That's a legit national championship claim, right?

Let's preview that Mizzou had on its roster and how these guys are going to propel this program to new heights this season:

At quarterback, we have senior Kelly Bryant. The former Clemson QB led the Tigers all the way to the CFP playoffs where they lost to Alabama in the Sugar Bowl. He is the leader of this team and knows the more games he wins, the higher he will go in the draft. At running back we have junior Larry Roundtree. Roundtree is an NFL caliber back looking to boost his draft stock for the 2020 NFL draft. He ran for over 1,000 yards in 2018 and is poised to do so again. His back-up will be multi-purpose back Tyler Badie. Badie is an explosive back, similar to Tarik Cohen in the NFL.

At receiver, we have former Arkansas standout Jonathon Nance. Nance was the leading receiver for the Razorbacks in 2017. After sitting out 2018 Nance is poised for a breakout year and looks to be Bryant's go-to option. Jalen Knox and Kam Scott will share the

duties as the other outside receiver's and Jonathon Johnson will be in the slot for the fourth straight season. Johnson is 900 yards away from breaking the Mizzou all time receiving yards leader. At tight end we have Albert O, a sure-fire player on Sunday's. Enough said. On the offensive line, we lost two starters from last season. However, we return our three most productive linemen.

On defense, this unit will be better than last season. The defensive ends are question marks with Chris Turner and Jatorian Hansford. At tackle Jordan Elliot and Kobie Whiteside will not make you miss TBJ. These guys will be in opponents backfields all season long.

Odom is breaking out the 4-2-5 defensive scheme this season so at linebacker Cale Garrett leads this defense. He is a preseason 2nd team all sec selection. The other linebacker will be Nick Bolton. Aubrey Miller Jr. will be backing him up. The secondary for Missouri is a strength with experience across the board. At corner we have DeMarkus Acy and Jarvis Ware. Ware has impressed coaches all off-season passing up former starters Christian Holmes and Adam Sparks. This position group is deep. At safety we have Joshua Bledsoe, Tyree Gillespie, Khalil Oliver and Ronnel Perkins. This group will rotate between the five and I'm excited to see who will emerge as the leader of this group. Who will be this year's Pig Brown?

And for special teams we have Tucker McCann returning for his senior season. McCann did turn down an offer to kick for Alabama back in high school.

This has all the right makings for a 2007, 2013 type season. When the postseason ban was announced everyone immediately thought players were going to start transferring.

Not one left the program.

The NCAA may be a corrupt organization and I could get in to how the tutor who got the team in trouble didn't help the players like the NCAA accused him/her of. But I'm not. The NCAA does whatever they want.



Let's preview Mizzou's schedule:

Mizzou opens the season at Wyoming. They return home for a meeting with West Virginia who lost 18 starters from last seasons team along with their coach. A cupcake game against SEMO sets up their SEC home opener against South Carolina. Odom will not lose this game. This team lost a heartbreaker to USC due to a bad call by the refs and a hailstorm. Mizzou stays home for another cupcake game against Troy before their annual homecoming game against Ole Miss.

Henry Josey game winner against Texas A&M to advance to the 2013 SEC Championship

Ole Miss is an inexperienced team that will struggle to keep up with Mizzou's offense. To close out October, the Tigers will hit the road play Vanderbilt and Kentucky. Odom has never beaten Kentucky. He will have not problem beating rebuilding teams Vandy or Kentucky. After a much needed bye week, Mizzou will play its biggest game of the season.

The Tigers will spend their 2nd Saturday of November in Athens to face the Georgia Bulldogs. I like this matchup. Mizzou is coming off of a bye week while Georgia will be coming off a tough game against Florida in Jacksonville.



I see Kelly Bryant having his "moment" in this game that greets Brad Smith (2005 Independence bowl) and Chase Daniel (2007 Kansas game) had before him. This will cement his status as a Tiger legend.

After Mizzou defeats Georgia the media will start taking notice. With emerging teams such as Florida and Tennessee coming to Columbia in back to back weeks, Mizzou will win but I could see both games being close. And the finale of this Revenge Tour will be going to Fayetteville Arkansas for the 6th edition of the "Battle Line Rivalry." The Tigers will prevail with a double-digit victory to finish off their first undefeated season since 1960.

After everything this program's been through this

season will stand for so much more.

A town. A team. A dream.

There will one day be a documentary written on this team.

“The greatest undefeated season that never was.”

You get the picture.

Or what happens is this team underperforms and goes 8-4 or 9-3 and I get ripped for writing this article.

Will this team be similar to the 2007 or 2013 teams?

We will find out soon.

Very soon.

Football is back.

A magical run does happen every six seasons for Mizzou, right?