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AP Associated Press



Missouri chancellor Deaton cancels India trip

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(AP) -- University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton has decided to remain in Columbia rather than take an overseas trip as he decides whether the school should leave the Big 12 Conference.

Deaton was scheduled to leave Tuesday for a 9-day international conference in India.

Instead, school spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said Monday that the chancellor won't go so he can deal with other duties in his office that are more important.

Missouri is mulling a move to the Southeastern Conference. University curators gave Deaton authority earlier this month to explore leaving the Big 12, which has lost three members in the past year.

The SEC website last week mistakenly posted an announcement that Missouri was joining the league.

The premature announcement was quickly pulled from the site.

MU chancellor delays trip; still no decision on SEC

By MIKE DeARMOND

COLUMBIA | Another day has come and gone waiting for what almost everyone agrees is the coming announcement that Missouri has been accepted into the Southeastern Conference.

The reason why that is taking so long remains a subject of speculation, even after Mizzou's current Big 12 Conference membership was consigned last Friday to a blank space in that league's announced roster of teams after adding West Virginia.

But at least MU chancellor Brady Deaton has delayed his departure to an international conference in Agra, India, that was scheduled to begin today, according to his executive assistant.

Last week, Deaton said Missouri's decision could be made final in either "days" or "one or two weeks." While Deaton's trip delay increased speculation that the conclusion could be reached sooner than later, there was no official comment Monday.

In the meantime, South Carolina president Harris Pastides was quoted by The State newspaper as saying: "There is a prevailing positive viewpoint about (Missouri) becoming the 14th team."

So why the continued lack of official confirmation? Over the weekend in an interview with The Daily Gamecock, the school newspaper, Pastides said: "Our decision on Missouri or any candidate would depend on not creating a huge problem for the conference they're leaving."

Interim Big 12 commissioner Chuck Neinas last week expressed concern over the possibility of reduced TV revenues for Big 12 teams should West Virginia not be able to compete in the Big 12 in 2012.

Missouri, the supposition follows, might be leveraged to stay in the Big 12 as a West Virginia place-holder, even though Deaton has said that 2012 was Missouri's target year in determining any realignment.

In the least speculative news of the day, West Virginia filed suit Monday against the Big East in an effort to have a court set aside that league's bylaw requiring a departing Big East school from playing in another league for 27 months.

The suit claims the Big East "breached its fiduciary duty" by failing to maintain a balance between football-playing and nonfootball playing members.

Syracuse and Pitt — both football-playing schools — have announced their departure for the Atlantic Coast Conference. TCU, which had been accepted into the Big East for 2012, last month backed out of that agreement and joined the Big 12 for 2012.

West Virginia charged in its suit that with the Big East's "continued existence in serious jeopardy, West Virginia had no choice but to accept the (Big 12's) offer."

Big East commissioner John Marinatto in a statement released Monday said of the suit that "it is clear that the allegations and claims in it are false and inaccurate. ... To put it simply, a contract is a contract."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou stuck in neutral

BY VAHE GREGORIAN | Posted: Tuesday, November 1, 2011 12:15 am

COLUMBIA, MO. • In moves Monday that further cloud and confuse the timetable for resolution of Mizzou's future conference affiliation, MU chancellor Brady Deaton canceled a business trip to India scheduled to begin today and West Virginia launched a lawsuit against the Big East in its effort to liberate itself and join the Big 12 in 2012.

MU's nearly certain departure for the Southeastern Conference for next year isn't necessarily contingent on West Virginia immediately filling its place in the Big 12. But the Big 12 is adamant that it needs at least 10 members next year to be able to fulfill its football television inventory requirements, which has left it to debate whether MU can extricate itself for the litigation-wary SEC before 2013.

Whatever the timing, indications from within Mizzou continued to be that a formal announcement of the move could come within days — a term, alas, that has been used before.

Meanwhile, University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides told The State newspaper in Columbia, S.C., that he expects a vote of SEC presidents "soon" on Mizzou and there is a "prevailing positive viewpoint" of MU.

And then there was the canceled trip of Deaton, the pivotal figure in Missouri's deliberations with the Big 12 and the SEC.

Because of the impending trip, logic dictated any final announcement would have had to come Monday or wait until after his return late next week.

