



SOUTHERN MISS

2003 Football

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2003 Schedule/Results

Nebraska (3-0, 1-0)

8/30Oklahoma State W/17 - 7
 9/6Utah State W/31 - 7
 9/13Penn State W/18 - 10
 9/25at Southern Miss 6:30 p.m.
 10/4Troy State TBA
 10/11at Missouri TBA
 10/18Texas A&M TBA
 10/25Iowa State TBA
 11/1at Texas TBA
 11/8at Kansas TBA
 11/15Kansas State TBA
 11/28at Colorado 11 a.m.

Southern Miss (2-1, 2-0)

8/30at California L/2-34
 9/4at UAB W/17-12
 9/13Memphis W/23-6
 9/25Nebraska 6:30 p.m.
 10/4at Cincinnati 6 p.m.
 10/11at Alabama 2 p.m.
 10/25USF 2 p.m.
 11/1La. Lafayette 2 p.m.
 11/8at Houston 4 p.m.
 11/15Tulane 2 p.m.
 11/20TCU 6:30 p.m.
 11/29at East Carolina 1 p.m.

Internet Information

SouthernMiss.com

► Notes, releases, statistics and other pertinent information are available on Southern Miss' official web site, **SouthernMiss.com**. Notes on the upcoming game will be updated by the end of Monday of game week. Nebraska's official athletics web site is **www.Huskers.com**.



(11/15) Nebraska at Southern Miss

Sept. 25, 2003 - 6:30 p.m., CT

M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000) ♦ Hattiesburg, Miss.

The Game

► The University of Southern Mississippi (2-1, 2-0 Conference USA) hosts The University of Nebraska (3-0, 1-0 Big XII Conference) (No. 11 USA Today Coaches Poll/No. 15 AP Poll) on Thursday, Sept. 25, at M. M. Roberts Stadium (33,000) at 6:30 p.m., CT. The game will be televised on ESPN.

On the Air

TV

ESPN - (Mike Tirico - play-by-play, Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit - Color Analysis, Dr. Jerry Punch - Sideline) will broadcast the game live.

Radio

Southern Miss ISP Network - (John Cox - play-by-play, Vic Purvis - analysis, Lance Pittman - sideline) will broadcast the game live.

Nebraska Sports Network - (Jim Rose - play-by-play, Adrian Fiala - analysis, Gary Sharp - Sideline) will broadcast the game live.

Internet broadcasts of Golden Eagle games are available by accessing SouthernMiss.com and clicking on live radio broadcast of games on the athletics home page.

The Series

► This marks Nebraska's first trip to the state of Mississippi and the second meeting between the two schools. Nebraska won the only meeting (20-13) between the two schools on Sept. 18, 1999, in Lincoln, Neb. Cornhuskers Head Coach Frank Solich is 1-0 against Southern Miss Head Coach Jeff Bower. Southern Miss is 2-10 against teams which hail from the Big XII Conference.

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Comparing the Two

Offense

	So. Miss	Nebraska
First Downs	46	64
Net Rushing	387	878
Average	129	292.7
Net Passing	511	270
Average	170.3	90
Pass Attempts	79	39
Complete	41	24
Interceptions	3	2
Total Offense	898	1148
Average	299.3	382.7
Fumbles/Lost	4/3	9/4
3rd Down	14/48	23/51
FG/Att.	2/3	9/12
Points	42	66
Average	14	22
Avg. TOP	31:19	38:17
Penalties	15/128	21/172
Average	42.7	57.3

Defense

	So. Miss	Nebraska
First Downs	57	38
Net Rushing	566	190
Average	188.7	63.3
Net Passing	601	434
Average	200.3	144.7
Pass Attempts	91	96
Complete	50	46
Interceptions	3	5
Avg. per return	5.0	0.0
Total Defense	1167	624
Average	389.0	208
Fumble/Rec.	10/8	8/5
3rd Down	13/41	13/38
Sacks/Yds.	11/61	5/44
Points	52	24
Average	17.3	8

USM's Highs vs. Nebraska

Individual Rushing Yards: 70 by

Derrick Nix, 1999

Team Rushing Yards: 25 in 1999

Individual Rushing Attempts: 29 by

Derrick Nix, 1999

Team Rushing Attempts: 34 in 1999

Individual Pass Attempts: 45 by Jeff

Kelly, 1999

Individual Passing Yards: 268 by Jeff

Kelly, 1998

Team Passing Yards: 268 in 1999

Individual Pass Completions: 23 by

Jeff Kelly, 1999

Team Pass Completions: 23 in 1999

Individual Receptions: 11 by Todd

Pinkston, 1999

Individual Receiving Yards: 163 by

Todd Pinkston, 1999

Individual Total Offense: 268 by Jeff

Kelly, 1999

Team Total Offense: 293 in 1999

The Last Time

#4 Nebraska 20, Southern Miss 13

► **LINCOLN, Neb. -- (9/18/99)** - It's a game that Golden Eagle football fans will remember for a long time as the one that got away.

On an absolutely perfect day for football, the Southern Miss defense dominated then fourth-ranked Nebraska's powerful offensive attack, only to fall short, 20-13, in front of a record crowd at Nebraska's Memorial Stadium.

The Golden Eagles kept the red-clad crowd of 77,286 Nebraska fans relatively quiet with a tenacious defense that held the Huskers to just 185 yards of offense, their lowest total since a 21-7 victory over Oklahoma in 1993.

Jeff Kelly threw a pair of touchdown passes -- one in the first quarter to Todd Pinkston and another in the third quarter to Sherrod Gideon -- as the Golden Eagles held a 13-12 lead midway through the third quarter.

It was at that point that Nebraska's Keyuo Craver deflected a Kelly pass that went sailing into the air and was brought down by NU linebacker Julius Jackson, who returned the interception 28 yards for a Husker touchdown. It was Jackson's second touchdown of the day.

Pinkston finished the day with 163 yards on 11 receptions in the contest to earn player of the week honors for Southern Miss. On defense, both Adalius Thomas and T.J. Slaughter earned the award. Thomas finished with seven tackles and a sack, while Slaughter had 15 tackles, including two for losses.

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final		USM	NEB
Southern Miss	7	0	6	0	13	First Downs	15	8
#4 Nebraska	6	6	8	0	20	Offensive plays	79	51
						Yards Per Play	3.7	3.6
						Rushing Att./Yds.	34/25	41/119
						Passing Att./Comp./Int.	45/23/4	10/6/2
						Passing Yards	268	66
						Total Offense	293	185
1st						Return Yards	86	168
NU - Jackson 16 fumble recovery						Fumbles/Lost	2/2	5/3
(Brown kick failed), 7:50						Penalties/Yards	5/24	9/62
USM - Pinkston 8 pass from Kelly						Punts/Avg.	8/44.0	8/49.8
(Hanna kick), 0:52						Third Down Conversions	7/18	3/12
						Time of Possession	32:19	27:41
2nd						Passing		
NU - Miller 8 run (Miller run failed), 9:45						USM - Kelly 45-23-4 for 268 yds and 2TDs.		
						NEB - Crouch 10-6-2 for 66 yds.		
3rd						Receiving		
USM - Gideon 5 pass from Kelly						USM - Pinkston 11-163 and 1TD; Gideon 8-81 and		
(Kelly pass failed), 12:54						1TD; Gullely 3-16; Fowler 1-8.		
NU - Jackson 28 interception return						NEB - Davison 2-19; Gibson 2-19; Alexander 1-27;		
(Alexander rush), 8:26						Miller 1-1.		
Rushing						Tackles (U-A-TT)		
USM - Nix 29-70; Kelly 5-(minus-45).						USM - Slaughter 10-5-15; Williams 5-10-15;		
NEB - Alexander 16-54; Miller 8-38 and 1TD;						Trahan 6-8-14; Barnes 3-10-13.		
Crouch 16-26; Buckhalter 1-1.						NEB - Brown 8-4-12; Vanden 4-5-9; Wills 5-3-8.		

Southern Miss 23, Memphis 6

► **HATTIESBURG, Miss.** -- The annual grudge match between Southern Miss and Memphis, dubbed the "Black and Blue" game, lived up to its name again on Saturday.

The Golden Eagles (2-1, 2-0 in Conference USA) outlasted the Tigers (2-1, 0-1) in the physical contest, scoring two fourth quarter touchdowns to secure a 23-6 win in front of an M.M. Roberts Stadium crowd of 29,233.

Marvin Young returned a Brandon Roberson punt 87 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter to break open a 9-6 score, and running back Tim Blackwell scampered for a 38-yard touchdown to seal the deal.

The win was Southern Miss' 36 overall in the long-time series and also was the second in a row. The Golden Eagles now own an 18-2 record over the Tigers in series games played in Hattiesburg.

Southern Miss got on the board first in the opening quarter as Micky D'Angelo crossed on a 1-yard run with 8:05 remaining in the period. But the Memphis defense blocked the extra-point attempt to leave the score at 6-0.

The Tigers' Stephen Gostkowski then got his team on the board with a 21-yard field goal with 8:45 remaining in the half. Gostkowski then connected on a 23-yard field goal in the waning seconds of the half, knotting the score, 6-6.

The home-standing Eagles got the lead back for good after Darren McCaleb made good on a 28-yard field goal in the third quarter.

Offensively, Southern Miss tallied 307 yards in the game, including 205 yards on the ground. Blackwell led the team with a season-high 96 yards and one touchdown on 15 carries, while fellow running back James Walley rushed 24 times for 73 yards.

D'Angelo managed 58 yards and one interception on 4-of-11 passing in the first half before leaving the game after a hard hit. Dustin Almond held down the spot for the entire second half, finishing with 44 yards on 3-of-14 passing.

The Tigers, who had averaged 42 points per game going into the contest, could not find the endzone for the first time this season. The high-powered offense still amassed 374 yards of gains, including 192 yards on the ground.

For Memphis, DeAngelo Williams had a game-high 158 yards on 28 carries, while quarterback Danny Wimprine finished 16-of-30 for 182 yards and three interceptions.

Michael Boley paced the Southern Miss defense with 15 tackles in the game, while Rod Davis followed with 11 stops. Greg Brooks came down with two interceptions, and Etric Pruitt nabbed the other.

Coot Terry and Will Hyden led Memphis with nine tackles each.

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Memphis	0	6	0	0	6
Southern Miss	6	0	3	14	23

1st

USM - D'Angelo 1 run (Team kick blocked), 08:05

2nd

MEM - Gostkowski 21 field goal, 08:45

MEM - Gostkowski 23 field goal, 00:05

3rd

USM - McCaleb 28 field goal, 09:53

4th

USM - Young 87 punt return (McCaleb kick), 07:27

USM - Blackwell 38 run (McCaleb kick), 01:50

	MEM	USM
First Downs	17	14
Rushing Att.-Yds.	39-192	49-205
Passes Att.-Comp-Int	36-16-3	25-7-1
Offensive Plays	75	74
Total Offense	374	307
Return yards	40	187
Punts-Avg.	9-39.6	9-36.7
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	3-2
Penalties-Yards	9-57	4-20
Third-Down Conversions	3 of 15	6 of 20
Possession Time	27:17	32:43

Rushing

MEM - Williams 28-158; Cole 5-22; Avery 2-15; Price 1-6; White 1-3; Parquet 1-(minus 1); Wimprine 1-(minus 11).

USM - Blackwell 15-96 and 1TD; Walley 24-73; Almond 3-18; D'Angelo 7-18 and 1TD.

Passing

MEM - Wimprine 16-35-3 for 182 yds; Team 0-1-0 for 0 yds.

USM - Almond 3-14-0 for 44 yds; D'Angelo 4-11-1 for 58 yds.

Receiving

MEM - Avery 7-103; Williams 3-24; Price 2-14; Kelley 1-17; Garcia 1-13; Doucette 1-6; Davis 1-5.

USM - Lawrence 2-24; Johnson 1-22; Perine 1-19; Browden 1-19; Young 1-15; Harris 1-3.

Tackles (U-A-TT)

MEM - Harper 3-7-10; Terry 4-5-9;

Hyden 3-6-9;

USM - Boley 8-7-15; Davis 6-5-11; Ray 2-8-10

Players of the Game

Offense -

Defense -

Special Teams -

Coaching Matchup

Nebraska

Coach Frank Solich

Record at Nebraska52-16 (4th)
 Overall RecordSame
 Solich vs. Southern Miss1-0
 Solich vs. Bower1-0

Southern Miss

Coach Jeff Bower

Record at USM82-59-1 (13th)
 Overall Record82-59-1 (13th)
 Bower vs. Nebraska0-1
 Bower vs. Solich0-1

Frank Solich Year-by-Year

Head Coach

Year	School	Record
1998	Nebraska Holiday Bowl	9-4
1999	Nebraska Fiesta Bowl Big 12 Coach of the Year	12-1
2000	Nebraska Alamo Bowl	10-2
2001	Nebraska Rose Bowl (Nat'l Championship Game) Big 12 Coach of the Year	11-2
2002	Nebraska Independence Bowl	7-7
2003	Nebraska	3-0
Record at Nebraska		52-16 (4th)
Overall Record		Same

Assistant Coach

Year	School
1979-84	Nebraska Head Freshman Coach
1983-91	Nebraska Running Backs
1991-97	Nebraska Asst. Head Coach Running Backs

Nebraska's Last Game

No. 18 Nebraska 18, Penn State 10

► **LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)** -- Nebraska went back to the basics, daring Penn State to stop its powerful running game.

Josh Davis carried 32 times for a career-high 179 yards and Jammal Lord added 100 yards on 20 attempts in the No. 18 Cornhuskers' 18-10 victory Saturday night.

Nebraska (3-0) ran on all but six of its 78 plays from scrimmage, piling up 337 yards on the ground.

David Dyches, who kicked four field goals for the second straight game, accounted for all of Nebraska's scoring until the third quarter.

The Huskers ran the ball on 16 straight plays while moving 80 yards for the go-ahead touchdown on the opening series of the second half.

Davis carried 10 times for 49 yards before Lord ran in from 3 yards to finish the drive, which chewed 8:12 off the clock. Davis was stopped short of the goal line on the 2-point try, leaving the Huskers with a 15-10 lead.

Penn State (1-2) moved to midfield midway through the fourth quarter, but Zack Mills fumbled a snap and Nebraska linebacker Barrett Ruud recovered.

Dyches, who had four field goals in last week's win over Utah State, kicked a 32-yarder with 3:53 left to make it 18-10.

Mills completed a 31-yard pass to Gerald Smith as Penn State penetrated the Nebraska 40 on its final drive. But Mills threw four straight incompletions, and the Huskers ran out the clock.

Lord, who completed his only pass of the second half, finished 4-of-6 for 60 yards. He threw one interception on a poorly thrown ball into the end zone.

Mills was 16-of-33 for 159 yards, with one interception.

Austin Scott was Penn State's top rusher, with 19 yards on six carries. The Lions ran for only 44 yards.

Penn State led 10-9 at half after converting a Lord fumble into a touchdown and using its 2-minute offense to set up Robbie Gould's 47-yard field goal as time ran out in the second quarter.

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final		PSU	NU
Penn State	0	10	0	0	10	First downs	13	23
Nebraska	3	6	6	3	18	Rushes-yards	21-44	72-337
						Passing	159	60
						Comp-Att-Int	33-16-1	6-4-1
						Return Yards	65	58
						Punts-Avg.	6-40.7	2-32.0
						Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-1
						Penalties-Yards	1-5	7-47
						Time of Possession	20:15	39:45
1st								
NU - Dyches 36 field goal, 09:05								
2nd								
NU - Dyches 35 field goal, 12:27								
PSU - Upton 13 run (Gould kick), 10:28								
NU - Dyches 41 field goal, 02:23								
PSU - Gould 47 field goal, 00:00								
3rd								
NU - Lord 3 run (Davis rush failed), 06:48								
4th								
NU - Dyches 32 field goal, 03:53								
						Rushing		
						PSU - Scott 6-19; McHugh 3-14; Upton 1-13 and 1TD; Mills 6-0; Robinson 5-(minus 2).		
						NU - Davis 32-179; Lord 20-100 and 1TD; Horne 14-61; Davies 3-2; Kriewald 1-0; TEAM 2-(minus 5).		
						Passing		
						PSU - Mills 16-33-1 for 159 yds.		
						NU - Lord 4-6-1 for 60 yds.		
						Receiving		
						PSU - McHugh 7-48; Johnson 4-42; Smith 2-41; Kranchick 1-20; Palmer 1-5; Robinson 1-3.		
						NU - LeFlore 2-22; Pilkington 1-26; Herian 1-12.		

