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## The Daily Egyptian Football Preview, September, 2009

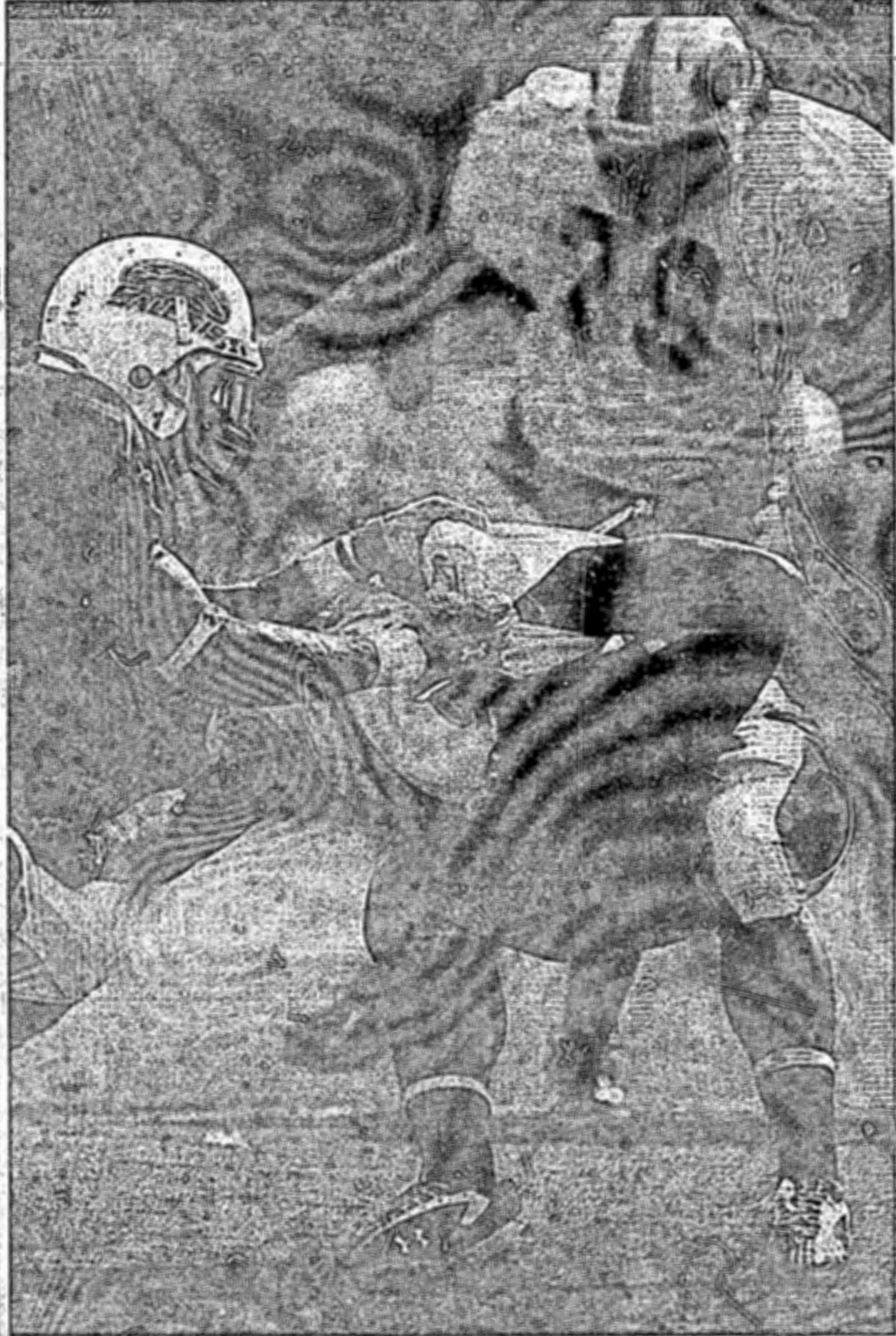
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# FOOTBALL PREVIEW



# New offensive line coach is familiar face

### Phil Meyer returns to Salukis

Derek Robbins  
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The lone new coach for the football team is not all that new.

SIU offensive line coach Phil Meyer has been coaching since 1984, but this year he returned to the Salukis, where he served as offensive coordinator under head coach Bob Smith from 1989 to 1993.