While he certainly has other business to attend to, there is little doubt that the SEC matter drove his decision to stay put as MU apparently works as far as it can on such issues as exit fees and a departure timetable.

In one form or another, Mizzou is about the only concerned entity not to announce it's SEC-bound. MU has taken a number of measures to distance itself from the Big 12 and even has acknowledged exchanging information with the SEC, but it simply hasn't publicly filled in the blank.

Meanwhile, on Thursday the SEC briefly, inadvertently posted on its website an announcement that Mizzou had joined the conference. The SEC later attributed it to a mistake by the web vendor, which in turn said it had been written hypothetically.

On Friday as it announced West Virginia's admission to the league, the Big 12 left MU off a list of 10 schools it anticipates being in the conference next year.

Like the Big 12, West Virginia said Friday that it expects to be in the Big 12 next year because it is confident it can negotiate with the Big East to exit before the 27-month departure decreed by Big East bylaws.

But the withering Big East wasn't backing down from its declared intention to hold West Virginia to the time frame just as it has with Pittsburgh and Syracuse in their moves to the ACC. So West Virginia took another approach on Monday, alleging that the Big East had breached its contract with WVU and nullified the bylaws by failing to enhance or protect the conference amid other defections. To which Big East commissioner John Marinatto said in a statement:

"We are disappointed that West Virginia has adopted this strategy and cannot imagine why it believes it does not have to respect the bylaws it agreed to as a member of the Big East."

He also said the Big East will "act vigorously to ensure" WVU lives up to its obligations.

Deaton cancels trip; still no word on SEC

By Steve Walentik

Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton has canceled his trip to India, school spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said today. Deaton was scheduled to leave for India tomorrow and stay through Nov. 9 for what was considered a major scientific conference.

In an email, Banken said Deaton will not reschedule the trip as “other responsibilities here at MU prevented him from leaving at this particular time.”

The trip to Dayalbagh, India, had been scheduled for six months. Deaton had planned to accompany MU professor of physics and radiology Kattesh Katti and was slated to give the keynote address at the International Conference on Chemistry of Phytopotentials: Health, Energy and Environmental Perspectives.

With Deaton booked to leave the country tomorrow, many figured today would be the day Missouri announced its plans to join the Southeastern Conference. Deaton has been the school’s central figure in its passage from the Big 12 to the SEC since being empowered this month by the UM System Board of Curators to decide MU’s conference situation and negotiate any related contracts.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon attended yesterday’s Missouri vs. Missouri Southern exhibition basketball game in Joplin and was asked about MU’s conference affiliation.

“I’ll leave that to others to comment on now,” Nixon said, also adding, “I might be too quotable.”

Nixon previously created plenty of buzz — most of it negative — for comments he made while Missouri appeared to be trying to get into the Big Ten last year.

“When you compare Oklahoma State to Northwestern, when you compare Texas Tech to Wisconsin, I mean, you begin looking at educational possibilities that are worth looking at,” he said in December 2009.

He has learned his lesson.

“I’m a fan,” he said yesterday. “I don’t run the athletic department.”

While Nixon slowly inched back from reporters with each inquiry, he didn't really appear eager to walk away.

One reporter said, "You're getting closer and closer to saying something."

"Yeah, I know," he replied with a laugh, but he wouldn't say anymore. Nor would Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden, when asked if an announcement was imminent.

"Not that I'm aware of," he said.

Dave Matter contributed to this report.

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MU Chancellor Brady Deaton cancels trip to India

By Harry Plumer

October 31, 2011 | 12:16 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The MU news bureau confirmed that Chancellor Brady Deaton has canceled his trip to Agra, India. The chancellor was supposed to depart Tuesday to attend a scientific conference Nov. 1 through 9.

MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken told the Associated Press on Monday that Deaton wasn't going because he had duties in his office that are more important. MU is considering leaving the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference, and recent events have suggested that an official announcement could be the only thing keeping the move from being finalized.

A draft of an SEC web page welcoming Missouri to the conference was leaked Thursday night but was removed quickly and chalked up to an error by the SEC's Web vendor, XOS Digital.

Then, the Big 12 issued a release Friday, welcoming West Virginia to the conference. Part of that release said it expected to have 10 teams in the league for 2012-2013 and provided a list of those 10 schools. Missouri was not on that list.