Southern Miss Head Coach Jeff Bower

► In his 13th season as head coach, and starting his second quarter century with the Southern Miss program, Jeff Bower has been associated with the Golden Eagles' program for well over one-fourth of its entire, 87-year-long football history.

First as a record-setting quarterback, then as a successful assistant coach, and in his 12th season as head coach, Bower has played a role second to none in the school's athletic history, and it is appropriate that Bower has been at the helm of the program at his alma mater when it was a founding member of Conference USA, and now during a time when it is enjoying unprecedented success.

In fact, his success in C-USA has set standards other coaches in the league seek to emulate.

Bower led the Golden Eagles to an unprecedented ninth-straight winning season in 2002 when Southern Miss finished the regular season with a 7-5 record. The Golden Eagles are only one of 10 schools to claim nine straight winning seasons. The winning season streak is the longest under a Southern Miss football coach since Thad "Pie" Vann led teams to a school-record, 17-straight winning seasons.

The Golden Eagles also returned to the postseason for the fifth time in six seasons when they secured a berth in the 2002 Houston Bowl.

In 2001, he led his Golden Eagle team to a 6-5 overall mark. And in 2000, he led Southern Miss to a fourth-straight bowl game, a 28-21 victory over No. 13 TCU, and a seventh-consecutive winning season. In 1999, Southern Miss won its second AXA Liberty Bowl title in three years, a 23-17 victory over Colorado State.

The Eagles' successes include a share of the inaugural Conference USA title, another Conference USA crown and a berth in the AXA/Equitable Liberty Bowl (a convincing 41-7 win over Pittsburgh) in year two, a second-place finish in the league and a trip to the Humanitarian Bowl in year three, despite losing just one C-USA game, and a perfect 6-0 league record, another C-USA title, and the second AXA Liberty Bowl decision in 1999.

Under Bower, the Golden Eagles have posted an impressive 82-59-1 record. In the C-USA era, his teams have posted a 36-11 league record, one of the top 10 conference records nationally during the same period. He is the dean of conference coaches. His 142 games coached also make him only the second USM coach ever to coach more than 100 games, as Thad "Pie" Vann is the other.

Bower also has compiled that enviable record, while playing only 55 of those 142 games at home. His teams have posted a 45-10 record in those 55 games, including a 21-5 mark the last six seasons. Overall in the last six seasons, his teams have won 39 games, while losing just 24.

How Good is That?

► Golden Eagle head coach Jeff Bower continues to post impressive numbers at his alma mater. The 2000 Eagles became the first Southern Miss team that has ever been to four-straight bowl games and finished with a four-year record of 33-15, tying the 1999 senior class for the most victories under Bower.

The school record for a four-year period is 34 wins from 1952 through 1955. The current group of Eagles already has collected 22 wins over the last four years. Bower's teams also have been impressive at home. Since the advent of Conference USA, his Eagles have posted a 28-5 home record, including 19-4 at home in C-USA games. His teams are 45-10 (.818) at home during his 13-year tenure, and he has posted an impressive 82-59-1 overall record, while playing only 38.7 percent of his games at home.

Bower Year-by-Year

High School		
Year	School	Record
1968-69	Roswell High State champs in football	
1969-70	Roswell High State champs in baseball	
1970-71	Roswell High State champs in football State champs in baseball State champs in basketball Georgia Class AAA Back of the Year Georgia All-Star	

College		
Year	School	Record
1971	Georgia	11-1
1972	Southern Miss Player/Redshirt	3-7-1
1973	Southern Miss AP All-South (HM)	6-4-1
1974	Southern Miss	6-5
1975	Southern Miss Team Captain/MVP	8-3

Assistant Coach		
Year	School	Record
1976	Southern Miss	3-8
1977	Southern Miss	6-6
1978	Southern Miss	7-4
1979	Southern Miss	6-4-1
1980	Southern Miss Independence Bowl Champs	9-3
1981	Southern Miss Tangerine Bowl	9-2-1
1982	SMU Cotton Bowl Champs	11-0-1
1983	SMU Sun Bowl	10-2
1984	SMU Aloha Bowl Champs	10-2
1985	SMU	6-5
1986	SMU	6-5
1987	Wake Forest	7-4
1988	Southern Miss Independence Bowl Champs	10-2
1989	Southern Miss	5-6
1990	Oklahoma State	4-7

Head Coach		
Year	School	Record
1990	Southern Miss All-American Bowl	0-1
1991	Southern Miss	4-7
1992	Southern Miss	7-4
1993	Southern Miss	3-7-1
1994	Southern Miss	6-5
1995	Southern Miss	6-5
1996	Southern Miss C-USA Co-Champs	8-3
1997	Southern Miss C-USA Champs Liberty Bowl Champs C-USA Coach of the Year	9-3
1998	Southern Miss Humanitarian Bowl	7-5
1999	Southern Miss C-USA Champs Liberty Bowl Champs C-USA Coach of the Year	9-3
2000	Southern Miss GMAC Bowl Champs	8-4
2001	Southern Miss	6-5
2002	Southern Miss Houston Bowl	7-6
2003	Southern Miss	2-1

Record at Southern Miss: 82-59-1
Overall Record as a Head Coach: 82-59-1

Longevity and Stability

In a profession where coaches are constantly jumping ship, looking for that next job, Southern Miss has been blessed to have Jeff Bower for 12 seasons, now in his 13th season. Bower is second to only Thad "Pie" Vann (20 years) in USM coaching longevity. He is in a tie for seventh on the current list of NCAA Division I head coaches, who have the longest tenure at the same institution.

Coach	School	Years
Joe Paterno	Penn St.	38
Bobby Bowden	Florida State	29
Fisher DeBerry	Air Force	21
Frank Beamer	Virginia Tech	18
Bill Snyder	Kansas St.	16
Barry Alvarez	Wisconsin	15
Jeff Bower	Southern Miss	13
Jackie Sherrill	Mississippi State	13

Bower by the Numbers

Home Games	45-10 (.818)
Road Games	37-49-1 (.431)
Bowl Games	3-3 (.500)
vs. C-USA	36-11 (.766)
vs. Non-Conference	
(Since 1996)	20-19 (.512)
August	4-2 (.667)
September	27-18 (.600)
October	29-17 (.630)
November	19-18-1 (.513)
December	3-4 (.500)

Conference USA Records

School	C-USA	Overall
Southern Miss.	36-11	56-30
Louisville	27-18	50-37
East Carolina	25-16	38-36
Cincinnati	22-24	44-43
Tulane	22-25	44-41
Memphis	16-30	29-52
Houston	16-29	31-52
UAB	16-14	24-25
TCU	11-5	19-8
Army	7-28	11-48
USF	0-0	1-1

A Deserving Winner

► Southern Miss Head Coach Jeff Bower has twice been voted C-USA coach of the year, 1997 and 1999. Both years he led the Golden Eagles to a victory in the Liberty Bowl.

Bower in Elite Southern Miss Company

► Southern Miss' game against Nebraska will be Jeff Bower's 143rd game as head coach of the Golden Eagles. Only Thad "Pie" Vann has coached in at least 100 games for USM. In Bower's 141 games as a head coach, 29 of them have been against ranked teams and only three of those games have been at home.

Nine of those 29 opponents have been in the top 10, and seven have been in the top five. In his 142 games, he is 82-59-1; only 55 of those have been at home, where he sports a 45-10 record and he is 37-49-1 on the road.

Jeff Bower's Senior Classes

Senior Class	Overall Record	Pct.	Final AP Ranking	Weeks in Poll	Bowl Record
1991	4-7	.364	NR	0	0-0
1992	11-11	.500	NR	0	0-0
1993	14-18-1	.439	NR	0	0-0
1994	20-23-1	.466	NR	0	0-0
1995	22-21-1	.511	NR	0	0-0
1996	23-20-1	.534	NR	4	0-0
1997	29-16	.644	19	10	1-0
1998	30-16	.652	NR	11	1-1
1999	33-14	.702	14	19	2-1
2000	33-15	.689	NR	28	3-1
2001	30-17	.638	NR	26	2-1
2002	30-18	.625	--	23	2-1
2003	23-16	.590	--	13	1-1

Golden Eagles in Season Openers

► Under the direction of Jeff Bower, Southern Miss has posted an 8-5 record in season-opening games, 6-1 at home and 2-4 on the road. Overall, the Golden Eagles are 58-29 in opening games, 39-5 at home, 15-18 on the road and 4-6 in games played at neutral sites.

2003 Coaching Staff

► The Southern Miss coaching staff has several new coaches on its 2003 staff. Rip Scherer, the former head coach at Memphis, enters his first season as the offensive coach and quarterbacks coach. He is in his 28th year in the coaching profession and has coached at such places as Alabama, Arizona, Georgia Tech, Kansas, LSU, N.C. State and Penn State. Jay Johnson enters his first year as the tight ends coach. He is in his 11th year in the coaching profession and has coached at such places as Missouri, Augsburg, Truman State and Kansas. Dave Warner enters his first year as the wide receivers coach. He is in his 22nd year in the coaching profession and has coached at such places as Syracuse, Kent State, Kansas, Bucknell, Wyoming, Connecticut and Houston.

Shelton Gandy, running backs coach, and Mitch Rodrigue, offensive line, complete the offensive staff. Gandy is in his sixth year at Southern Miss and Rodrigue is in his first year as the offensive line coach and seventh year with the Golden Eagles. Josh Eargle, a former offensive lineman at Memphis, is in his first year as the graduate assistant coach with the offense.

Defensively, coordinator and inside linebackers coach Tyrone Nix is in his third year as the coordinator and inside linebackers coach and ninth season at Southern Miss. Randy Butler has been on the staff the longest, serving in his 13th season overall, and eighth as defensive line coach. Jay Hopson is in his third year as the defensive backs coach and Lytrel Pollard is in his fourth year as the outside linebackers coach and first year as the special teams coordinator. Derrick Nix, Tyrone's younger brother, is in his first year as the team's defensive graduate assistant.

September's Record

► Under the direction of Jeff Bower, Southern Miss has posted a 27-18 record in the month of September, 18-3 at home, 9-11 on the road and 0-4 at neutral locations. Overall, the Golden Eagles are 104-78 in the month of September, 62-12 at home, 32-48 on the road and 10-18 at neutral sites.

Nix Enters the Coaching Profession

► Former Golden Eagle standout running back Derrick Nix leaves the playing field and now enters the coaching profession. Nix finished an outstanding career at Southern Miss in 2002 and due to his kidney ailment sustained during his playing days and later a kidney transplant, his playing career was traded in for a chance in the coaching profession. He switches over to the defensive side of the ball, coaching with his brother, Tyrone.

He was the first Southern Miss running back to rush for over 1,000 yards in three different seasons in Southern Miss and Conference USA history. He finished his career with 3,584 yards, 12 yards shy of the school record and 53 yards short of the C-USA record. He finished with 30 career rushing touchdowns and had 14 100-yard rushing performances.

Southern Miss on Television

► The Golden Eagles are slated to make five television appearances during the 2003 season. Under the direction of Jeff Bower, Southern Miss has posted a 27-21 record in games which are on television, 10-6 at home, 13-11 on the road and 4-4 in games played at a neutral site. Overall, the Golden Eagles are 34-22 in television games, 12-6 at home, 15-12 on the road and 7-4 at neutral locations.

Southern Miss made eight television appearances during the 2000 season, tying the 1997 season for the most times in a season that the Golden Eagles were televised.

Since Southern Miss joined Conference USA in 1996, the Golden Eagles have appeared on television 48 times. Over that time period, USM has played in 85 games and has been on television 48 of those games, 56.5 percent.

2003		1999	
8/30	California	9/6	Tulane
9/4	UAB	9/25	Texas A&M
9/25	Nebraska	10/9	East Carolina
10/25	USF	11/6	Memphis
11/15	Tulane	11/20	Louisville
11/20	TCU	12/31	Colorado State
2002		1998	
9/7	Illinois	9/5	Penn State
9/21	Alabama	9/19	Texas A&M
10/30	TCU	10/3	Tulane
11/9	UAB	10/24	East Carolina
11/14	Louisville	12/30	Idaho
12/27	Oklahoma St.		
2001		1997	
9/1	Oklahoma State	8/30	Florida
9/29	UAB	9/6	Illinois
10/16	Louisville	10/11	East Carolina
11/3	Penn State	10/25	Tulane
11/23	East Carolina	11/1	Cincinnati
11/29	Alabama	11/15	Houston
12/7	TCU	11/22	Memphis
		12/31	Pittsburgh
2000		1996	
9/2	Tennessee	8/31	Georgia
9/16	Alabama	9/7	Alabama
9/30	Memphis	9/28	Louisville
10/7	South Florida	10/10	East Carolina
10/14	Tulane	10/19	Memphis
11/4	Louisville	11/2	Cincinnati
11/24	East Carolina		
12/20	TCU		

2003 Polls

Associated Press

(Sept. 21)	2003	PTS	PVS
1. Oklahoma	4-0	1,612	1
2. Miami (Fla.)	4-0	1,537	2
3. USC	3-0	1,495	4
4. Ohio State	4-0	1,415	5
5. Virginia Tech	3-0	1,304	8
6. Florida State	4-0	1,265	10
7. LSU	4-0	1,257	11
8. Tennessee	3-0	1,227	12
9. Arkansas	3-0	978	14
10. Oregon	4-0	966	22
11. Michigan	3-1	918	3
12. Georgia	3-1	888	7
13. Iowa	4-0	877	18
14. Texas	2-1	788	13
15. Nebraska	3-0	737	15
16. Kansas State	4-1	540	6
17. Pittsburgh	2-1	457	9
18. Washington	2-1	441	19
19. TCU	3-0	409	20
20. Northern Illinois	3-0	392	NR
21. Washington State	3-1	265	24
22. Purdue	2-1	234	25
23. Missouri	4-0	175	23
24. Minnesota	4-0	168	NR
25. Florida	2-2	142	17

ARV: Toledo 109, North Carolina State 90, Arizona State 90, Louisville 79, Wake Forest 54, Bowling Green 44, Virginia 36, Wisconsin 32, Marshall 24, Oklahoma State 17, Alabama 11, Miami-Ohio 9, Air Force 8, Michigan State 7, Maryland 7, Cincinnati 6, UNLV 6, South Carolina 5, Texas A&M 3, BYU 1.

ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll

(Sept. 21)	2003	PTS	PVS
1. Oklahoma (51)	4-0	1,557	1
2. Miami (Fla.) (6)	4-0	1,503	2
3. USC (1)	3-0	1,435	3
4. Ohio State (5)	4-0	1,393	4
5. Virginia Tech	3-0	1,294	8
6. Florida State	4-0	1,251	9
7. LSU	4-0	1,206	10
8. Tennessee	3-0	1,139	12
9. Iowa	4-0	964	14
10. Michigan	3-1	870	5
11. Nebraska	3-0	808	15
12. Georgia	3-1	804	7
13. Texas	2-1	796	13
14. Arkansas	3-0	790	18
15. Oregon	4-0	780	22
16. Kansas State	4-1	620	6
17. TCU	3-0	457	19
18. Washington	2-1	356	21
19. Pittsburgh	2-1	340	11
20. Minnesota	4-0	292	25
21. Washington State	3-1	282	24
22. Northern Illinois	3-0	238	NR
23. Missouri	4-0	164	NR
24. Arizona State	2-1	157	16
25. Florida	2-2	133	17

ARV: North Carolina State 111; Purdue 111; Air Force 81; Virginia 72; Marshall 68; Wisconsin 68; Louisville 58; Toledo 55; Texas A&M 50; Bowling Green 26; Wake Forest 17; Clemson 15; Oklahoma State 14; UCLA 12; Boise State 11; Brigham Young 11; UNLV 11; Michigan State 9; Cincinnati 8; Utah 8; Miami (Ohio) 7; Fresno State 6; Stanford 6; Maryland 4; Oregon State 3; Texas Tech 3; **Southern Miss 1.**

Preseason All-Conference USA

This is a quick rundown of how Conference USA's head football coaches saw this year's race shaping up as well as the preseason all-conference selections.