Head coach Dale Lennon said Meyer's experience, not his past with the Salukis, secured him the position.

"It was a good fit and he meshed well with all the current coaches. We just felt he was the best man for the job," Lennon said. "Really, it's his experience, and we have an experienced staff already, but bringing him in added to that experience."

Meyer has a long history to draw experience from.

He began coaching at Southeast Missouri State as an offensive line coach from 1984-1985 and took over as the offensive coordinator from 1986-1987. He went on to coach offensive line at Northern Arizona and Western Illinois (1988, 1994).

Meyer then took over as the offensive coordinator for Illinois State in 1994 before taking a job as tight ends coach for Iowa State from 1995-1997. Meyer became the quarterbacks coach for Iowa State from 1998-1999.

Meyer received a head coaching

position at division III Wisconsin-Oshkosh and served there from 2000-2006. As head coach, Meyer led the team to 31 wins in seven seasons, including a 16-4 mark in non-conference games.

Meyer was an offensive line coach for the University of Minnesota from 2007-2008.

"He has been a part of some major D-I programs," Lennon said. "He knows how the college game works."

Meyer marks the third different offensive line coach the Salukis have had in as many years. Scott Fuchs was with the team in 2008. Fuchs replaced Matt Limegrover who served seven seasons with SIU before going to Northern Illinois University to become its offensive coordinator.

Senior right tackle Shawn Smith said the changing of coaches has been tough, but beneficial.

"It's difficult to go from coach to coach each year and start over new, but you do get to acquire different skills they each teach," Smith said. "You try so many different techniques that each of the coaches gives you. One of them sticks with you and you just go from there to become a better football player."

Smith said Lennon let the offensive line interview the different coaching candidates so the team could choose the best one for its needs. The decision came down Meyer's approach to the game.

"So far we like him a lot. He is just a great guy," Smith said.

Meyer said he likes the players



JAMES McDONOUGH | DAILY EGYPTIAN  
Salukis practice line drills Wednesday in McAndrew Stadium. Phil Meyer returned to SIU this season as the offensive line coach. Meyer previously coached at SIU as offensive coordinator under head coach Bob Smith from 1989 to 1993.

and the coaches as much as they like him.

"The staff has been great to work with," Meyer said. "Coach Lennon is a real class act and a great guy to work with. The players have

no complaints at all and their work ethic is really good."

Meyer said the players are anxious for the home opener Saturday.

Coming back to SIU has gone well for the coach so far.

"It's kind of a neat deal for me to come back," Meyer said. "My wife graduated from here even, so it's been a nice transition and my kids are adapting really well. It has been a lot of fun so far."

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# MEMORIES

AT

a look at significant

### Information compiled by

Flynn Voyles  
DAILY EXAMINER  
MOUNTAIN VIEW, MISSOURI

## October 23, 1937

The first game was played at the then-named, unnamed stadium. The school was still known as Southern Illinois Normal College, and people had rarely heard of a Saluki. The athletic clubs were known as the Maroons, and they christened the stadium with a 17-0 loss to Western Illinois.

## October 1, 1938

The first official game is played at the new stadium, where Southwest Missouri State spoils the celebration by shutting out the Salukis 27-0.

## September 27, 2008

Larry Warner returned the game's opening kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown, but Northwestern tied it up later to make it one of the more exciting games in recent McAndrew history. The Panther's fumble on their own 38 set up the game-winning field goal by Kyle Daugherty. The win proved to be vital, as it was the necessary tiebreaker to put the Salukis into the playoffs in Dale Lennon's first season as head coach.

As the Salukis say hello to the 2009 season by saying goodbye to McAndrew Stadium in 1937. Throughout the years, McAndrew has many memories for Saluki fans. It's time to relive the significant moments throughout McAndrew's history.

## December 8, 2007

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco rallied his Delaware squad late at McAndrew Stadium to knock the Salukis out in the semifinals of the Division I-AA playoffs. The Salukis could not convert on their final two possessions, including a Nick Hill interception in the final minute. The game was the last for Kill, who accepted an offer from Northern Illinois the following week.

# November 1

The final regular season football game at McAndrew Stadium. Athletic Director Jerry Kill plans to get as many people back to the stadium as possible. Potential guests include Jerry Kill and his family, former Saluki players, and former Saluki coaches.

