

## RECORD CHASER

### MCC's Huff is rewriting the books

By Tony Tsoukalas  
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Meridian Community College women's soccer head coach Mike Smith knew he was receiving a talented player when Meridian High School forward MeMe Huff committed to play for the Eagles in the spring. Smith, who doubles as the girls soccer coach at MHS, has coached Huff since she was eight years old. But, even he is still a little surprised with just how well his freshman forward has performed this season. After two goals Saturday, including the game-winner in the Eagles' 3-2 overtime victory over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Huff increased her season total to 15 through seven games. The win brought the Eagles to 7-0 (3-0) on the season.

"Big-time players make plays in big-time games," Smith said after the win.

With 10 games remaining in the regular season, Huff is also on pace to shatter the MCC record for goals in a season at 27.

"I'm going for it," Huff said before Saturday's game. "I would really love for that to happen."

Despite the early success, Huff has been quick to deflect the spotlight, choosing instead to credit MCC's undefeated start to a full team effort.

"Kayla Phillips, one of our center mids from Clarkdale, she always places the ball perfectly where I can get it and just knock it in," Huff said. "After I score the goal, if it's her assist, I always go to her and give her a hug because she did all the

work. I just have to finish. Most of my goals were from her assists."

The Bulldogs' defense honed in on Huff on Saturday, keeping constant note of her whereabouts on the pitch and doubling her with the ball at her feet. Smith said he expects opposing defenses to continue to give her extra attention as the season goes on.

"She's a freshman, so the first time we play teams they don't know anything about her," he said. "I'm sure the second time we play these teams this year they'll be keying on MeMe. That should open some doors for other players."

If that's the case, Huff said she will be more than happy to dump the ball off to her teammates. Even as a freshman, Huff has stepped up as a leader for the Eagles this season. On top of her performance on the field, she also hosts a weekly bible study at her house every Monday night.

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### The boys (and girls) of fall play 'futbol' at MCC

Living in the Southeast (especially in Mississippi) will always be dominated by the sport of football during the fall. Fans flock to the school of their choice to show their support for their favorite team and take part in the many traditions that have become a staple of each individual program. The atmosphere on the campus at Meridian Community College is much different during the fall, but the success can't be challenged by any other junior college in the state of Mississippi.



Robby Atkinson  
Special to the Star

The Meridian Community College soccer program has enjoyed many years of success and there no signs in the near future of that success coming to a halt. The MCC women and men have recently opened the 2013 season and have been on a role since the beginning. The Lady Eagles have opened the season with a perfect 7-0 record and have won its first three games inside MACJC South Division play. The MCC men are currently playing well, winning three of their last four games. It is very easy to look at what is currently happening with the MCC soccer program, but I have always learned it is critical to revisit the roots of the program.

The men's program set the bar in the state of Mississippi and no other junior college has been able to match the success of the Eagles. The MCC men's program won the Region 23 Championship from 1994-2001 and had at least one player each season during that period to be named an NJCAA All-American. Former MCC head coach Steve Clements took the program to the highest level during the late 90's and eventually to its highest point during the 2000 season. MCC made four appearances in the NJCAA National Tournament (1997, 1999, 2000, 2001) and captured its first National Championship in 2000. MCC still remains the only junior college program in the state of Mississippi that has won a National Championship.

MCC finished the 2000 season with a 24-1 overall record and two players (Ryan Sims and Brad Wagner) from that squad were recently named members of the 2013 Class of the NJCAA Hall of Fame. MCC currently has 10

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### MCC soccer splits at home

From school reports

The Meridian Community College Lady Eagles entered its home match against Mississippi Gulf Coast having won its first six to open the 2013 season. The Lady Eagles needed overtime to slip past the Lady Bulldogs by a final score of 3-2 Saturday afternoon at C.D. Smith Field.