Predicted Order of Finish

1. TCU (8)	115
2. Southern Miss (1)	106
3. South Florida (1)	81
4. Cincinnati	77
5. Louisville	73
6. East Carolina (1)	64
7. Tulane	60
8. UAB	56
9. Memphis	49
10. Houston	26
11. Army	16

First Team Offense

QB, Gino Guidugli, Cincinnati
 RB, Art Brown, East Carolina
 RB, Mewelde Moore, Tulane
 OL, Anthony Alabi, TCU
 OL, Andy Galloway, UAB
 OL, Rex Hadnot, Houston
 OL, Chris McGee, Tulane
 OL, Brian Rimpf, East Carolina
 WR, Brandon Middleton, Houston
 WR, Huey Whittaker, USF
 WR, Roydell Williams, Tulane
 TE, Stephen Cuccu, Houston

First Team Defense

DL, Trent Cole, Cincinnati
DL, Terrell Paul, Southern Miss
 DL, Chad Pugh, TCU
 DL, Bo Schobel, TCU
 LB, Derrick Ballard, Memphis
LB, Michael Boley, Southern Miss
LB, Rod Davis, Southern Miss
 LB, Zac Woodfin, UAB
DB, Greg Brooks, Southern Miss
 DB, Doug Monaghan, Cincinnati
DB, Etric Pruitt, Southern Miss
 DB, J.R. Reed, USF

First Team Special Teams

K, Nick Browne, TCU
 P, Jimmy McClary, Houston
 KR, Terrance Copper, East Carolina
 PR, Broderick Clark, Louisville

Offensive Player of the Year

RB, Mewelde Moore, Tulane

Defensive Player of the Year

LB, Rod Davis, Southern Miss

Special Teams Player of the Year

K, Nick Browne, TCU
 KR, Broderick Clark, Louisville

The Rock

► Under the direction of Jeff Bower, Southern Miss has posted a 45-10 record (.818) in home games at M. M. Roberts Stadium, also known as the "The Rock." Overall, the Golden Eagles are 92-29 (.760) in home games since the stadium was dedicated as M.M. Roberts Stadium on September 25, 1976.

2003 Schedule

► The 2003 schedule marks the second time in 21 years that the Golden Eagles have six home games on its schedule. The schedule opens with road games at Cal (8/30), and at UAB (9/4) before coming home for Memphis (9/13) and Nebraska (9/25). Both UAB and Nebraska are Thursday night games. Southern Miss travels to games at Cincinnati (10/4) and at Alabama (10/11) before a week off and then hosting South Florida (10/25) and Louisiana-Lafayette (11/1). The Golden Eagles travel to Houston (11/8) before hosting Tulane (11/15) and TCU (11/20) and then finish the season at East Carolina (11/29).

Southern Miss faces four teams that played in bowl games last season and the combined record of its opponents in 2002 was 78-71 with Alabama (10-3), South Florida (9-2) and TCU (10-2) displaying the best records.

Since the Formation of Conference USA . . .

► Since the formation of Conference USA (1996) Southern Miss has posted a 56-30 record (.651) record, ranking among the top 25 in the nation. Just ranking the teams by wins only during that period, the Golden Eagles are also in the top 25 in the nation.

Comparing Conference Records

► Since Conference USA began football competition in 1996, the Southern Miss Golden Eagles are ranked in the Top 10 by conference record of any NCAA I-A team in the nation during that time. Southern Miss has posted a 35-11 mark in conference play. Here's a look at the top conference marks over that period:

1.	Florida State	54-4 (.931)
2.	Miami, Fla.	42-8 (.840)
3.	Florida	47-10 (.825)
4.	Tennessee	46-12 (.793)
5.	Nebraska	44-12 (.786)
	Michigan	44-12 (.786)
7.	Toledo	39-11 (.780)
8.	Colorado State	40-12 (.769)
9.	Kansas State	43-13 (.768)
10.	SOUTHERN MISS	36-11 (.766)
11.	Virginia Tech	36-13 (.735)

Top Crowds at The Rock

► The Southern Miss and Jackson State season-opening game in 2002 set the all-time single-game record at "The Rock" with 35,169 fans attending the game. The previous mark of 34,189 was set on Sept. 9, 1989 against Mississippi State. The previous largest crowd under Jeff Bower was 33,233 against Texas A&M on Sept. 19, 1998. With Nebraska coming to town on Sept. 25, the record could get broken once again.

Winning X 9

► With the win over East Carolina in 2002, the Golden Eagles secured their ninth-straight winning season. Only nine other programs that have been NCAA I-A over that time have achieved this feat, Colorado State, Florida, Florida State, Miami-Ohio, Michigan, Oregon, Tennessee, Toledo and Virginia Tech.

Attendance at The Rock

► An average of 26,961 home fan attendance was recorded last season, marking the fifth highest season home average in school history. A total of 161,766 fans attended the six games last year, marking the second most total fans to attend home games in a season. The 1982 season marked as 167,346 fans attended games at Roberts Stadium that year. The highest average attendance was during the 1981 season when an average of 29,381 attended the four home games that season. Under Bower, the highest average was during the 2000 season, when 28,509 attended four home games.

Golden Eagles in the Polls

► Under the direction of Jeff Bower, Southern Miss has appeared 30 times in the *Associated Press Weekly Poll* and 27 times in the *ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll*. Overall, the Golden Eagles have been ranked 41 weeks in the *Associated Press Poll*, 33 times in the *ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll* and 38 times in the *United Press International Poll*. Southern Miss has been involved in eight games when both teams were ranked in the *Associated Press Poll*, posting a 3-5 record.

During the 1999 season, Southern Miss spent more time in the polls than in any other year, spending the last 10 weeks in the poll, ending the season as the No. 13 team in the *ESPN/USA Today Poll* and the No. 14 in the *AP Poll*.

In 2000, Southern Miss spent the first 13 weeks in the *Associated Press Poll* and 10 weeks in the *ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll*, marking a new school record, before dropping out after the Cincinnati loss on Nov. 18.

The Golden Eagles appeared in the *Associated Press Poll* for 23-straight weeks, dating back to October 10, 1999, following the 39-22 victory at East Carolina.

They were ranked the last 10 weeks of 1999 and the first 13 weeks of 2000. The Golden Eagles were ranked 13th in the Oct. 29th poll, marking the highest a Jeff Bower coached team has ever been ranked in the *Associated Press Poll*, and the 11th-ranking in the coaches poll is the second-highest ranking the program has ever experienced. The highest ranking was ninth, in the November 17 poll in 1981, after a 58-14 victory over Florida State in Tallahassee, Fla.

Postseason Accolades

► For six-straight years, Southern Miss has produced an All-American, having Rod Davis named to the *Associated Press* third team, All-American Football Foundation first team, *CollegeFootballNews.com* First-team, *The Sporting News* third team and *CNN.com* honorable-mention team. Etric Pruitt was named a fourth-team All-American by *The Sporting News*, Second-team by *CNN.com* and by *CollegeFootballNews.com*.

The 2002 season also marked the first time since the 2000 season when Leo Barnes and Cedric Scott were both named to various All-America teams, that the Golden Eagles had more than one player named to an All-American team.

Six players were selected for All-Conference USA honors, as Michael Boley, Rod Davis, Derrick Nix, Etric Pruitt and Torrin Tucker were named to the first team, Jason Jimenez was named to the second team and John Eubanks was named to the all-freshman team.

The Golden Eagles had three players invited to play in all-star games. Jason Jimenez was selected to play in the Rotary Gridiron Classic, while Jeremy Bridges was named to both the Rotary Gridiron Classic and the Senior Bowl and Torrin Tucker only played in the Senior Bowl.

All-Time Winning Percentage

► The following is a look at how the top program's stack up, all-time in winning percentage, following the games on Sept. 13, 2003.

School	Percentage	Record
1. Notre Dame	.749	792-252-42
2. Michigan	.746	826-270-36
3. Alabama	.717	756-286-43
4. Oklahoma	.710	729-282-53
5. Ohio State	.709	749-292-53
6. Texas	.708	768-307-33
Nebraska	.708	774-308-40
8. Tennessee	.698	729-300-52
9. Penn State	.692	755-324-41
USC	.692	698-296-54
11. Florida State	.675	413-194-17
12. Boise State	.668	273-135-2
13. South Florida	.662	45-23-0
14. Washington	.637	634-348-50
Georgia	.637	665-368-54
16. Miami, Ohio	.635	613-343-44
Miami, Fla.	.635	500-283-19
18. LSU	.629	640-368-47
19. Arizona St.	.620	504-304-24
Auburn	.620	627-376-47
21. Colorado	.617	632-386-36
Florida	.616	584-356-40
Central Mich.	.615	521-319-36
24. Texas A&M	.607	625-397-48
25. Army	.606	622-396-51
26. Syracuse	.603	654-423-49
UCLA	.602	500-325-37
29. Southern Miss	.596	488-327-27
Michigan St.	.596	575-383-44
Arkansas	.596	613-409-40
31. Bowling Green	.595	442-293-52
32. Fresno State	.594	493-333-29
33. Virginia Tech	.593	600-405-46
34. Georgia Tech	.592	617-418-43
35. Middle Tenn. St.	.590	479-329-28
36. Clemson	.588	588-405-45
37. Minnesota	.586	603-419-43
38. Arizona	.585	518-363-33
West Virginia	.585	616-431-45
40. North Carolina	.576	611-442-54

Ranking the Defense

► A year-by-year look at the Southern Miss defense in the national rankings over the past four seasons.

2002

Pass Efficiency Defense - 4th
Pass Defense - 10th
Scoring Defense - 15th
Total Defense - 34th

2001

Scoring Defense - 8th
Total Defense - 11th
Pass Efficiency Defense - 12th
Rushing Defense - 13th
Turnover Margin - 21st

2000

Scoring Defense - 8th
Total Defense - 2nd
Pass Defense - 5th
Pass Efficiency Defense - 4th
Passes Intercepted - T34th
Rushing Defense - 21st

1999

Total Defense - 8th
Rushing Defense - 8th
Scoring Defense - 8th
Turnover Margin - 7th

Charting the Opponents

Last Week's Results

California 31, Illinois 24
 South Carolina 42, UAB 10
 Cincinnati 30, Temple 24 (3OT)
 Northern Illinois 19, Alabama 16
 Minnesota 48, Louisiana Lafayette 14
 Houston 42, Mississippi State 35
 Tulane 50, Army 33
 TCU 30, Vanderbilt 14
 Wake Forest 34, East Carolina 16

This Week's Games

Nebraska at Southern Miss (9/25)

USC at Cal
 Arkansas State at Memphis
 Cincinnati at Miami, Ohio
 Arkansas at Alabama
 USF at Army
 Louisiana-Lafayette at North Texas
 Tulane at Texas
 TCU at Arizona

Southern Miss opponents finished with a combined record of 5-4 for the past week. For the season overall, opponents have a 23-14 record.

Conference USA Standings

Team	C-USA	Pct.	All
Southern Miss	2-0	1.000	2-1
Cincinnati	1-0	1.000	3-0
TCU	1-0	1.000	3-0
Tulane	1-1	.500	3-1
Louisville	0-0	.000	3-0
Houston	0-0	.000	3-1
USF	0-0	.000	1-1
Army	0-1	.000	0-3
Memphis	0-1	.000	2-1
UAB	0-1	.000	1-3
East Carolina	0-1	.000	0-4

This Week's Games

Nebraska at Southern Miss (9/25)

USF at Army
 Cincinnati at Miami, Ohio
 Temple at Louisville
 Arkansas State at Memphis
 TCU at Arizona
 Tulane at Texas

Last Week's Results

Louisville 42, UTEP 14
 Tulane 50, Army 33
 Cincinnati 30, Temple 24 (3OT)
 South Carolina 42, UAB 10
 TCU 30, Vanderbilt 14
 Houston 42, Mississippi State 35
 Wake Forest 34, East Carolina 16

Conference USA Defensive Players of the Year

▶ With the selection of Rod Davis as the 2003 Conference USA Preseason Defensive Player of the Year Award, the Golden Eagles could have another defensive honor when the season is over. Southern Miss has had the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year in four of the seven years since the formation of Conference USA in 1996. Cedric Scott was named the Conference USA Co-Defensive Player of the Year in 2000, marking the fourth year in a row. Patrick Surtain was selected for the award in 1997, and Adalius Thomas was tabbed for the honor in 1998 and 1999. The only years that Southern Miss didn't have a player named as the defensive player of the year was 1996, 2001 and 2002.

Offensive Variety

▶ With Rip Scherer coordinating the offense, it features a variety of looks this year, one-back, two-back or no backs. This is the first time in several years that the two-back system will be implemented.

The Golden Eagle offense finished with 307 against Memphis (205 rushing/102 passing). Southern Miss' season high of 314 yards of total offense came at UAB (117 rushing/197 passing) after posting 277 yards of offense (65 rushing/212 passing) at Cal in the season opener.

Against Memphis, Tim Blackwell led the Golden Eagle ground game with 96 yards on 15 carries, an average of 6.4 yards a carry and scored one touchdown. His long run was 38 yards. James Walley carried the ball 24 times for 73 yards, a 3.0 yard per carry average and had a long run of 19 yards.

Both quarterbacks each played a half, finishing 7-of-25 for 102 yards and D'Angelo threw one interception. DaRon Lawrence led the Golden Eagles receivers for the second game in a row with two catches for 24 yards.

Running Attack

▶ The Golden Eagles finished with 205 rushing yards against Memphis, marking their season high. This marks the highest number of yards that Southern Miss has rushed for since they accumulated 356 yards on the ground against Memphis in the 2002 meeting in M. M. Roberts Stadium, a 33-14 victory by Southern Miss. Each ball carrier for the Golden Eagles finished with positive yardage, Blackwell (96), Walley (73), Almond (18) and D'Angelo (18).

Blackwell Becomes Team Rushing Leader

▶ Since rejoining the team as a walk-on this year after sitting out the 2002 season, redshirt junior Tim Blackwell is getting back into the groove and is starting to make his mark.

Against Memphis, Blackwell finished with 96 yards on 15 carries, an average of 6.4 yards per carry, and scored on a 38-yard touchdown run. That marked his second highest run output as he finished with 97 yards against UAB in 2001. This is also the second game in a row that he has scored a touchdown for the Golden Eagles.

For the season, he has carried the ball 40 times for 215 yards, an average of 5.4 yards a carry and has scored two touchdowns. He is fifth in Conference USA in rushing yards per game and 62nd in the nation.

At UAB, Blackwell led all rushers for 88 yards, an average of 4.4 yards a carry and scored a touchdown. He had a long run of 11 yards. He also had three catches for 33 yards with a long reception of 30 yards. At Cal, he finished with five carries for 31 yards, an average of 6.2 yards a carry and had a long run of 15 yards.

Blackwell played in six games in 2001, finishing as the team's third-leading runner, registering 237 yards on 75 carries, an average of 3.2 yards per carry and scored three touchdowns. He had a season-high 97 yards against UAB and scored a season-high three touchdowns at Louisiana-Lafayette.

Walley Rushes For Season High

▶ Starting running back James Walley finished with 73 yards on 24 carries against Memphis, an average of 3.0 yards per carry. He had his long carry of the season for 19 yards in the second quarter. In fact, Walley finished with more yards against Memphis than he did in his first two games combined (28 yards - UAB, 39 - Cal).

For the season, he has carried the ball a team-high 58 times for 140 yards, an average of 2.4 yards a carry with his season-long run of 19 yards., ranking 15th in Conference USA statistical rankings.

In 2002, Walley played in seven games, carried the ball 73 times for 256 yards, an average of 3.5 yards a carry and scored three touchdowns. He finished with a season-high 100 yards against UAB and finished the season with 74 yards and scoring a touchdown against Oklahoma State in the Houston Bowl.

D'Angelo's Delivery

▶ Micky D'Angelo played the entire first half against Memphis, before leaving the game at halftime after taking a hard hit to his head. He completed 4-of-11 passes for 58 yards with a long completion of 19 yards. He also finished with seven carries for 18 yards and scored the first touchdown of the game with 8:05 left in the first quarter.

For the season, he has completed 34-of-57 passes (.596) for 418 yards and thrown a touchdown. He is averaging 139.3 yards per game and has a long pass play of 45 yards. In Conference USA statistics, he is ranked 10th in average passing yardage per game, sixth in pass efficiency and 10th in total offense. Nationally, he is ranked No. 75 in passing efficiency and 98th in total offense..

At UAB the week before, D'Angelo completed 14-of-20 passes for 197 yards, throwing one touchdown and one interception. He completed a game long pass of 42 yards, the second longest pass of the season for him as he completed a 45-yard pass to Marvin Young at Cal.

Last season, D'Angelo completed 122-of-232 passes (.526) for 1,647 yards and threw seven touchdowns. His long pass was 67 yards and his single-high passing game was 273 yards against Jackson State in the season opener.