Speculation mounted before the trip was canceled that Deaton's departure for India would mean Monday might be the day for an announcement. Instead, Missouri fans will have to continue to wait with no indication of when this saga will reach its endpoint. MU and Big 12 officials have steadfastly refused to comment on the timeline of the announcement. Last Tuesday, during a radio interview on KFRU, Deaton said it could be "days or a week or two."

During a teleconference Friday, interim Big 12 Commissioner Chuck Neinas responded to a reporter's question about the topic by saying, "You're closer to it than I, sir." When asked about the topic after Saturday's football game at Texas A&M, Athletics Director Mike Alden said, "You guys are asking me a question I don't have the answer to."

Until Missouri announces it has submitted a letter of withdrawal to the Big 12, the waiting will continue.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri's bid to join SEC affords opportunity to reflect on cultural identity

By [Alison Matas](#)

November 1, 2011 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Marvin Overby isn't sure whether Missouri is a Northern or Southern state. **What he is sure about, however, is that MU's culture doesn't fit the culture of the Southeastern Conference.**

The MU professor, who teaches politics of the American South, taught at the University of Mississippi for nine years. When he moved to Columbia, the football game-day experience was completely different from the one he was used to in Oxford, Miss.

"Essentially, the entire town became more or less gridlocked because of the game," he said. "And if you weren't going to the game, you had a choice—either you sort of hunker down for the day, or you got the hell out. You don't get that in Columbia."

While there are a few schools in the SEC that aren't "football crazy," Overby said, they are the exception, not the rule. Overall, he said, SEC schools pack more people into their stadiums, have more "rabid" fans and spend more money on football.

With Missouri seemingly on the verge of bolting from the Big 12 — the latest name for a string of conference affiliations that date to 1907 — and joining the SEC, there's plenty of chatter on blogs and over coffee about cultural identity and football traditions both here and in the South.

Geography, race and football as cultural markers

Missouri sits in the middle of the country — there's no debate about that.

Along with Tennessee, it touches the most states of any state in the nation, sharing borders with Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee.

"I like saying that Missouri is the northernmost Southern state, but it's also the southernmost Northern state," Overby said. "It's also the easternmost Western state and the westernmost Eastern state."

So, just how Southern are we, anyway?

The editors of Southern Living magazine recently named Columbia one of the best Southern college towns. Features editor Jennifer Cole said it received this distinction because the city exhibits Southern charm, and there's a sense of community that's intrinsic to Southern towns.

From Cole's perspective, the Show-Me State "has a split personality, a little bit of an identity crisis."

With Missouri's size, some regions of the state display more Southern traits than others — the culture of the Bootheel seems distant from the culture of St. Louis.

Boone County, situated in the middle of Missouri, rests in "the heart of Little Dixie," author and Missouri Southern culture historian Gary Gene Fuenfhausen said.

When pioneers from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia settled in Boone County, they brought their architecture and their agriculture, making Little Dixie resemble the upper South, Fuenfhausen said. These settlers brought their slaves, and some of the first crops they grew were corn, tobacco and cotton.

William "Gene" Robertson, MU professor emeritus of community development, said the culture of Little Dixie influenced race relations in Columbia and that all the symbols of a segregated society expressed themselves here.

There's lingering resentment from segregation, he said, so the city has "a university or cosmopolitan veneer over a history of segregation that began when there were slaves here."

Historian Douglas Hunt, associate professor emeritus, sees Columbia as "a university town built on a Southern chassis." It was founded by families from the South at the beginning of the 19th century, and it was dominated by them for generations.

For Hunt, this Southern influence is most obvious in race relations. Even in the 1960s, he said, people who were educated and traveled were surprised by the severity of segregation in Columbia.

“The habit of whites and blacks living separate social lives in separate neighborhoods is still strong in the town,” Hunt said. “Traces of segregation are widespread in America generally, of course, so Columbia may not be strikingly different from university towns of comparable size in Northern or Western states. I think it's somewhat different, though, somewhat more divided along racial lines.”

Race makes the culture of the university different from the culture of the city, Hunt said.

“The university doesn't strike me as having a Southern culture,” he said. “The students at the university seem to me much more at ease with racial differences — and other differences — than the average citizens of Columbia or Boone County.”

Just as regions form cultural identities, so can universities.

Wayne Brekhus, MU associate professor of sociology, said these identities are based on where a university is located and, perhaps, its athletic conference.