Former Meridian High star MeMe Huff propelled MCC to the victory with a goal in the second overtime session. Huff scored a goal in the first half for MCC to add to her already impressive total for the season. Huff now has 15 goals for the season and entered play Saturday ranked third in the

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## No. 1 Alabama beats Manziel, No. 6 Aggies

By Ralph D. Russo  
AP College Football Writer

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — AJ McCarron and Alabama were not about to let Johnny Manziel and Texas A&M get another signature win.

McCarron threw four touchdown passes, Vinnie Sunseri returned an interception 73 yards for a score — sidestepping Johnny Football on the way to the end zone, too — and

No. 1 Alabama paid back No. 6 Texas A&M with a 49-42 victory Saturday.

Alabama (2-0, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) spotted the Aggies (2-1, 0-1) a 14-0 lead, shades of last season when A&M jumped out to a 20-0 lead in Tuscaloosa on the way to victory that all but won



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the Heisman for Manziel.

"I'm so proud of our players for the resiliency they showed getting behind 14-0," Tide coach Nick Saban said. "Just slowly and methodically coming back in the game and building up the

lead." McCarron and the Tide

didn't take as long to respond this time, ripping off the next 35 points. McCarron tossed three touchdowns in the first half to put Alabama up 28-14. Sunseri's pick-6 made it 35-14 less than three minutes into the third.

Manziel was his spectacular self, throwing for a career-best 464 yards and five TDs. But a first-half interception in the end zone swung the game the Tide's way, and his third-

quarter pick and whiff on the tackle put the Aggies in a deep hole.

"I thought his play was Johnny-like," coach Kevin Sumlin said. "Anybody who's seen him play, that's about right."

Alabama's best defense was its offense. The Tide gained 568 yards and kept Manziel-pacing on the sideline with a

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## Marshall's last play TD lifts Auburn over Miss. State

By John Zenor  
AP Sports Writer

AUBURN, Ala. — Nick Marshall hit C.J. Uzomah for an 11-yard touchdown with 10 seconds left to lift Auburn to a 24-20 victory over Mississippi State on Saturday night, ending the Tigers' 10-game Southeastern Conference losing streak.

Marshall led the Tigers (3-0, 1-0 SEC) down the field with big running and passing plays in easily his best game.

The junior-college transfer completed his first five passes for 55 yards in leading Auburn 88 yards over the final 1:56. He then ran 11 yards on 3rd-and-10 before lofting the decisive throw to the right corner of the end zone.

The play was reviewed and instant replay officials ruled that the 6-foot-4 tight end, Uzomah, was pushed out of bounds, enabling him to come back.

Subbing for an injured Tyler Russell for a second straight game, quarterback Dak Prescott ran for 133 yards and two touchdowns and

passed for 213 for Mississippi State (1-2, 0-1). Russell sustained a concussion in the opener against Oklahoma State.

With the game on the line, Marshall suddenly looked like anything but a guy who's had six weeks to learn an offense.

He hit freshman Marcus Davis on three straight passes to cover 29 yards, then had a 17-yarder to Jaylon Denson. He also salvaged short gains with a couple of runs before heading out of bounds.

Tre Mason's 3-yard run pushed it to the 11 before Auburn called timeout with 15 seconds left.

Marshall was 23-of-34 passing for 339 yards and two touchdowns but was intercepted twice. He passed for just 246 yards and two TDs in his first two games as starter combined.

Marshall showed a knack for turning potential miscues into big plays. He dropped the shotgun snap, collected it on the bounce and hit a wide-open Quan Bray downfield for a

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Mississippi running back Jeff Scott (3) runs through the line against Texas safety Adrian Phillips (17) and linebacker Peter Jinkens (19) during the third quarter.

## No. 25 Ole Miss roll over Texas

By Jim Vertuno  
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Jeff Scott ran for 164 yards and a touchdown and also scored on a 73-yard punt return, helping No. 25 Mississippi roll over reeling Texas 44-23 on Saturday night.

Bo Wallace passed for two touch-



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downs and ran for another for the Rebels (3-0), who led 14-0 midway through the first quarter before Texas scored 23 straight points.

The Rebels rallied when Andrew Ritter kicked a 52-yard field goal on the last play of the first half and Wallace directed

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