Dustin Named Starter For Nebraska

▶ Redshirt sophomore Dustin Almond relieved Micky D'Angelo in the second half of the Memphis game. Almond has been named the starter for the Nebraska game due to an injury suffered by Micky D'Angelo.

Against Memphis, he completed 3-of-14 passes for 44 yards and had a long completion of 22 yards. He also had three carries for 18 yards, an average of 6.0 yards per carry and had a long rush of 12 yards. For the season, Almond has completed 7-of-22 passes for 93 yards.

Building the Fortress

▶ After losing three starting offensive linemen to the NFL last season (Jeremy Bridges - Philadelphia, Jason Jimenez - Cleveland and Torrin Tucker - Dallas), the task of rebuilding the offensive line has been the challenge in the spring and during preseason camp for first-year offensive line coach Mitch Rodrigue.

Redshirt senior center Jim Hicks (32 starts) and junior right tackle Jeremy Parquet (16 starts) are the two returning starters on the offensive line. Neal Mead (6-4/311) made his third start at the left tackle position, Chris White (6-3/280/Jr.) made his third start and redshirt freshman George Batiste made the first start of his career, filling in for Travis Cooley, who was out with an injury.

Hicks Named to Rimington Trophy Watch List

▶ Senior center Jim Hicks has been named to the Rimington Trophy Watch List, naming the most outstanding center in college football. Currently there are 38 names on the list, including four others from Conference USA. Hicks is a four-year starter for the Golden Eagles and has accumulated 32 starts in his career, the most of any offensive lineman for Southern Miss. He is tied for 19th in the nation in offensive lineman starts.

Southern Miss/ISP Radio

For all the action on Golden Eagle football, both home and away, listen to the Southern Miss ISP Radio Network. The Hattiesburg-Laurel affiliate WXRR, 104.5 FM, will serve as the flagship station of the ISP Football Radio Network.

John Cox, the "Voice of the Golden Eagles" in his 26th year of broadcasting the play-by-play for football. He will also broadcast the Southern Miss Sports Today with Coach Bower television show, pregame radio shows and the Golden Eagle Hotline weekly call-in shows. Vic Purvis, in his 30th year, will serve as the color commentator, Lance Pittman will report from the sideline and locker room.

Southern Miss ISP Radio Network Station Affiliates

Market	Affiliate	Frequency
Flagship Station		
Hattiesburg-Laurel	WXRR-FM	104.5
Affiliates		
WAOY-FM	Biloxi-Gulfport	91.7
WBOX-AM	Bogalusa, La.	920
WBOX-FM	Bogalusa, La.	92.9
WTCL-AM	Chattahoochee, Fla.	1580
WFFF-FM	Columbia	1360
WDMS-FM	Greenville	100.7
WNLA-FM	Indianaola	105.5
WSLI-AM	Jackson	930
WRBE-FM	Lucedale	106.9
WRBE-AM	Lucedale	1440
WAKH-FM	Liberty/McComb	105.5
WFFX-AM	Meridian	1490
WABB-AM	Mobile, Ala.	1480
WTIX-AM	New Orleans, La.	690
WYKK-FM	Quitman	98.9
WTUP-AM	Tupelo	1490
WKMQ-AM	Tupelo	1060
WABO-FM	Waynesboro	105.5
WABO-AM	Waynesboro	990
WROB-AM	West Point	1450

2002 NCAA Rankings

Team

No. 4 - Pass Eff. Def. 92.13 rating
No. 10 - Pass Defense 168.85 ypg
No. 15 - Scoring Defense 18.31 ppg
No. 34 - Total Defense 336.23 ypg

Individual

Eric Pruitt - Int. (21) .46 pg
Derrick Nix - Rushing (24) 108.55 ypg
Marvin Young - Punt Ret. (26) 13.38 ypr
John Eubanks - K.O. Ret. . (30) 23.91 ypr
Mark Haulman - Punting .. (33) 41.80 ypp

Conference USA Satellite Feed

The Conference USA Football Satellite Feed, featuring highlights and interviews will begin, Wednesday, Sept. 3, and will be available each week throughout the season.

Army	4 p.m. EST/3 CT
Cincinnati	4:03 p.m. EST/3:03 CT
East Carolina	4:06 p.m. EST/3:06 CT
Louisville	4:09 p.m. EST/3:09 CT
Houston	4:12 p.m. EST/3:12 CT
Memphis	4:15 p.m. EST/3:15 CT
USF	4:18 p.m. EST/3:18 CT
Southern Miss	4:21 p.m. EST/3:21 CT
TCU	4:24 p.m. EST/3:24 CT
Tulane	4:27 p.m. EST/3:27 CT
UAB	4:30 p.m. EST/3:30 CT

KU BAND

SBS 6, Transponder 5

Classroom Achievement

► Southern Miss was recently recognized for its student-athlete graduation rate by the American Football Coaches Association. Only 32 institutions across the country were recognized for graduating 70 percent or more of their football players. The Southern Miss graduation rate in football is higher than any school in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida and is currently higher than it has been in the last nine years. The spring 2003 semester resulted in a total of 133 student-athletes being recognized for their outstanding academic accomplishments. This past year, 105 Southern Miss student-athletes were named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll for having a 3.0 or better grade point average. Of the 105, 24 were selected for the Commissioner's Academic Medal, displaying a 3.75 GPA for the entire year.

Spreading The Wealth

► After spreading the ball between seven different targets at Cal, D'Angelo connected with six receivers at UAB and three against Memphis. DaRon Lawrence led the Golden Eagle receivers with two catches for 24 yards and had a long reception of 18 yards. Freshman Anthony Perine caught the first pass of his career.

Nine different receivers have at least one catch for the season. DaRon Lawrence leads the team in receptions with 10 for 91 yards, an average of 9.1 yards per catch and has a long catch of 18 yards. Marvin Young leads the team in receiving yards with 163 on nine catches, an average of 18.1 yards per reception with a long grab of 45 yards. Tight end Terrell Browden has the only receiving touchdown of the season.

Young Receiver

► Junior receiver Marvin Young finished with one catch for 15 yards against Memphis. That marked his season low in receptions and yards as he finished with five catches at Cal and three catches at UAB. He has had a 45-yard reception at Cal and a 42-yard grab at UAB. He also finished with one rush for the UAB game, taking a reverse for 18 yards.

At Cal, he finished with five catches for 84 yards, an average of 16.8 yards per catch and had three receptions for 64 yards at UAB, an average of 21.3 yards a reception.

For the season, he leads the Golden Eagles with 163 yards on nine catches, an average of 18.1 yards a catch with a long grab of 45 yards. In Conference USA statistics, Young is 13th in receiving yards per game and 24th in receptions per game.

Last season, Young was the second leading receiver with 41 catches for 615 yards, an average of 15.0 yards a catch, scored a team-high six touchdowns and had a personal long of 48 yards. He had a season-high 91 yards on five catches at TCU last season.

One Return Makes A Huge Difference

► Marvin Young not only is a wide receiver for the Golden Eagles, he also is the team's punt returner as well. Against Memphis with the Golden Eagles holding a slim three-point advantage in the fourth quarter, Young caught the punt return on the 13-yard line, fought off several would-be tacklers and then 87 yards later found the end zone, helping Southern Miss break open the game and secure the victory.

For the game, he had four returns 124 yards, an average of 31.0 yards a return and scored the first special teams touchdown since 1998 when Eddie Shaw returned a punt 54 yards against East Carolina. Young also had returns of 10, 13 and 14 yards, four of his longest returns of the season.

For the season, he has eight punt returns for 142 yards, an average of 17.8 yards a return. He is currently No. 1 in Conference USA and No. 10 in the nation. Young is the only player in Conference USA to return a punt for a touchdown.

Last season, Young claimed 29 returns for 388 yards, a 13.4-yard per return average. He was fourth in Conference USA rankings and No. 26 in the nation. He had a season-long return of 40 yards in his only return at Army. In two games at UAB and against East Carolina, he collected his season-best of four punt returns. He returned four for 58 yards against UAB, three for 55 yards against Oklahoma State in the Houston Bowl and finished the regular season with four for 52 yards against East Carolina.

Courington Can Catch

► After having a team-season best seven catches for 72 yards at Cal, sophomore receiver Antwon Courington finished with only one catch for eight yards at UAB and didn't have any catches against Memphis.

At Cal, he finished with two catches for 24 yards in the first half, then had five catches for 48 yards in the second half. His seven catches, 72 yards receiving and long catch of 23 yards are all personal bests for him.

For the season, Courington is third on the team in receptions and yardage with eight receptions for 80 yards, an average of 10.0 yards a catch and has a long catch of 23 yards. Last year as a true freshman, Courington played in all 12 games, finishing with three catches for 41 yards, an average of 13.7 yards a catch and had a long grab of 18 yards.

Lawrence The Reception Leader

► Former walk-on DaRon Lawrence led the Golden Eagle receivers with three catches for 39 yards against Memphis. He averaged 13.0 yards a grab and had a season-long catch of 18 yards, converting a 3rd-and-10 on Southern Miss' first drive of the game.

He holds the team reception lead with 11 catches for 106 yards, an average of 9.6 yards per catch with a long catch of 18 yards. At UAB, Lawrence led all Southern Miss receivers with four catches for 47 yards with a long grab of 14 yards. In Conference USA statistics, he is ranked No. 19 in receptions per game.

He is a third-year member of the Golden Eagles and was awarded a scholarship at the end of two-a-days this season, the Kristen Bower Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship is named after Head Coach Jeff Bower's daughter, Kristen, who was tragically killed in a car accident in September 1997. The scholarship is given annually to a former walk-on who displays hard work and determination to be a contributor on the team. Current members of the Golden Eagle squad who join Lawrence as a Kristen Bower Endowed Scholarship recipient are LeVon Pears (DE), Chad Ruffin (DL) and Marvin Young (WR).

Browden Bags Big Catches

► Senior tight end Terrell Browden finished with one catch for 19 yards against Memphis. His catch converted a 2nd-and-6 on the Golden Eagles' first drive of the second half. At UAB, he finished with two catches for 33 yards, including his game-long touchdown-scoring reception of 28 yards. At Cal, he finished with one catch for eight yards.

For the season, he is fourth on the team with four catches for 60 yards, an average of 15.0 yards a catch and has scored one touchdown. For his career, he has 12 career catches and four of those are for touchdowns.

Conference USA Players of The Week

► The Golden Eagles had four players named six times as Conference USA Players of the Week last season. Derrick Nix won the offensive award in back-to-back weeks after rushing for a season-high 201 yards against Illinois and followed that the next week with 196 yards against Memphis.

Etric Pruitt won the defensive award twice, and Rod Davis was named for the award once. Pruitt first won the award when he picked off three Army passes and then was honored again when he returned an interception 44 yards for a touchdown to lead the Golden Eagles to a victory over Cincinnati.

Mark Haulman was honored as the special teams player of the week. He finished with nine punts for 390 yards, an average of 43.3 yards per punt, had his season long kick of 61 yards and placed four inside the Cincinnati 20-yard line, including two inside the 10-yard line.

The Golden Eagles had six players of the week selected last season, tied for the second highest number of selections among conference school. Louisville had eight selections, TCU had seven and Cincinnati had five honorees.

Quarterback Sacks Since 2000

School	Sacks
Louisville	136
Washington State	134
Arizona State	130
Texas	128
TCU	126
USC	124
Fresno State	124
New Mexico	122
Tennessee	120
Kansas State	116
Auburn	112
N.C. State	111
Miami (Fla.)	111
Southern Miss	110
Pittsburgh	105
Cincinnati	102
Nebraska	101

Interceptions Since 1999

School	Interceptions
Kansas State	85
Oregon	82
Miami, Fla.	81
Fresno State	80
Virginia Tech	79
Washington State	73
Auburn	72
USC	71
Nebraska	69
Louisville	69
Texas	68
Georgia	67
Texas Tech	66
Northern Illinois	66
Cincinnati	66
Purdue	64
Notre Dame	63
Southern Miss	62
Notre Dame	63
Hawaii	63

Taking Away Six Times

► Southern Miss forced a season-high six turnovers against Memphis, three from interceptions and three fumble recoveries. That marked the most since the Golden Eagles intercepted six passes at Army last year. For the game, the Golden Eagles turned the ball over three times (one interception/two fumbles), for a plus-3 advantage in favor of Southern Miss.

At UAB, the Golden Eagles forced and recovered four fumbles and gave away two turnovers (1 fumble, 1 interception) for a +2.0 turnover margin. This marked the most fumbles that Southern Miss has forced since forcing four against Louisville in 2002.

For the season, Southern Miss has forced 10 fumbles and recovered eight of those and intercepted three passes, while the Golden Eagles have given away three fumbles and three interceptions for a +1.7 turnover margin per game. That ranks Southern Miss No. 2 in Conference USA and No. 10 in the nation.

The Theft Report

▶ The Golden Eagles finished with three interceptions against Memphis, marking the team's first three interceptions of the season. That marks the most interceptions in a game by Southern Miss since the Army game when the Golden Eagles finished with six interceptions. The Golden Eagles are sixth in Conference USA in interceptions.

Greg Brooks intercepted the first two Memphis passes and Etric Pruitt swiped the final one for the Golden Eagles. Brooks finished with 24 yards on his two returns and Pruitt thwarted a Memphis drive by intercepting the pass in the end zone.

After having 13 interceptions in the first five games, the Golden Eagles picked off three passes in the final eight games, including one in the last game of the regular season against East Carolina and one in the Houston Bowl against Oklahoma State.

The six-pick feat at Army was one pick shy of the school record, as seven interceptions were recorded against Louisiana Tech in 1967. On that day, the Golden Eagles intercepted NFL Hall of Famer and Pittsburgh Steeler great Terry Bradshaw five times.

On the year, Southern Miss had 16 interceptions, tied for fourth in the conference and tied for 36th in the nation.

Pass Deflection Report

▶ The Golden Eagles defense finished with five pass breakups against Memphis. Southern Miss recorded seven pass breakups at UAB after three at Cal in the season opener.

Etric Pruitt led the Golden Eagles with two deflections against Memphis and Alex Ray, Trevis Coley and Corey Yates each had one breakup.

Pruitt leads the team with four pass deflections, Alex Ray and Greg Brooks each have three pass deflections and Trevis Coley has two breakups to lead the team.

Southern Miss finished with at least one pass breakup in every game last season and had a season-high 12 at Army. Southern Miss deflected 72 passes for the year, averaging 5.5 breakups a game.

Defense Rules

▶ The 2002 Southern Miss defense made it own mark, ranking in the top 25 nationally in several categories. The Golden Eagles ranked No. 4 in pass efficiency defense, No. 10 in pass defense, No. 15 in scoring defense and No. 34 in total defense.

After losing seven starters from one of the best defenses in school history in 2000, there were a lot of questions surrounding the 2001 team and if it was going to be able to hold to high standard set by prior defenses. There were even more questions rising when everyone was wondering how first-year defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix was going to do.

The group was ranked in the top 10 nationally for most of the season, finishing 11th in total defense, eighth in scoring defense, 12 in pass efficiency defense and 13th in rushing defense.

The 2000 defense was second in the nation in total defense, eighth in the nation in scoring defense, fourth in passing efficiency defense, fifth in passing defense and the run defense finished 21st.

Southern Miss Defense

Top NCAA I-A Fewest Defensive TDs Allowed Since 1999

School	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Southern Miss	14	17	19	19	4	73
Oklahoma	23	22	14	22	6	87
Miami, Fla.	22	22	13	27	5	89
Tennessee	18	24	25	21	4	92
TCU	24	13	30	25	5	97
Kansas State	18	28	17	18	9	97
Virginia Tech	15	31	15	33	6	100
Nebraska	17	22	22	37	3	101
Oregon State	25	21	27	23	5	101
Texas	28	20	19	27	7	101
Florida State	19	13	33	34	2	101
Michigan	24	24	19	33	3	103
Texas A&M	24	20	20	31	9	104
Florida	27	23	19	28	7	104

Six Defensive Passing Touchdowns in 2002 - No. 1 in Nation

▶ The Southern Miss defense led the nation in fewest passing touchdowns allowed, yielding only six last season in 378 attempts.

The Golden Eagles tied for No. 2 with Ohio State with 19 total defensive touchdowns, only trailing Kansas State, who gave up 18 defensive touchdowns.

Southern Miss' defense has given up 23 touchdowns (13 run/6 pass/4 returns). The Golden Eagles tied with North Texas for third in the nation. Ohio State and Kansas State tied for first, giving up 19 total touchdowns on this season, including returns.

Safety Report

▶ The Golden Eagles first score of the season came on from a safety when Cal sent a bad snap into the end zone in the first quarter.