Brekhus sees Columbia as being two-thirds Midwestern and one-third Southern.

“One of my friends jokes that Columbia's not in the South, but you can see the South from Columbia,” he said. “That's pretty close to true.”

Football reflects cultural traditions

When it comes to athletics, the overwhelming opinion seems to be that if you think football's a big deal at Missouri, you've never been to a game at an SEC school, or, more specifically, a game at one of the SEC schools in the Deep South: Louisiana State University, Alabama, Auburn or the University of Mississippi.

“I've seen some people say that they didn't think Missouri would fit in because our football fans aren't rabid enough,” Brekhus said. “I think it's true that there's definitely more stronger, intense football cultures in some of the SEC schools.”

Brekhus added, however, that it feels like Columbia's population doubles on game days — one sign of a strong football tradition for a Midwestern town.

While the culture of football and its traditions aren't identical across the SEC, game days are steeped in the foods and fashions of the South, including showy dresses and bow ties as well as fancy tailgate affairs with gumbo and other Southern cuisine.

At MU's centennial Homecoming game this fall, jeans and sweatshirts were the outfits of choice, and tailgaters' grills were loaded with hot dogs and hamburgers.

Joel Athey, who's been a fan for 35 years, took a break from pregame festivities to express his support for remaining in the Big 12. MU doesn't belong in the SEC, he said.

"Do we barbecue alligator meat? No. So say, 'no.'"

Harold Westhues, who was tailgating with highball glasses and a black tablecloth, was more accommodating about a move to the SEC.

"We have more of a Southern heritage," he said. "We were a slave state. We're Southern enough to fit in."

On the Rock M Nation site, which is a blog for Missouri fans, commenter Karl Wiggins, who writes a blog about Alabama football and SEC sports, offered his take on whether MU would be a good fit for the SEC.

"Outsiders view the SEC fan base as one entity culturally, but it is a mix of Southern and Eastern, Appalachian and Ozark, redneck and old money, football elitism and cultural defensiveness, Cajun and country, and 15 different kinds of barbecue," he wrote. "You guys will fit in fine."

Forbes®

Could Fish Fossils Help Us Better Predict Climate Change?

By measuring an element present in fish fossils, researchers at the University of Missouri may have found a key to better understanding how climate change works.

The researchers measured neodymium, an element that indicates where sea water originally came from. The ratio of two isotopes of neodymium varies in different areas, leaving a sort of signature on the water. Fish teeth and bones pick up the same signature from the water where the fish died and fell to the sea floor. Because of that, the ratio of the neodymium isotopes can act as a natural tracking system for water masses, according to Ken MacLeod, a professor of geological science at the university.

This tracking system shows that, in a prehistoric time called the Late Cretaceous Epoch, the deep oceans circulated differently than many scientists had previously thought. That's important because the Late Cretaceous Epoch was a greenhouse climate – one with high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide – and researchers also found that the timing of a change in the ocean-circulation patterns closely matched the timing of climate change. Understanding how the oceans circulated during prehistoric climate change could help us better predict how climate change might affect us in the future.

“As we look at ancient climates, modern climates and future climates, the same processes are active at all times,” MacLeod says. “It’s largely the same water, the same physics, the same chemistry. ... [Understanding the circulation patterns of the past] is vitally important to understanding the climate dynamics of the future.”

Approaching Prehistoric CO2 Levels

And not too far into the future, either, at least in geological terms. “We’re surprising close” to the Cretaceous levels, MacLeod says. How close? Within 90 years, by most predictions. As MacLeod puts it, “We’re on the bottom edge of the levels that were thought to have existed in the Cretaceous and rapidly heading toward the estimated values during the greenhouse times, including the Late Cretaceous.”

In just a few decades, humans have managed to cause the kind of atmospheric changes that it took geological climate cycles millions of years to accomplish. Carbon-dioxide levels in the atmosphere have grown 38 percent to approximately 389 parts per million today from 280 parts per million in 1850, the pre-industrial benchmark for climate change. In 2009, a study at the University of California at Los Angeles concluded that these carbon-dioxide levels haven't been seen on Earth for 15 million to 20 million years.

Predictions for 2100 range from 600 parts per million to 1,000 parts per million, levels similar to those 65 million to 71 million years ago. The estimate for atmospheric carbon dioxide for that period is two to four times preindustrial levels, or roughly between 560 parts per million and 1120 parts per million.