The Golden Eagles defense recorded three safeties during the 2002 season, each one against Illinois, Memphis and Cincinnati, setting the school record for most safeties in a season. Before last season, the record was two safeties during the 1996 season.

The first safety of last season came against Illinois in the first quarter, when the Golden Eagles had the Illini backed up on their three-yard line and forced quarterback Dustin Ward to fumble the ball and then he recovered it in the end zone. The second safety came the next week against Memphis in the second quarter, when the Tigers experienced a bad snap that went out the back of the end zone. The third safety was against Cincinnati when Joe Henley sacked quarterback Gino Guidugli in the end zone during the fourth quarter.

Pass Defense

▶ The Golden Eagle defense held Memphis' high scoring passing attack to 182 yards on 16-of-35 passes and forced three interceptions. The Southern Miss defense gave up 262 yards passing against UAB and gave up 157 yards at Cal in the season opener.

Opponents are averaging 200.3 yards a game passing, ranking seventh in Conference USA and 50th in the nation. The Golden Eagles are seventh in Conference USA in pass efficiency defense and No. 57 in the nation.

In 2002, the Southern Miss defense gave up 168.8 yards a game through the air, ranking 10th in the nation in pass defense. It also ranked No. 4 in the nation in pass efficiency defense. The Golden Eagles were No. 1 in Conference USA in pass efficiency defense and pass defense.

The Golden Eagles gave up 200 or less yards passing in nine games last season, including 63 to East Carolina and 165 at Tulane in the final games of the regular season. Southern Miss gave up a season-high 310 against Oklahoma State in the Houston Bowl. The Golden Eagles gave up 200 passing yards to Louisville after only surrendering 138 at UAB, 137 at TCU and 146 yards through the air to Cincinnati, which came in averaging 308 passing yards a game.

Sack Report

▶ Southern Miss registered one sack against Memphis and had two sacks in each of the first two games at Cal and at UAB. The Golden Eagles are tied for sixth in Conference USA in sacks.

Ronald Jones leads the team with 1.5 sacks, Michael Boley, Antoine Cash and Terrell Paul each have one and Eric Scott has registered a half of a sack.

The Golden Eagles have had at least one sack in every game in 2002 except at Army and South Florida and finished with 39 for the season with a game-high nine sacks against Louisville on Nov. 15. Senior All-American Rod Davis led the team with 10.5 sacks.

Tackling For Loss

▶ The Golden Eagles finished with four tackles for loss against Memphis, the lowest output of the season. Southern Miss finished with eight tackles for loss at UAB after having five at Cal in the season opener.

Against Memphis, Michael Boley led the team with two tackles for loss, Rod Davis had one and Alex Ray and Greg Casnave finished with a half sack each. At UAB, Ronald Jones led Southern Miss with 2.5 tackles for loss, Antoine Cash and Eric Scott each finished with 1.5 and Etric Pruitt and Michael Boley each had one. Southern Miss has 17 tackles for loss on the season, led by Cash with 3.5, Davis and Boley each have three and Scott has 1.5.

In 2002, Southern Miss finished with 99 tackles for loss, led by Davis, who finished with a school-record 23.5 on the season, while Boley was second on the team with 16 tackles for loss and Jones finished with 11 tackles for loss.

Shutouts

▶ The 3-0 victory against UAB marked the last shutout for the Golden Eagle defense and first since the 21-0 victory at Alabama during the 2000 season. Since Bower arrived in December 1990, Southern Miss has pitched seven shutouts, one every season starting with 1995, except the 2002 season.

Davis Adds To Preseason Honors

▶ The preseason honors keep coming for consensus All-American linebacker Rod Davis. Over the past week, Davis was named the nation's top defensive player on ESPN Sportscenter, as well as the No. 3 overall player -- top defender -- in ESPN The Magazine's Top 100. Davis was then one of two Conference USA players named to the Walter Camp Player of the Year Watch List. Davis, along with Tulane's Mewelde Moore, was one of 42 players named to the national award's watch list -- given to the nation's top player from any position.

Pro Opportunities

▶ Southern Miss had one player drafted in 2003, while two others signed free-agent contracts. Jeremy Bridges was drafted in the 6th round by the Philadelphia Eagles. Teammates Torrin Tucker and Jason Jimenez both signed free-agent contracts, inking with Dallas and Cleveland, respectively. There were four players drafted in each of the 1998, 2000 and 2001 drafts, while two players were drafted last year.

Golden Eagles in the NFL

▶ Under Coach Jeff Bower, the Golden Eagles have had 19 players drafted by the NFL during his 12-year tenure. Southern Miss currently has 15 players on NFL rosters, led by NFL three-time MVP Brett Favre of the Green Bay Packers.

Since 1942, The Golden Eagles have had 107 players drafted by the NFL, AFL or AAFC. Four or more players have been drafted in one year nine different times. There have been 28 players drafted in the top five rounds, including four first round picks. There have been 83 players who have played or been on an NFL roster.

Golden Eagles in the NFL Super Bowl

▶ Former Southern Miss players who have played in the NFL Super Bowl or have been on the active roster include: Jerrel Wilson (P/Kansas City/1966 (I), 1969 (IV); Tommy Rousel (End/Washington/1972 (VII); Ray Guy (P/Oakland/1976 (XI), 1980 (XV), 1983 (XVIII); Bud Brown (DB/Miami/1984 (XIX); Sammy Winder (RB/Denver/1986 (XXI), 1987 (XXII), 1989 (XXIV); Brett Favre (QB/Green Bay/1996 (XXXI), 1997 (XXXII); Perry Phenix (DB/Tennessee/1999 (XXXIV), Adalius Thomas (DE/Baltimore/2000 (XXXV), Bobby Hamilton (DE/New England/2001 (XXXVI).

Golden Eagle Preseason Honors

Watch Lists

Bronko Nagurski Award - Rod Davis, Etric Pruitt

Dick Butkus Award - Michael Boley, Rod Davis

Rotary Lombardi Award - Michael Boley, Rod Davis

Jim Thorpe Award - Etric Pruitt

All-America Rankings

Rod Davis

Playboy First Team; The Sporting News First Team; Athlon Sports First Team; Street & Smith's First Team; Lindy's First Team; Phil Steele's First Team; CollegeFootballNews.com First Team; National Champs.net First Team; CNSI.com First Team; SI.com First Team

Etric Pruitt

CollegeFootballNews.com Second Team; National Champs.Net Second Team; Athlon Sports Third Team

Position Rankings

Michael Boley

Lindy's No. 15 - OLB; Phil Steele's No. 36 - OLB

Greg Brooks

The Sporting News No. 13 - CB; Phil Steele's No. 54 - CB

Rod Davis

The Sporting News No. 1 - ILB; Lindy's No. 1 - ILB

Phil Steele's No. 1 - ILB; CNSI.com - No. 1 - LB; Street & Smith's No. 3 Bednarik/Nagurski Awards; Street & Smith's No. 3 Butkus Award; Kirk Herbstreit Awards - One of the Five Ganstas - For being ferocious as a middle linebacker and makes plays everywhere

Jim Hicks

Phil Steele's - No. 33 Center

Terrell Paul

Street & Smith's No. 15 - DL; Phil Steele's No. 33 - DE

Etric Pruitt

The Sporting News No. 7 Free Safety; Lindy's No. 7 Safety; Phil Steele's No. 7 Safety; Street & Smith's No. 11 DB; Street & Smith's No. 25 - Thorpe Award

Team Rankings

CollegeFootballNews.com - No. 4 - LB; Athlon Sports' No. 8 - Linebackers; Phil Steele's No. 10 - Linebackers; CollegeFootballNews.com - No. 6 - DB; CollegeFootballNews.com - No. 3 - Defense

All-Conference USA Teams

The Sporting News - Ronald Jones, Rod Davis, Michael Boley, Greg Brooks, Etric Pruitt

Athlons - Terrell Paul, Rod Davis, Michael Boley, Etric Pruitt, Marvin Young (PR)

Street & Smith's - Jim Hicks, Terrell Paul, Rod Davis, Michael Boley, Etric Pruitt, Greg Brooks

Lindy's - (first team) Jeremy Parquet, Terrell Paul, Rod Davis, Michael Boley, Etric Pruitt; (second team) Greg Brooks

Phil Steele's - (first team) Jeremy Parquet, Terrell Paul, Michael Boley, Rod Davis, Greg Brooks, Etric Pruitt, (second team): Ronald Jones, Marvin Young (PR), (third team) Eric Scott, Luke Johnson, John Eubanks (KOR), (fourth team) Marvin Young (WR), Jim Hicks, Antoine Cash

All-American Linebacker

► A first-team Playboy preseason All-American, the Conerly Trophy winner for 2002, C-USA's preseason defensive player-of-the-year, and on just about everyone's All-America team as well as every available watch list for national awards, including the Butkus list, Lombardi Trophy and the Nagurski Award, Golden Eagle fans have to wonder what Rod Davis will do for an encore after foregoing the NFL draft to play his senior season at Southern Miss.

He opened his senior season with 11 tackles, including two tackles for loss, at Cal, added 13 tackles, including seven solos in the victory at UAB, and then kept his double-digit tackle streak alive with 10 stops in the victory over Memphis. Davis also ranks fourth in the league in tackles this season.

One of only two returning linebackers from last season's AP All-America first, second or third teams, Davis is closing in on a host of Golden Eagle defensive records. He needs just 1.5 sacks to move into Southern Miss' all-time top five, his tackle for loss in the Memphis game gives him 43.5 and moves him into the top five in that category, and his nine solo tackles against the Tigers moved him all the way to third place on the USM career list, six away from the No. 2 spot. He's already No. 2 on the fumble recovery list.

He has had double-digit tackle numbers in 26 of the 38 games in which he has played. He had 10-or-more tackles in 12-of-13 games last season, including a career-best 19 tackles in the South Florida game in 2002, a total that included 16 solos, the second-highest single-game total in Golden Eagle history.

Counting Down to 400

► On the career charts, senior All-America linebacker Rod Davis is currently at 396 total tackles (274 UT/122 AT). His 10 tackle performance in the Memphis game leaves him only 32 tackles away from breaking into the school's career top five in total tackles, and he's now third on the solo tackle list, with 274, six away from the No. 2 spot.

He has 43.5 tackles for loss, 14.5 quarterback sacks, eight fumble recoveries, six interceptions and three forced fumbles. He used his one tackle for loss to pass Roy Magee (1998-01) for fifth on the school's TFL chart and he needs only three more to pass Marchant Kenney (1994-97) for fourth. He needs 2.0 quarterback sacks to break into the top five on the school's quarterback sack chart. Davis is No. 2 on the school's fumble recoveries chart with eight and needs two more tie Melvin Ratcliff (1992-95) for the all-time record.

Team-Best Tackle Effort At UAB

► Forgive opposing offensive coaches if they look for schemes that keep from throwing the football anywhere in the area of Etric Pruitt. The Theodore, Ala., native put together by far his best career numbers last season, and the postseason awards and preseason accolades this season all reflect that success.

Pruitt opened his senior season with four total tackles in a losing effort against Cal, but then bounced back with a team-best 16 tackles against UAB, a total that included one tackle for loss. He also had a fumble recovery and two pass breakups. He added another seven tackles to go with a fumble recovery, an interception and two pass breakups in the Memphis game. Pruitt currently sits 23rd in C-USA in tackles, as well as tied for No. 1 in fumbles recovered and is tied for second in passes defended. He was named the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week for the UAB game.

Earning All-C-USA and All-America awards for his junior year performance, his 139 tackles was third best on a Golden Eagle defense that was, again, ranked among the nation's best. He also had seven tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, a team-best six interceptions, 13 pass breakups, three forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and three blocked kicks for a defense that led the nation in fewest passing touchdowns allowed (6) and ranked No. 4 in pass efficiency defense and No. 10 in pass defense. His junior season performance earned him just about all the preseason awards available, both league and national, and he continues to enhance that reputation with his 2003 numbers.

Boley Hits Double-Digit Tackles

► Defensive coaches who can count eight of their top 10 tacklers among returning players usually wear big smiles. That's exactly what Defensive Coordinator Tyrone Nix can count, and when he counts he quickly gets to No. 2, Michael Boley.

He opened his junior season with a solid eight-tackle performance in the loss at Cal. He also recorded his team's only takeaway in that game, with a fumble recovery. He had an even better game against UAB, with 10 total tackles, including one tackle for loss. He also forced one of the four fumbles the Southern Miss defense recovered in the victory over the Blazers. And he keeps getting better with each passing game, apparently. He led the Eagle defense with 16 tackles, including 13 solo stops, in the victory over Memphis. He also had two tackles for loss in that game and recovered a fumble. Boley is tied for fourth in the conference in tackles and tied for first in fumbles recovered.

The Athens, Ala., senior finished last season with 142 total stops, including 16 tackles for loss, 8.0 sacks, one interception, three pass breakups, a forced fumble and three fumble recoveries. Those totals were second, in most categories, only to teammate Rod Davis, and Boley's list of postseason (2002) and preseason (2003) honors reflects that success.

He earned C-USA first team status last season, and is on just about everyone's preseason all-conference and All-America lists, including the Butkus Award and Lombardi Award lists. He had seven double-digit tackle games, including a season-high 15 stops against both Alabama and TCU. His Alabama performance included a 54-yard interception return for a touchdown, showing off the skills that earned him 1,015 rushing yards and another 746 receiving yards as a senior at Elkmont High School.

Consistently Bad ... You Know, That Good "Bad"

► Terrell Paul continues to enhance Southern Miss' reputation for developing outstanding defensive ends. He played in all 11 games as a freshman, started all 11 as a sophomore and all 13 as a junior, and, prior to a knee injury suffered in the Cal game, was being counted on to add to the numbers that saw him account for 67 total stops last season, numbers that included 6.0 tackles for loss, and 6.0 quarterback sacks.

Those numbers earned second team C-USA honors last season and opponents will have trouble keeping him off the first team this season. He also is included on most of the preseason All-America teams that seem to include a higher-than-usual number of Golden Eagles this season. His best game as a junior came in the Louisville game when he recorded a season-high eight tackles, including five solos.

Paul's status for upcoming games remains uncertain following the injury at Cal. He did not return to action in that game, following the injury, and did not play at UAB or against Memphis. Prior to the injury in the season-opener, he had accounted for four tackles, including a sack and a tackle for loss.

An Unsung Hero

► Alex Ray, the Golden Eagles starting rover, frequently doesn't get the credit he deserves for the time he spends in preparation, studying opponents and working hard in practice, and then how he quietly goes out and does his job on the field. Last season, Ray finished with 56 total tackles, including 32 solos, one forced fumble, two tackles for loss, four pass breakups and an interception.

Twice last season, Ray recorded his season-best of seven tackles, against Cincinnati and Louisville. He produced five or more tackles in six games. He returned the interception he made against Memphis 25 yards. He also forced a fumble and recorded two pass deflections against the Tigers.

This season, he turned in a five-tackle performance against Cal in his team's season-opener (8-30-03), and then added two tackles, a fumble recovery and a pair of pass breakups at UAB. He added six tackles, including half a sack, and contributed a forced fumble, two quarterback hurries and a pass breakup in the victory over Memphis.

Useful Eubanks

► John Eubanks, a member of the Conference USA All-Freshman team last season, was effective on special teams, especially on kickoff returns, and on defense.

In his team's 2003 season-opener at Cal, Eubanks had two tackles and caused a fumble from his defensive back position, and also returned four kickoffs for a total of 127 yards, an average of 31.8. He had a long return of 44 yards, the third longest of his career. He added three unassisted tackles in the UAB victory and another solo stop against Memphis. He also had one kickoff return for 15 yards in that game.

His career return numbers now stand at 27 returns for 668 yards, an average of 24.7 yards a return.

Eubanks is the regular kickoff returner for the Eagles. Going into the 2003 season he had had 22 returns for 526 yards, an average of 23.9 yards a return. His longest return was 53 yards against Jackson State, and he had six returns of 20 or more yards last.

Eubanks best special teams performance came against Oklahoma State in the Houston Bowl, where he returned five kickoffs for 126 yards, including a long return of 50 yards. He returned five kickoffs for 110 yards at TCU, three kickoffs for 73 yards against Tulane and two kickoffs for 57 yards against Cincinnati. He ranked seventh in Conference USA and 30th in the nation in kickoff returns.

Defensively, Eubanks finished the '02 season with 11 tackles, eight solos and three assists. His best defensive performance was against Louisville with four solo tackles and one assisted tackle. He recorded an interception against Army and a pass breakup against Illinois.

Cashing In

► Antoine Cash has been an under-the-radar performer who has produced some big numbers in many games last year. The redshirt junior defensive back was moved to the weak-side linebacker position after recording 76 total tackles (45 solos and 31 assists). He also claimed 1.5 tackles for loss, an interception return for 27 yards, six pass breakups and one blocked punt.

In his team's season opener this season, at Cal, his day was as productive as anyone on the Southern Miss defense. He finished with six tackles, but that total included a sack, two tackles for loss and a team-high two quarterback hurries. He then backed that up with five more stops in the UAB game, to go with a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and 1.5 tackles for loss, and maintained his consistency with five more tackles against Memphis, including three solo stops. He also was credited with a quarterback hurry in the game.

Twice last season Cash recorded double-figures in tackles, against Cincinnati (11) and Louisville (12). The Cardinal game featured Cash claiming a half sack and two pass breakups. He recorded seven or more tackles in five games. Against Jackson State, Cash collected nine tackles, one tackle for loss, one sack, an interception and a blocked kick.

Home Grown Coaches

► While there are many Division 1-A coaches who have been at their respective schools for a long time, only a handful of them can stake that claim with the school they graduated from. Southern Miss Head Coach Jeff Bower is second on this unique list with 13 years as the Golden Eagles coach. Only Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer has been at his alma mater for more seasons (17) since being named head coach.

Alma Mater	Head Coach	1st Season
Va. Tech	Frank Beamer	1987
Southern Miss	Jeff Bower	1991
Tennessee	Phillip Fulmer	1992
Marshall	Bob Pruett	1996
Nebraska	Frank Solich	1998
New Mexico	Rocky Long	1998

An Attention Grabber

► Southern Miss has had a long list of outstanding players named Jones, and in just one year as a Golden Eagle, Ronald Jones has already added his name to that list, with Golden Eagle fans anxious to see what he does for an encore as a senior.

He opened his senior Golden Eagle season with four tackles in the Cal loss, and then turned up his play at notch at UAB, where he was in double figures with 10 tackles, a total that included a team-best 1.5 sacks and a team-best 2.5 tackles for loss. He added three tackles, including two solos, in the Memphis game, and currently ranks four among Golden Eagle defenders, with 17 total tackles, a total that included 2.5 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks. Jones is tied for second in C-USA in sacks and in the top 50 in overall tackles.

He moved from defensive tackle to defensive end for the South Florida game last season and started every game after that. All the Gulfport, Miss., standout did last season was play in all 13 games, starting eight times. The eighth-leading tackler on the 2002 team, Jones recorded 63 stops, the second-highest sack total (8) and the third-highest tackle for loss total (11). He had his only double-digit tackle game against Cincinnati, with 10 stops. That performance helped earn him an "Emerging Star" citation from Lindy's. And, he's durable. He played 81 snaps in the Louisville game and was in on 40 or more plays in nine games.

Brooks Adds To Career Swat Record

► Senior defensive back Greg Brooks has put together three outstanding seasons for the Golden Eagles, but worked harder than ever in the offseason to push his game to a still higher plateau. That hard work continues to pay dividends in his senior season, as evidenced by his five tackles and two interceptions in the Memphis game.

In 2002, he recorded 41 tackles, including 31 solos. He also had a tackle for a loss, three interceptions and 14 pass deflections, pushing his career total to 35 and past current NFL standout Patrick Surtain, and into first place in the Golden Eagle record book in that category.

He added to his lead in that category with two more pass breakups in the season-opening loss at Cal, to go with three solo tackles; and then added five solo tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery, and a pass breakup in the win at UAB. He added five tackles and a pair of interceptions in the Memphis game. His pass breakup career total now stands at 38. Brooks also is tied for second in C-USA in passes defended and tied for sixth in fumbles recovered.

Recognized as one of the best cover backs in Conference USA, Brooks earned preseason All-C-USA honors and is on several preseason All-America teams. Projected by some publications as a possible third-round draft pick in the most recent NFL draft, Brooks decided to play his senior season. He recorded six tackles, two pass breakups and an interception in the Houston Bowl. He started all 13 games last season, all 11 games the previous season and played in all 11 games as a freshman.

Analyzing the Special Teams

▶ Over the past four years, the Southern Miss special teams have been making their own mark. With the blocked field goals against Oklahoma State, Illinois and Cincinnati, along with the two punt blocks against Jackson State, one against UAB and Louisville, the Golden Eagles have blocked 11 punts and 10 field goals during that time.

In 2000, the Golden Eagles blocked four punts (South Florida, 2, Louisville and TCU) and four field goals (Alabama, Houston, South Florida, TCU). During the 2001 season, USM blocked three punts (Memphis, 2, Louisville) and three field goals (Tulane, UAB, Alabama). Etric Pruitt has four punt blocks to lead the team during that time.

From Cheering to Being Cheered For

▶ Long snapper Adam Kelly completed his first two years of college at nearby Pearl River Community College. Thinking his playing days were over, Kelly turned in his football uniform and became a Golden Eagle cheerleader. When the Southern Miss coaches were recruiting for a long snapper, Pearl River's coach told the coaching staff that their best snapper was cheering on the sidelines. Head Coach Jeff Bower and his staff watched tapes and invited Kelly to join the team. Kelly is now battling for the starting job as the team's long snapper.

Luke Likes To Punt

▶ Against Memphis, redshirt sophomore punter Luke Johnson finished with eight punts for 330 yards, an average of 41.2 yards per punt and had a long punt of 56 yards. He also placed a personal-best four inside the Memphis 20-yard line.

For the season, he has 20 punts for 859 yards, an average of 43.0 yards a punt, long of 65 yards, five touchbacks, two fair caught and nine inside the opponent's 20-yard line. He is ranked No. 2 in Conference USA in punting and No. 24 in the nation.

At UAB, he finished with six punts for 262 yards, an average of 43.7 yards a punt, had a long of 53 yards and placed three inside the Blazers' 20-yard line.

In the season opener at Cal, Johnson finished with six punts for 267 yards, a 44.5-yard per punt average, had a season-long of 65 yards and placed two inside the Bears' 20-yard line.

McCaleb Sees More Action

▶ Freshman kicker Darren McCaleb made his collegiate debut at UAB, kicking a field goal and connecting on both extra point attempts for the game. Against Memphis, he kicked a 28-yard field goal and kicked two extra points. His first extra point attempt was blocked due to a bad snap and the subsequent hold and his 47-yard field goal attempt was blocked.

He scored his first collegiate points of his career with 10:30 left in the second quarter after Timmy Blackwell plunged in for a two-yard score. He added his second extra point attempt when he put the exclamation point on Terrell Browden's 28-yard scoring reception. His first collegiate field goal was a 20-yarder, which he was successful on with 6:19 left in the third quarter.

McCaleb is 2-for-3 on is field goal attempts, hitting from 20 and 28 yards and he is also second on the Golden Eagles team with 10 points.

Block Party

▶ The Golden Eagles recorded their third blocked field goal of last season against Oklahoma State in the Houston Bowl, giving Etric Pruitt his third blocked kick of the season.

A blocked punt was recorded against Louisville and UAB, pushing the total of blocked punts to four last year. Another blocked field goal was recorded on the year with Eric Scott swatting away the first-quarter kick in the Cincinnati game.

The Golden Eagles also blocked a field goal attempt in the Illinois game. Brooks prevented the three points at the end of the third quarter. Southern Miss recorded two blocked punts against Jackson State. Etric Pruitt and Antoine Cash each collected one.

The Eagles tied the record for most blocked punts in a season with four, along with the 2000 team. In 1990, 1987 and 2001, Southern Miss blocked three punts.

Extra Point Streak

▶ Southern Miss kickers have put together an impressive extra point streak over the past four seasons. Brant Hanna, Curt Jones, Don Urquhart and now Darren McCaleb have combined to kick 103-straight extra points, dating back to the Louisiana-Lafayette game on Nov. 20, 1999. The Golden Eagle kickers were a perfect 8-of-8 to finish the 1999 season, 32-of-32 during the 2000 season, 29-of-29 during the 2001 season and 29-of-29 during the 2002 season.

From Southern Miss Assistant To Collegiate Head Coach

▶ A number of Southern Miss assistants paid their dues to become eventual head coaches at a college program. In all, 12 former assistants have gone on to become head coaches at one point in time, with five of them becoming the head coach at USM.

The list of former assistants turned head coach include: Reed Green (USM), Jim Carmody (USM), Thad "Pie" Vann (USM), P.W. Underwood (USM), Jeff Bower (USM), Mack Brown (Texas), Doug Barfield (Auburn), Mike DuBose (Alabama), John Thompson (ECU), Max Lambright (Louisiana Tech), Norman Joseph (Belhaven) and Mike Williams (Jackson State).

Assistants Still Active

▶ Many former Southern Miss assistant coaches also have remained active in the football profession either as an NFL assistant, collegiate assistant coach or other area of athletics. The list includes: Bobby April (Special Teams, St. Louis Rams), Jeff Bowden (OC, Florida State), Jim Carmody (Scout, Arizona Cardinals), Bill Clay (DC, Oklahoma State), Steve Hale (Exec. Director of Senior Bowl), Larry Kueck (OC, Marshall), Paul Petrino (OC, Louisville) and Dave Wommack (DC, Arkansas).

Ranked At The Rock

▶ While Southern Miss has played against a number of ranked teams in school history, very few of those games have been at home. With Nebraska's (No. 11 in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll/No. 15 in the Associated Press Poll) visit on Thursday, the game marks the just the sixth time a ranked opponent has played in Hattiesburg. The highest-ranked team to ever visit The Rock was Florida State, ranked sixth in 1987. The Huskers become the second-highest ranked team to play at M.M. Roberts Stadium. Other ranked teams to play in Hattiesburg include No. 16 Florida State (1991), No. 18 Texas A&M (1998), T-No. 20 Mississippi State in 1976 and No. 21 Virginia Tech in 1994.

In addition, Southern Miss Head Coach Bower has coached in 142 career games with the Golden Eagles, with 28 of them coming against ranked foes. However of those 28 games, only three of them have been played at home. With Nebraska's visit, the game marks the highest opponent Bower has ever faced at The Rock.

All victories against ranked opponents have come in either road games or games played in neutral locations. The highest-ranked foe Southern Miss defeated was Ole Miss in 1970. The "home" win over No. 6 Florida State in 1989 was played in Jacksonville, Fla.

In On The Play

▶ Through the first three games of the 2003 season, many Southern Miss players have seen considerable action on the football field. In fact, 13 players are averaging more than 50 total plays (offense, defense and special teams) this season. Leading the charge in average plays per game three players who have been in on 80-plus plays per game. Defensive back Etric Pruitt is tops on the list with an average of 86.3 plays per game, including a second-best performance of 96 plays (75 defense and 21 special teams) against Memphis. Defensive Back Trevis Coley follows with 82.7 plays per game, with a team-high 98 plays (72 defense and 26 special teams) against Memphis. Linebacker Michael Boley is third overall with 81.7 plays per game. Offensive lineman Jeremy Parquet leads all offensive players with 75 plays per game.

Golden Eagles In the National Football League

► Southern Miss has 14 players currently active on NFL Rosters for the 2003 season. Under the direction of Jeff Bower, there have been 19 Golden Eagles drafted and 30 play professional football in the NFL or in the CFL.

2003 Golden Eagles In NFL

Jeremy Bridges	Philadelphia Eagles
Brett Favre	Green Bay Packers
Bobby Hamilton	New England Patriots
Jason Jimenez	Green Bay Packers
Todd Pinkston	Philadelphia Eagles
Jeff Posey	Buffalo Bills
DeQuincy Scott	San Diego Chargers
T.J. Slaughter	Jacksonville Jaguars
Daleroy Stewart	Dallas Cowboys
Patrick Surtain	Miami Dolphins
Adalius Thomas	Baltimore Ravens
Torrin Tucker	Dallas Cowboys
Raymond Walls	Baltimore Ravens
Chad Williams	Baltimore Ravens

Golden Eagles Pros Who Played For Jeff Bower

Alexander, Jamaal (1994-97)	St. Louis Rams (NFL)	1998
Bridges, Jeremy (1999-2002)	Philadelphia Eagles (NFL)	2003
Brock, Fred (1992-95)	Arizona Cardinals	1996-98
Brown, Robert (1994-97)	Edmonton Eskimos (CFL)	1998
Carter, Perry (1990-93)	Kansas City Chiefs (NFL)	1994-95
	Oakland Raiders (NFL)	1996-98
	Montreal Alouettes (CFL)	2002
Duggins, Brent (1993-94)	Indianapolis Colts (NFL)	1995
Gideon, Sherrod (1996-99)	St. Louis Rams (NFL)	2001
	Houston Texans (NFL)	2002
Hamilton, Bobby (1990-93)	Seattle Seahawks (NFL)	1994
	London Monarchs (WIAFL)	1994-95
	New York Jets (NFL)	1997-99
	New England Patriots (NFL)	2000-03
Hardy, Terry (1994-97)	Arizona Cardinals (NFL)	1998-01
Hoskins, Derrick (1988-91)	Oakland Raiders (NFL)	1992-97
Jimenez, Jason	Green Bay Packers (NFL)	2003
Kelly, Jeff (1998-01)	Seattle Seahawks	2002
Nix, John (1997-00)	Dallas Cowboys (NFL)	2001-02
Phenix, Perry (1996-97)	Tennessee Titans (NFL)	1998-00-01
	Carolina Panthers (NFL)	2001
	Atlanta Falcons (NFL)	2002
Pinkston, Todd (1996-00)	Philadelphia Eagles (NFL)	2000-03
Posey, Jeff (1995-96)	San Francisco 49ers (NFL)	1997-00
	Jacksonville Jaguars (NFL)	2001
	Houston Texans (NFL)	2002
	Buffalo Bills (NFL)	2003
Roberts, Tim (1988-91)	Houston Oilers (NFL)	1992-94
	New England Patriots (NFL)	1995
Scott, Cedric (1996-00)	New York Giants (NFL)	2001-02
Scott, DeQuincy (1996-00)	San Diego Chargers (NFL)	2001-03
Shaw, Harold (1994-97)	New England Patriots (NFL)	1998-00
Slaughter, T.J. (1995-99)	Jacksonville Jaguars (NFL)	2000-03
Smith, Tony (1989-91)	Atlanta Falcons (NFL)	1992-94
	Carolina Panthers (NFL)	1995
Stewart, Daleroy (1996-00)	Dallas Cowboys (NFL)	2001-03
Surtain, Patrick (1994-97)	Miami Dolphins (NFL)	1998-03
Terrell, Daryl (1995-96)	New Orleans Saints (NFL)	1999-01
	Jacksonville Jaguars (NFL)	2002
Thomas, Adalius (1996-99)	Baltimore Ravens (NFL)	2001-03
Tucker, Torrin (1999-2002)	Dallas Cowboys (NFL)	2003
Ulmer, Terry (1990,1992)	Saskatchewan Roughriders (CFL)	1994
Walls, Raymond (1996-00)	Indianapolis Colts (NFL)	2001-02
	Baltimore Ravens (NFL)	2003
Williams, Chad (1997-01)	Baltimore Ravens (NFL)	2002-03

Southern Miss Depth Chart

(classes reflect football eligibility)
(bold denotes returning starter from 2002)

Offense

SE	85	Daron Lawrence (6-3/204/r-Jr.)
	13	Kenneth Johnson (5-10/177/Sr.)
LT	73	Neal Mead (6-4/310/r-So.)
	72	Myron Powe (6-4/298/r-Jr.)
LG	66	Chris White (6-3/280/Jr.)
	71	Bradley Worthington (6-4/295/r-So.)
C	68	Jim Hicks (6-4/285/r-Sr.)
	67	Addaryl Edwards (6-3/280/r-Jr.)
RG	70	George Batiste (6-5/282/r-Fr.)
	54	Kendel Wheeler (6-3/288/r-So.)
RT	77	Jeremy Parquet (6-7/312/r-Jr.)
	79	Patrick Corbett (6-6/264/r-Jr.)
TE	35	Terrell Browden (6-3/260/Sr.)
	19	Otho Graves (6-5/280/r-Jr.)
FL	80	Antwon Courington (6-3/210/So.)
	84	Pedi Causey (6-3/233/So.)
WR	88	Marvin Young (6-0/165/Jr.)
	25	Adam Hurst (5-11/175/r-Fr.)
QB	9	Dustin Almond (6-2/212/r-So)
	3	Damion Carter (6-3/185/Fr.)
FB	3	Anthony Harris (5-11/216/r-So.)
	33	Bobby Weakley (5-11/235/Fr.)
RB	23	Tim Blackwell (5-11/190/r-Jr.)
	11	James Walley (5-10/196/Jr.)