Most models set up to try to figure out what happened during the Late Cretaceous climate changes conclude that water sank from the surface to the bottom of the ocean around Antarctica or the North Pacific. But the fish fossils show that this sinking actually happened in the North Atlantic. Warm water moved into the North Atlantic while the cool waters from the North Atlantic flowed out.

At the same time, temperatures on the land around the North Atlantic also warmed while the rest of the globe cooled. While it's not yet clear whether the ocean circulation pattern caused the climate changes or vice versa, it's clear the two are correlated and that circulation in the deep ocean is "a major controlling variable" in climate dynamics, MacLeod says.

What We Don't Know

He cautions against assuming that we'd see the same circulation patterns as those in prehistoric times if the atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels reach those same highs again. After all, many things have changed since the Late Cretaceous Epoch. But the study's conclusions certainly raise such questions.

"We do wonder if [the sinking pattern we found] is a general characteristic of greenhouse times," MacLeod says. "Is there a characteristic greenhouse circulation pattern? Finding a generality like that – if this is how greenhouse circulation works as opposed to the circulation in icehouse times — would change our fundamental understanding of greenhouse dynamics."

The new evidence about how the oceans circulated indicates that models showing a different circulation pattern – which is most of them – probably are missing a crucial factor in their calculations, MacLeod says. "We would argue that the models that don't reproduce this mode of circulation are missing something about the way that circulation in the Cretaceous period works," he says. "And the way that it's correlated with temperature changes lead us to believe that it's pretty important."

Armed with more certainty about the circulation patterns of the past, scientists will be able to better test how well the climate-change models are working, MacLeod adds. In other words, if a model doesn't come up with the Late Cretaceous patterns of circulation that the fish fossils show actually occurred, scientists will have less confidence in that model. Meanwhile, MacLeod says, "if the model is accurately giving us the way things work in the Cretaceous period, it should work 100 years from now."

The University of Missouri researchers now aim to use their findings to test various climate-change models. The team has submitted a grant proposal and expects to find out in the next three to five months if it will get funding for the project, MacLeod says. "We hope that we're going to get the models and the data to concur," he says. "We hope that we have a model that reproduces

the processes that we think occurred, that we can find completely separate kinds of evidence – modeling and measuring chemical components on fish fossils – that both get the same result.”

Missourinet

MU program works to boost after-school care throughout Missouri

October 31, 2011 By Jessica Machetta

About 72 percent of all children are unsupervised after school while their parents are working.

A University of Missouri Extension program is working to ensure that school-age children in Missouri have access to quality, after-school programs.

The network says in Missouri, only 12 percent of school-age children participate in after-school programs, but 30 percent more would participate if a program was available in their area.

The network urges parents to look at some 271 after-school programs it sponsors around the state.

Drug-testing debate shifts to MU

Attorney argues with new policy.

By Janese Silvey

Students enrolling in medical programs at the University of Missouri this fall were required to take drug tests — a new mandate one local attorney says is unconstitutional.

To make his point, attorney Dan Viets cites Linn State Technical College's attempt to screen its students this year. A U.S. district judge last week issued a preliminary injunction blocking those tests and warned the public college that she doesn't think the requirement passes constitutional muster.

Viets, a Columbia attorney, filed a statement in the case on behalf of Students for Sensible Drug Policies. He is now looking for a plaintiff to challenge MU's new policy.

The MU School of Medicine and School of Nursing implemented the 14-panel urine drug tests this year, requiring students to take the tests during a weeklong orientation before school started, said Alison Martin, director of admissions for the School of Medicine. Because medical students work in clinical settings, the goal was to align policies with MU Health Care's, she said.

MU hospital and clinic workers, including physicians and administrators, have been required to take pre-employment drug tests since 2004, spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said.

Asked about the Linn State legal challenge, Martin said, "It feels like apples and oranges. ... We certainly value our relationship with the hospitals and clinics and want to do what we can to ensure the health and safety of patients."

Linn State officials also cited safety as a factor in their decision to begin drug-testing. The college offers programs that involve hands-on work such as engine repair and aircraft maintenance.

Viets argues that drug-testing does nothing to ensure safety. Unlike breath tests that capture whether an individual is intoxicated at a point in time, drug tests don't accurately reflect a person's current condition, he said.