Defense

DE	90	Ronald Jones (6-3/265/Sr.)
	50	Akeem Lockett (6-2/235/So.)
NT	95	Terrance Ford (6-4/280/So.)
	96	Chad Ruffin (6-0/285/r-Jr.)
DT	92	Eric Scott (6-0/288/Jr.)
	99	Greg Casnave (6-3/281/r-Fr.)
BAN	40	LeVon Pears (6-0/248/r-Jr.)
	57	DeMarcus Barner (6-0/233/r-Jr.)
SLB	27	Michael Boley (6-3/218/r-Jr.)
	45	Kevis Coley (6-1/218/r-So.)
MLB	24	Rod Davis (6-3/245/r-Sr.)
	51	Dillon Cleckler (6-2/230/r-Jr.)
WLB	42	Antoine Cash (6-1/208/r-Jr.)
	49	Naton Stewart (6-4/2232/r-So.)
FC	5	Greg Brooks (5-11/175/r-Sr.)
	15	Seth Cumbie (5-11/180/r-Jr.)
ROV	14	Alex Ray (5-11/203/r-Sr.)
	8	Karone Champagne (5-10/196/r-Sr.)
FS	28	Etric Pruitt (6-1/188/r-Sr.)
	18	Trevis Coley (6-1/220/r-So.)
BC	29	Corey Yates (5-10/181/r-Sr.)
	1	John Eubanks (5-11/175/r-So.)
P	17	Luke Johnson (6-0/250/r-So.)
	36	Neal Schmidt (6-2/199/r-Fr.)
SN	58	Adam Kelly (6-2/250/Jr.) or
	61	Stephen Daigle (6-0/20/Jr.)
PR	88	Marvin Young (6-0/165/Jr.)
	14	Alex Ray (5-11/205/r-Sr.) or
	1	John Eubanks (5-11/179/r-So.)

PK	16	Darren McCaleb (5-11/170/Fr.)
	37	Brad Langley (5-6/160/Fr.)
KO	87	Jacob Matlock (6-0/224/Sr.)
H	9	Dustin Almond (6-2/212/r-So.)
	87	Jacob Matlock (6-0/224/Sr.)
KR	1	John Eubanks (5-11/179/r-So.) or
	21	Jasper Faulk (5-10/182/r-Fr.)

By The Numbers

1	.....	Overtime games Southern Miss has won
1	.....	Number of coaches who have been head coach at their alma mater longer than Jeff Bower
2	.....	Punts Southern Miss blocked against Jackson State (8/31/02)
2	.....	Number of Greg Brooks interceptions against Memphis (9/13/03)
3	.....	Overtime games Southern Miss has played
3	.....	Interceptions by Etric Pruitt against Army (9/29/02)
3	.....	Southern Miss Conference USA Championships
4	.....	Southern Miss Conference USA Defensive Players of the Year Awards
4	.....	Shutouts Southern Miss has recorded since '99 season
6	.....	Straight years in which Southern Miss has produced an All-American
6	.....	NCAA I-A head coaches at the same school 13 years or more as a head coach (Jeff Bower is in his 13th year at Southern Miss)
6	.....	Southern Miss interceptions against Army (9/28/02)
6	.....	Rushing touchdowns against Jackson State (8/31/02)
6	.....	Passing TDs Southern Miss gave up last season
8	.....	Jeff Bower's position on Southern Miss career completions list (278)
10	.....	Field goals Southern Miss has blocked over the past four years
10	.....	Golden Eagles who have played in an NFL Super Bowl
11	.....	Punts Southern Miss has blocked over the past four years
13	.....	Most individual single game USM receptions (Sherrod Gideon vs Penn State, '98)
16	.....	Number of Michael Boley tackles in the Memphis game (9/13/03)
16	.....	Southern Miss head football coaches prior to Jeff Bower
17	.....	Career-best number of 100-yard rushing games (Ben Garry)
17	.....	Etric Pruitt tackles against Alabama last season (9/21/02)
21	.....	Alabama passing yards against Southern Miss last season (9/21/02)
44	.....	John Eubanks' longest kickoff return of the season (vs. Cal, 8/30/03)
48	.....	Total of two retired Southern Miss football jerseys (#4 Brett Favre & #44 Ray Guy)
54	.....	Games against Memphis (most of any Southern Miss opponent)
55	.....	Points Southern Miss scored in 2002 season opener (8/31/02)
61	.....	Longest-ever Southern Miss field goal (Ray Guy vs Utah State, '72)
65	.....	Luke Johnson's longest punt of the '03 season (vs. Cal, 8/30/03)
72	.....	Years Southern Miss played between games in which team scored ONLY a safety, 10/17/31 to 8/30/03
86	.....	Number of games Southern Miss has played without being shut out
93	.....	Longest-ever Southern Miss punt (Ray Guy vs Ole Miss, '72)
99	.....	Most plays run against Southern Miss in a single game (Tulane, 00)
105	.....	Consecutive extra points made by Golden Eagle kickers (Streak is current)
107	.....	Golden Eagles who have been drafted by NFL, AFL or AAFC
234	.....	Points by Southern Miss career scoring leader (Sammy Winder, '78-'81)
273	.....	Yards Micky D'Angelo threw for in his first start (8/31/02)
.583	.....	Jeff Bower's career Southern Miss winning percentage through 142 games (82-59-1)
2,216	.....	Miles in Southern Miss' longest road trip this season (to Cal)
3,584	.....	Derrick Nix's career rushing yards (second highest Southern Miss total ever)
26,961	.....	Average 2002 Roberts Stadium attendance
35,169	.....	Largest crowd at M. M. Roberts Stadium (Jackson State, 8/31/02)
108,064	.....	Largest crowd Southern Miss has ever played before (vs Tenn., 9/2/00)
2,809,347	.....	Fans who have seen games at M. M. Roberts Stadium

Sagarin's Rankings

The Golden Eagles are rated No. 62 in the Sagarin's Computer Rankings, a computer ranking system comprised by Jeff Sagarin. There are five of Southern Miss' opponents that are ranked in the top 55 of the Sagarin poll, Nebraska (11), Alabama (17), Cincinnati (27), California (53) and TCU (61). The rankings are part of what comprises the Bowl Championship Series' rankings used to determine who will vie for the national championship. Here's a rundown of the Sagarin top 25.

1. Miami, Fla.	14. Oregon
2. Florida St.	15. Iowa
3. Oklahoma	16. LSU
4. Southern Cal	17. Alabama
5. Georgia	18. Texas
6. Michigan	19. Colorado
7. Ohio St.	20. Notre Dame
8. Florida	21. Louisville
9. Arkansas	22. UCLA
10. Kansas St.	23. Georgia Tech
11. Nebraska	24. Washington
12. Washington St.	25. Virginia Tech
13. Tennessee	62. Southern Miss

Bowl History

Southern Miss' 2002 Houston Bowl appearance marked the program's 13th bowl game in school history. The Golden Eagles have a 5-8 record in bowl games. The 13 appearances are third in the conference behind second-year conference member TCU and Houston, which spent years in the Southwest Conference, while the Golden Eagles were an independent. Southern Miss' four bowl appearances in the 1990s tied East Carolina with four bowl games in the decade. Coach Jeff Bower's squad is the only team in Conference USA to appear in bowl games in four-consecutive seasons.

Team	App.	Rec.	Last/Year
TCU	..... 19	..... 7-11-1	..... Liberty/'02
Houston	..... 14	..... 7-6-1	..... Liberty/'96
USM	..... 13	..... 5-8	..... Houston/'02
ECU	..... 12	..... 7-6	..... GMAC/'01
Tulane	..... 10	..... 4-6	..... Hawaii/'02
Louisville	..... 10	..... 5-5	..... GMAC/'02
Cincinnati	..... 7	..... 3-4	..... N. O./'02
Army	..... 4	..... 2-2	..... Indep./'96
Memphis	..... 2	..... 2-0	..... Pas'dna/'71
UAB	..... 0	..... 0-0	..... None
USF	..... 0	..... 0-0	..... None

2003 Southern Miss Scoring Drives

Opponent	Plays	Yards	Time	Result
California	--	--	--	Team Safety
UAB	10	92	2:29	Blackwell 2 run
UAB	1	28	0:08	Browden 28 pass from D'Angelo
UAB	12	76	4:27	McCaleb 20 field goal
Memphis	2	15	0:13	D'Angelo 1 run
Memphis	9	38	3:25	McCaleb 28 field goal
Memphis	--	--	--	Young 87 punt return
Memphis	3	43	0:27	Blackwell 38 run

2003 Southern Miss' Opponent's Scoring Drives

Opponent	Plays	Yards	Time	Result
California	7	21	2:22	Fredrickson 26 field goal
California	--	--	0:00	Bethea 20 blocked punt return
California	11	79	5:09	Fredrickson 18 field goal
California	2	36	0:15	Hall 4 pass from Robertson
California	7	70	2:34	Cross 30 pass from Robertson
California	7	87	3:21	Echemandu 60 run
UAB	5	50	2:29	Hayes 30 field goal
UAB	9	44	3:20	Hayes 33 field goal
UAB	8	81	2:24	Chavez 8 pass from Hackney
Memphis	5	28	2:05	Gostkowski 21 field goal
Memphis	10	94	1:15	Gostkowski 23 field goal

Southern Miss' Plays of 20-yards or More in 2003

87/TD	Young punt return (MEM)
45	D'Angelo pass to Young (CAL)
42	D'Angelo pass to Young (UAB)
38/TD	Blackwell run (MEM)
30	D'Angelo pass to Blackwell (UAB)
28/TD	D'Angelo pass to Browden (UAB)
28/FG	McCaleb field goal (MEM)
24	Brooks interception return (MEM)
23	D'Angelo pass to Courington (CAL)
20/FG	McCaleb field goal (UAB)

Southern Miss' Opponent's Plays of 20-yards or More in 2003

60/TD	Echemandu run (CAL)
41	Moncur run (UAB)
37	Williams run (MEM)
36	Robertson pass to McArthur (CAL)
33/FG	Hayes field goal (UAB)
30/TD	Robertson pass to Cross (CAL)
30/FG	Hayes field goal (UAB)
30	Arrington run (CAL)
26/FG	Fredrickson field goal (CAL)
26	Hackney pass to Cook (UAB)
24	Williams run (MEM)
23/FG	Gostkowski field goal (MEM)
23	Robertson pass to McArthur (CAL)
23	Hackney pass to Rhodes (UAB)
23	Hackney pass to White (UAB)
21/FG	Gostkowski field goal (MEM)
20	Hackney pass to White (UAB)

Game 1

California 34, Southern Miss 2

► **BERKELEY, Calif.** — It was the first-ever football meeting between Southern Miss and California on Saturday, but it wasn't the debut that the Golden Eagles wanted.

The Golden Bears (1-1) scored 34 unanswered points in the final three quarters to hand Southern Miss (0-1) a 34-2 loss at Memorial Stadium in Berkeley, Calif.

Cal running back Adimchinobe Echemandu rushed for a career-high 127 yards and quarterback Reggie Robertson passed for two touchdowns and 142 yards in the win.

Golden Eagle starter Micky D'Angelo threw for 163 yards on 16-of-26 passing and had one interception. The point total was Southern Miss' lowest in a game since being shut out by Tennessee in 1995.

The Golden Eagles, facing a Pac-10 opponent for the first time, got on the board early after the USM special teams scored a safety on a fumbled snap on Cal's first punt of the game.

But that would be the only lead Southern Miss would have as Cal took advantage of its opportunities with four scores in the second quarter.

Tyler Fredrickson connected on a 26-yard field goal with 13:49 remaining in the first half to give the Golden Bears the lead. Cal then added its first touchdown of the game as Andy Briner returned a blocked Luke Johnson punt for the score. Fredrickson added another field goal — an 18-yarder — and Robertson connected with Brandon Hall on a 4-yard touchdown combination before the break.

The steady scoring continued for Cal over the next two quarters with a touchdown in each period. Garrett Cross grabbed a 30-yard touchdown pass from Robertson in the third quarter, and Echemandu rumbled 60 yards for a touchdown in the early stages of the fourth.

In all, Cal stung the Southern Miss defense for 411 yards of total offense, including 260 yards on the ground.

The Golden Eagles, however, could muster only 277 yards of offense in the game, gaining just 67 of them by rush.

Marvin Young led all Golden Eagle receivers with 90 yards on six catches, while Antwon Courington grabbed a team-high seven receptions for 71 yards. James Walley gained 40 yards on 15 carries, and Tim Blackwell had five rushes for 31 yards. Backup quarterback Dustin Almond threw for 49 yards on 4-of-9 passing.

For Cal, running back J.J. Arrington finished with a 114 yards. Geoff McArthur caught five passes for a game-high 92 yards.

Southern Miss gets back to action in just five days, however, when it takes on UAB in Birmingham, Ala., on Thursday. Kickoff for the game is set for 6 p.m.

Final Statistics

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Southern Miss	2	0	0	0	2
California	0	20	7	7	34

1st

USM - Safety, 10:29

2nd

CAL - Fredrickson 26 field goal, 13:49

CAL - Bethea 20 blocked punt return, Fredrickson kick, 12:00

CAL - Fredrickson 18 field goal, 4:16

CAL - Hall 4 pass from Robertson, Fredrickson kick, 00:16

3rd

CAL - Cross 30 pass from Robertson, Fredrickson kick, 09:53

4th

CAL - Echemandu 60 run. Fredrickson kick, 10:20

	USM	CAL
First Downs	16	21
Offensive plays	70	66
Yards per play	4.0	6.3
Rushing Att.-Yds.	36-65	48-260
Passes Att-Comp-Int	34-20-1	18-11-0
Total Offense	277	417
Return yards	162	97
Punts/Avg.	8-33.4	2-41.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	4-39	5-30
Third-Down Conversions	3 of 15	5 of 12
Time of Possession	29:46	30:14

Rushing

USM - Walley 15-39; Blackwell 5-31; Harris 2-0; Almond 8-minus-1; D'Angelo 6-minus-4.
 CAL - Echemandu 17-127, 1TD; Arrington 16-114; Porter 3-15; Robertson 6-11.

Passing

USM - D'Angelo 16-26-1, 163 yards; Almond 4-8-0, 49 yards.
 CAL - Robertson 9-14-0, 142 yards, 2TD; Rodgers 2-4-0, 15 yards.

Receiving

USM - Courington 7-72; Young 5-84; Lawrence 4-20
 CAL - McArthur 5-92; Hall, Brandon 3-17, 1TD.

Tackles (U-A-TT)

USM - Davis 9-2-11; Boley 5-3-8; Cash 4-2-6; Ruffin 3-3-6
 CAL - McCleskey 9-4-13; Giordano 8-0-8

Players of the Game

Offense - Terrell Browden - 67 snaps and graded 88 percent ... No missed assignments ... One catch and blocked well.

Defense - Terrell Paul - 32 snaps and graded 88 percent ... Two tackles, two assists, a sack, two knockdowns and two pass knockdowns ... 35-plus bonus points.

Special Teams - John Eubanks - Four kickoff returns for a 32-yard average.

Game 2

Southern Miss 17, UAB 12

► **BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** – Southern Miss' defense recovered four UAB fumbles and the Golden Eagle offense put up 314 yards as Head Coach Jeff Bower's team evened its record at 1-1 with a 17-12 victory over the Blazers here, Thursday, at Legion Field.

Redshirt-junior quarterback Micky D'Angelo threw for 197 yards and one touchdown on 14-of-20 passing, while running back Tim Blackwell rushed for a game-high 88 yards on 20 carries with one touchdown.

The win was the Golden Eagles' fourth in a row in the series with UAB, with all four games being decided by a touchdown or less.

The Blazers (1-1) opened the scoring just five minutes into the game when Nick Hayes booted a 30-yard field goal at the 10:01 mark.

The score remained until Blackwell's 2-yard run in the second quarter with 10:30 left in the first half. The score was Southern Miss' first touchdown of the season and capped off a 10-play, 92-yard drive that spanned 4:15.

Southern Miss added another touchdown four minutes later when D'Angelo connected with Terrell Browden on a 28-yard pass play.

UAB chipped at the lead with another field goal in the half, giving USM the 14-6 lead at the break.

Freshman kicker Darren McCaleb connected on a 20-yard field goal in the third quarter to extend Southern Miss' lead to 11.