"It makes no more sense than to test someone to see whether you drank a beer a month ago," Viets said. "Certainly folks who run the medical school ought to understand that drug tests have nothing to do with the ability to work safely and productively. It's a sham, a PR gimmick."

Viets also questions whether MU Health's employee drug tests are legal, considering the entity is a public institution. Courts have historically ruled that public employees should not be drug-tested unless there's a special need.

"I confess there might be a chance of a court upholding drug-testing of doctors," he said. "But I don't think a court would hold that there's a special need to drug-test janitors" at a public hospital.

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A victory for Missouri

By Steve Walentik

JOPLIN — A sell-out crowd of 3,477 packed into the stands at the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center for last night's One State, One Spirit Classic.

Missouri 114, Mo. Southern 68

The spectators — fans of both Missouri and Missouri Southern — came to remember the people affected by the catastrophic tornado that touched down here on May 22 and to remind the rest of the country that Joplin is still rebuilding.

So the event, televised nationally on ESPNU, featured a moment of silence for the 162 people who lost their lives, and many thank-yous for those who have aided in the recovery.

Desi Hickman, who graduated from Missouri Southern last May and survived the tornado while working at a pharmacy near St. John's Regional Medical Center, sang the national anthem.

Missouri officials also presented a check for \$275,000 generated through sales of One State, One Spirit T-shirts, an idea MU Athletic Director Mike Alden said came from Carly Northup, Missouri's Director of Development for Donor Services.

"It's great to see the place filled to the rafters, \$100,000 for charity here," said Gov. Jay Nixon, who was part of the crowd. "People in Missouri are coming together."

At the center of it all was an exhibition basketball game that was the brainchild of Missouri Coach Frank Haith — and the first of his tenure with the Tigers.

It was a chance for the coach to see how his players would perform in a competitive setting against Division II Missouri Southern, which returned four starters from a team that went 26-5 last season and that opened this one ranked fourth in the Division II Bulletin preseason poll. It also gave Missouri fans an opportunity to watch those players working in the system Haith has installed after taking over for Mike Anderson.

The early reviews were positive. The No. 25 Tigers cruised to a 114-68 victory over the outmanned Lions.

"Our guys were ready to play, and they were ready to compete," Haith said.

Particularly in the first half, Anderson's lingering imprint could not go unnoticed as the Tigers picked off 20 turnovers and converted them to easy baskets on the other end.

"You can't really take that out of players," senior guard Marcus Denmon said. "We were all recruited here because we were able to play multiple kind of defenses, and Coach Haith still plays up tempo."

"Their quickness and size presents a lot of problems for us," Missouri Southern Coach Robert Corn said. "That's one thing we can't prepare for in practice."

Brothers Phil and Matt Pressey proved the biggest pests, combining for nine of the Tigers' 14 steals, with eight of them coming before intermission. When Missouri Southern kept MU out of transition, it had a difficult time matching up on defense as the Tigers spread the floor with four guards often surrounding forward Ricardo Ratliffe.

Denmon led with 25 points on 8-of-13 shooting, displaying the same efficiency that made him a first-team All-Big 12 selection last season. He made four of Missouri's 13 3-pointers. Mike Dixon came off the bench to score 19 points on 7-of-9 shooting. Matt Pressey shot nearly as well, scoring 18 points on 7-for-10 shooting, while Phil Pressey and Kim English had 10 points each.

The guards pitched in on the glass as the Tigers outrebounded the Lions 41-28, with Dixon securing eight and Matt Pressey grabbing seven. Those five players, plus Ratliffe, who contributed 17 points and eight rebounds, form the core of the team.

But Haith is also counting on contributions from senior center Steve Moore and redshirt freshman forward Kadeem Green. Moore came off the bench looking for opportunities to score and made a jumper and a dunk within his first two minutes on the floor. He scored eight points on 4-of-6 shooting and had four rebounds in 21 minutes. Green didn't get much opportunity to contribute but made both his shots and grabbed a rebound.

The players, who hours before taking the floor yesterday toured the most devastated areas of the city and helped put on a youth basketball clinic, insisted they took plenty away from their experiences.

"These people have a type of resilience that is so commendable," English said. "I hope that my basketball team can have that same kind of resilience when adversity hits us this year, but a completely total different, lesser kind of adversity."

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