But the Blazers struck again in the final period, benefiting from a Darrell Hackney-to-Bradly Chavez 8-yard touchdown combination.

Along with Blackwell, starter James Walley posted 28 yards rushing on 19 carries.

DaRon Lawrence led Southern Miss with four receptions for 47 yards, but Marvin Young had the most receiving yards with 64 in the game. Blackwell also added 22 yards on three receptions, while Browden finished with 33 yards receiving as well.

First-year punter Luke Johnson had a good day booting the ball, as he had a punting average of 43.7 yards on six kicks, with a long of 53 yards. He also landed three kicks inside the 20.

McCaleb connected on his first field goal of his young college career; he also was a perfect 2-for-2 on extra-point attempts.

For UAB, Hackney finished the game with 262 yards passing on 23-of-37 and had one touchdown. Bo Moncur led the team with 78 yards rushing, and Roddy White had a game-high 111 yards receiving on 10 receptions.

Defensively, Etric Pruitt led all players with 12 total tackles, including three solos, and Michael Boley had 10 tackles and two solos. Rod Davis finished with eight stops, while Ronald Jones led the team with 2.5 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks.

Final Statistics

Scoring Summary

	1	2	3	4	Final
Southern Miss	0	14	3	0	17
UAB	3	3	0	6	12

1st

UAB - Hayes 30 field goal, 10:01

2nd

USM - Blackwell 2 run (McCaleb kick), 10:30

USM - Browden 28 pass from D'Angelo

(McCaleb kick), 06:06

UAB - Hayes 33 field goal, 02:46

3rd

USM - McCaleb 20 field goal, 06:19

4th

UAB - Chavez 8 pass from Hackney

(Pass failed), 05:58

	USM	UAB
First Downs	16	19
Offensive plays	68	69
Yards per play	4.6	5.4
Rushing Att.-Yds.	48-117	32-114
Passes Att-Comp-Int	20-14-1	37-23-0
Total Offense	314	376
Return yards	21	88
Punts/Avg.	6-43.7	5-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	4-4
Penalties-Yards	7-69	3-39
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 13	5 of 14
Time of Possession	31:29	28:31

Rushing

USM - Blackwell 20-88, 1TD; Walley 19-28;

Young 1-18; Harris 1-minus 1;

Team 3-minus 4; D'Angelo 4-minus 12.

UAB - Moncur 12-78; Burks 8-27;

Rhodes 1-4; Dudley 2-3; Hackney 9-2.

Passing

USM - D'Angelo 14-20-1, 197 yards, 1TD.

UAB - Hackney 23-37-0, 262 yards, 1TD.

Receiving

USM - Lawrence 4-47; Young 3-64;

Blackwell 3-33; Browden 2-33, 1TD;

Johnson, K. 1-12; Courington 1-8.

UAB - White 10-111; Cook 3-48;

Cleveland 3-33; Chavez 3-26, 1TD;

Southall 2-4; Rhodes 1-23; Burks 1-17.

Tackles (U-A-TT)

USM - Pruitt 9-7-16; Davis 7-6-13;

Jones 6-4-10; Boley 2-8-10

UAB - Woodfin 3-7-10; Abrams 3-5-8;

McElveen 3-3-6.

Players of the Game

Offense - Chris White - Had 68 plays and graded 75 percent ... A pancake, four knockdowns and no missed assignments.

Honorable Mention - Micky D'Angelo and Anthony Harris

Defense - Ronald Jones - Had 56 snaps and graded 75 percent ... Six tackles, four assists, a knockdown, two flushes, 1.5 sacks, a tackle-for-loss and 90-plus bonus points.

Honorable Mention - Eric Scott

Special Teams - Seth Cumbie - Had two tackles inside the 20 and a tackle on kickoff cover.



Southern Miss' Rod Davis

Two-Time All-American

Butkus, Lombardi and Nagurski Award Candidate

Rod Davis
6-3, 246, r-Sr.
Gulfport, Miss.,
Gulfport HS

2003 Honors

- Currently - No. 24 Total Tackles, No. 28 Solo Tackles In Nation
- No. 1 defensive player on ESPN SportsCenter's Top 10 Defensive Players List
- No. 1 defensive player and No. 3 overall player on ESPN The Magazine's Top 100
- No. 1 defensive player and No. 2 overall among the top 150 players entering the 2003 season by collegefootballnews.com
- Walter Camp Football Foundation Player of the Year "Watch List"
- 2003 Preseason Playboy All-American Team
- 2003 First-Team All-American by The Sporting News
- 2003 First-Team All-American by Athlon Sports
- 2003 First-Team All-American by Street & Smith's
- 2003 First-Team All-American by Phil Steele's
- 2003 First Team All-American by Lindy's
- 2003 First-Team All-American by CNNSI.com
- 2003 First-Team All-American by SI.com
- 2003 Conference USA Preseason Defensive Player of the Year
- Ranked the No. 1 MLB in the nation by The Sporting News, Phil Steele's, Lindy's
- CNNSI.com's No. 1 Linebacker
- First-Team Preseason All-American by NationalChamps.net
- Double-figure tackles in 15 of 17 games and 26 out of 38 contests over his three-year career
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that leads the nation in fewest defensive touchdowns allowed over the past four seasons (73)
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that rates among the top 12 in sacks over the past four seasons

2002 Season

- Led Southern Miss in tackles with 168 (122 solo, 46 assisted)
- Led Southern Miss in quarterback sacks (10.5 – 60 yards)
- Led Southern Miss in tackles for loss (23.5 – 95 yards)
- Set the Southern Miss single-season tackle for loss record and the Southern Miss single-season solo tackle record (122) and finished second on the single-season sack list, No. 3 on the single-season tackles list and on the school's fumble recovered list
- Conference USA's No. 1 tackler and No. 1 in quarterback sacks
- Conference USA's No. 2 in tackles for loss
- No. 6 in the nation in total tackles and No. 3 in the nation in solo tackles
- Tied for No. 13 in the nation in tackles for loss
- Tied for No. 18 in the nation in quarterback sacks

Honors

- 2002 Conerly Trophy Winner - Best College Player in Mississippi
- 2002 First-Team All-American by collegefootballnews.com
- 2002 First-Team All-American by All-American Football Foundation
- 2002 Third-Team All-American by The Associated Press
- 2002 Third-Team All-American by The Sporting News
- 2001 Sporting News All-American (4th Team) as a sophomore
- 2000 Sporting News Freshman All-American (2nd Team)
- 2001 First Team All-Conference USA
- 2000 All-Conference USA Freshman Team
- Named to 2000 *Sports Illustrated's* "All-Bowl Team" as a redshirt freshman, after his team-leading, 14-tackle performance against TCU in the GMAC Mobile Alabama Bowl ... 10 of the 14 tackles were against Heisman Trophy finalist and first-round NFL draft pick LaDainian Tomlinson



Game-By-Game Statistics

2003 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Cal 9-2-11; UAB 7-6-13; Memphis 9-1-10

2002 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Jackson State 5-5-10; Illinois 9-5-14; Memphis 7-4-11; Alabama 12-1-13; Army 7-4-11; South Florida 16-3-19; Cincinnati 10-6-16; TCU 13-1-14; UAB 8-3-11; Louisville 11-3-14; Tulane 11-3-14; East Carolina 5-4-9; Oklahoma State 6-5-11

2001 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Oklahoma State 6-2-8; Louisiana-Lafayette 3-2-5; UAB 7-3-10; Memphis 9-3-12; Louisville 7-3-10; Houston 5-3-8; Penn State 3-4-7; Tulane 5-5-10; East Carolina 10-3-13; Alabama 4-1-5; TCU 9-3-12

2000 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Tennessee 2-4-6; Alabama 2-2-4; Oklahoma State 2-5-7; Memphis 4-7-11; South Florida 2-3-5; Tulane 3-8-11; Houston 2-2-4; Louisville 3-3-6; UAB 7-4-11; Cincinnati 8-8-16; East Carolina 0-13-13

Community Service

- **Real Winners Read** – Helps gather and deliver books to libraries around the area to help build the book volume in libraries for children in the area
- **Humane Society Food Drive** – Helps gather food and money to buy food and supplies for the Hattiesburg area Humane Society
- **Dubard School For Disabilities** – Serves as a mentor to children who have disabilities ... Also reads to the children at the school
- **Habitat for Humanity** – Helped Athletic Department build a house to give to a needy family as part of the program
- **Mentor for Area Schools** – Reads to children in local schools and gives speeches encouraging the kids about not using drugs and the importance of a quality education

Rod Davis' Career Defensive Statistics

Year	Solo	Asst	Total	TFL	Sacks	Int.	PBU	FF	FR
2003	25	9	34	3/7	0/0	0/0	1	2	0/0
2002	122	46	168	23.5/95	10.5/60	2/29	3	1	3/5
2001	68	32	100	10/48	3/30	2/20	4	1	3/0
2000	59	35	94	7/34	1/12	2/33	7	0	2/10
Totals	274	122	396	43.5/184	14.5/102	6/82	15	4	8/15



Southern Miss' Etric Pruitt

2002 All-American
2003 Thorpe and Nagurski Award Watch List

Etric Pruitt
6-0, 185, r-Sr.
Theodore High School
Theodore, Ala.



2003 Honors

- Currently No. 28 in the nation in passes defended
- Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week (UAB)
- No. 49 overall among the top 150 players entering the 2003 season by collegefootballnews.com
- Collegefootballnews.com second-team All-American
- Second-team preseason All-American by NationalChamps.net
- Third-team preseason All-American by Athlon Sports
- Two-year starter with 26-straight starts for Southern Miss
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that led the nation in fewest passing touchdowns given up (6)
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that leads the nation for fewest defensive touchdowns allowed over the past four seasons (73)
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that rates among the top 15 in interceptions over the past four seasons
- Southern Miss defense has finished No. 2 and No. 11 in total defense and No. 8 twice in scoring defense during his freshman and sophomore seasons. Last year as a junior, the Golden Eagles finished No. 15 in scoring defense and No. 34 in total defense

2002 Season

- Two-time Conference USA Player of the Week for his performance at Army and against Cincinnati
- Nationally ranked No. 14 in interceptions (0.50)
- Nationally ranked tied for No. 26 in pass breakups
- Nationally ranked No. 21 in interception return yardage (96)
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that finished third in the nation for fewest total touchdowns given up (19) in 2002
- In Conference USA statistics, he finished No. 3 in interceptions, tied for third in fumbles forced, third in total tackles and fourth in pass breakups
- Led Southern Miss in interceptions, pass breakups, forced fumbles, fumble recoveries and blocked kicks
- Third-leading tackler for Southern Miss with 139 (78 solo, 61 assisted) Averaging 10.7 tackles a contest
- Tied a Conference USA record with three interceptions in one game at Army and came within one of tying the Southern Miss record
- Had the key interception return for a touchdown to break a 14-14 tie game against Cincinnati and help the Golden Eagles to victory
- Seven double-figure tackle performances
- 19 tackles, eight solo and a pass breakup at Tulane
- 17 tackles, 13 solo, one tackle for loss, two forced fumbles at Alabama
- 15 tackles, including six solos against Oklahoma State in the Houston Bowl
- 14 tackles, eight solo, one interception returned 44 yards for a touchdown against Cincinnati
- 12 tackles, seven solo, one tackle for loss, one pass breakup and two interceptions against Illinois

Honors

- Semifinalist for Jim Thorpe Award
- 2002 Second-Team All-American Selection by CNN.SI.com
- 2002 Second-Team All-American Honoree by CollegeFootballNews.com
- 2002 Fourth-Team All-American Selection by The Sporting News
- 2002 First-Team All-Conference USA By Head Coaches and Media
- 2002 First-Team All-Conference USA by The Sporting News

Game-By-Game Statistics

2003 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Cal 2-2-4; UAB 9-7-16; Memphis 4-3-7

2002 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Jackson State 4-2-6; Illinois 7-5-12; Memphis 6-0-6; Alabama 13-4-17; Army 3-4-7; South Florida 9-3-12; Cincinnati 8-6-14; TCU 3-4-7; UAB 2-8-10; Louisville 6-1-7; Tulane 8-11-19; East Carolina 3-4-7; Oklahoma State 6-9-15

2001 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Oklahoma State 3-3-6; Louisiana-Lafayette 2-2-4; UAB 5-0-5; Memphis 0-9-9; Louisville 5-4-9; Houston 2-7-9; Penn State 1-12-13; Tulane 3-1-4; East Carolina 1-11-12; Alabama 1-3-4; TCU 5-2-7

2000 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Alabama 1-0-1; South Florida 3-1-4; Tulane 1-0-1; Houston 0-1-1; Cincinnati 2-0-2

Community Service

- **Real Winners Read** – Helps gather and deliver books to libraries around the area to help build the book volume in libraries for children in the area
- **Humane Society Food Drive**– Helps gather food and money to buy food and supplies for the Hattiesburg area Humane Society
- **Dubard School For Disabilities** – Serves as a mentor to children who have disabilities ... Also reads to the children at the school
- **Habitat for Humanity** – Helped Athletic Department build a house to give to a needy family as part of the program
- **Mentor for Area Schools** – Reads to children in local schools and gives speeches encouraging the kids about not using drugs and the importance of a quality education

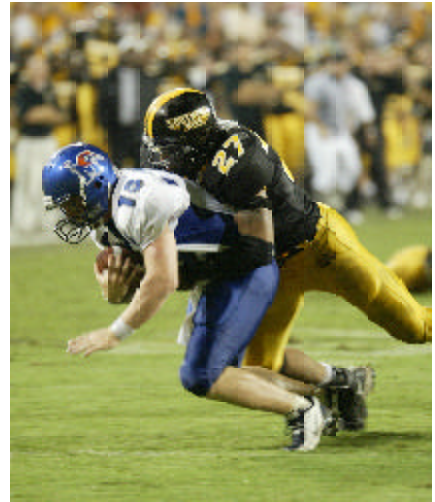
Etric Pruitt's Career Defensive Statistics

Year	Solo	Asst	Total	TFL	QB Sacks	Int	PBU	FF	FR	Blk
2003	15	12	27	1/1	0/0	1/0	4	0	2	0
2002	78	61	139	7/20	1.5/7	6/96	13	3	3	3
2001	59	23	82	2/7	0.5/1	2/16	6	0	0	3
2000	7	2	9	0	0/0	0/0	0	1	0	0
Totals	159	98	257	10/28	2.0/8	9/112	23	4	5	6



Southern Miss' Michael Boley
 2002 First-Team All-Conference USA
 2003 Butkus and Nagurski Award Watch List

Michael Boley
6-3, 218, r-Jr.
Elkmont High School
Athens, Ala.



2003 Honors

- No. 13 linebacker by collegefootballnews.com
- Collegefootballnews.com All-America Watch List
- No. 15 outside linebacker by Lindy's
- No. 36 outside linebacker by Phil Steele's
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that leads the nation for fewest defensive touchdowns allowed over the past four seasons (70)
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that rates among the top 13 in interceptions over the past four seasons
- Southern Miss defense has finished No. 11 and No. 34 in total defense and No. 8 twice in scoring defense during his freshman and sophomore seasons.

2002 Season

- First-Team All-Conference USA
- No. 27 nationally in total tackles
- No. 3 in Conference USA in total tackles
- No. 4 in Conference USA in sacks
- Tied for No. 7 in Conference USA in Tackles For Loss
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that led the nation in fewest passing touchdowns given up (6)
- Key member of Southern Miss defense that finished third in the nation for fewest total touchdowns given up (19)

Game-By-Game Statistics

2003 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Cal5-3-8; UAB 2-8-10; Memphis 13-3-16

2002 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Jackson State 10-4-14; Illinois 7-4-11; Memphis 6-3-9; Alabama 11-4-15; Army 4-4-8; South Florida 3-3-6; Cincinnati 10-3-13; TCU 7-8-15; UAB 6-3-9; Louisville 4-4-8; Tulane 12-2-14; East Carolina 7-5-12; Oklahoma State 2-6-8

2001 Game Statistics (UT-A-TT): Houston 1-0-1; Tulane 1-2-3; TCU 1-0-1

Michael Boley's Career Defensive Statistics

Year	Solo	Asst	Total	TFL	QB Sacks	Int	PBU	FF	FR	Blk
2003	20	14	34	3/14	1/11	0	1	1	2	0
2002	89	53	142	16/70	8/59	1/54	6	1	2	0
2001	3	2	5	1/5	0.5/1	0/0	0	0	1	0
Totals	112	66	181	20/85	9.5/61	1/54	7	2	5	0