## October 11, 2003

Southern Illinois Tom Kauts becomes the all-time leading rusher in Missouri Valley Conference history with a 153-yard performance in a 45-17 victory over Illinois State. Kauts broke the record on a 35-yard run in the fourth quarter. The running back finished his career with 4,715 yards.

## August 29, 2002

The first night game at McAndrew Stadium in 29 years ended in SIU blowing out Kentucky Wesleyan. Kill was instrumental in the building of the lights, which were installed by local Union IBEW 702 at no charge. The previous lights had been inoperable after the 1973 season.

## September 22, 2001

The Murray State Racers score a game-winning touchdown with 11 seconds left to spoil the home debut of head coach Jerry Kill 24-20. Kill bounced back from his 1-10 opening season to bring a long-dormant football program back to the top of the division, leading the program to five straight winning seasons and three straight conference championships.

## 2001

Artificial turf was installed to replace the natural grass at McAndrew. The total cost of the state-of-the-art playing surface cost the team \$550,000.

December 1, 2001  
Not even Jerry Kill in the game is paired away with 1 quarter in the Division I Salukis take the

# McANDREW

Look at significant moments in the stadium's history

**October 15, 1938**

Just two weeks after their first home game at the new stadium, the Salukis won for the first time in the stadium with a 6-0 victory over Arkansas State.

**1943**

The stadium is officially renamed McAndrew Stadium in honor of William McAndrew, the organizer of the early athletic programs and the first head coach of the football program.

**October 4, 1958**

SIU made a 10-game winless streak against rival Western Illinois in the season-opener with a 32-31 victory. The Salukis scored on the final play of scrimmage, then converted the two-point conversion. Lane "Night Train" Jenkins caught the 67-yard pass from Bill Norwood to bring the Salukis within one, and then rushed in for the game-winning conversion.

to the 2009 season, they will also Andrew Stadium, their home since years, McAndrew has provided ti fans. It's time take a look back at s throughout McAndrew's history.

**October 29, 1960**

SIU clinches its first conference title in 30 years with a 66-8 victory over Eastern Michigan. The Salukis scored twice in the first 25 seconds of the game, and then set a school record with 31 points in the fourth quarter.

**October 28, 1967**

A 0-5 SIU team was given almost no chance to defeat the No. 8 Tulsa Hurricane. Linebacker Carl Mauck's late fourth-quarter interception return to Tulsa's 10-yard line set up the game-winning field goal from Ralph Gaborzy, lifting the Salukis to a 16-13 victory.

**1973**

The largest renovation to the stadium took place before the 1973 season. Additional seating was added to both sides of the stadium.

**December 10, 1983**

Not even rain and snow could derail the Salukis in the first-ever Division I-AA semifinal game in McAndrew Stadium. The Salukis pulled away from Nevada (then Nevada-Reno) with 14 unanswered points in the fourth quarter in a 23-7 victory. The win sent SIU to the Division I-AA championship, where the Salukis defeated Western Carolina 43-7 to take the school's lone national championship.

**September 13, 1980**

The largest crowd in McAndrew Stadium history, 27,150 people, comes out for Mark Hemphill Day. Hemphill was a wide receiver that suffered a career-ending spinal cord injury while attempting to recover a fumble the previous season. The injury paralyzed him from the neck down. The day was designed to raise money for Hemphill's rehabilitation. Around \$30,000 was raised, and then-governor James Thompson was in attendance as Hemphill's jersey was retired.

Hemphill's jersey was retired.

October 14, 2009

Football game is scheduled to take place. Athletic Director Mario Moccia said he'll be back for the final game as he can. Kill and New York Giants running back Saluki Brandon Jacobs.

VOYLES' VISIONS

# McAndrew deserves to go out with a bang

RYAN VOYLES  
rvoyles@slu.edu



## Stadium rich with history, leaks

Goodbyes are always tough. It is with a heavy heart and a little bit of tears that SIU fans begin their long farewell to McAndrew Stadium, the home of the Salukis since 1937.

Some students may only know it as the building across from the Student Center or that large, shabby-looking structure they see every morning as they cross the bridges from the dorms.

However, these students are missing one of the most charming buildings on campus. Sure it is not what you would call state-of-the-art or structurally solid, but McAndrew should still be viewed as an illustrious part of SIU's history.

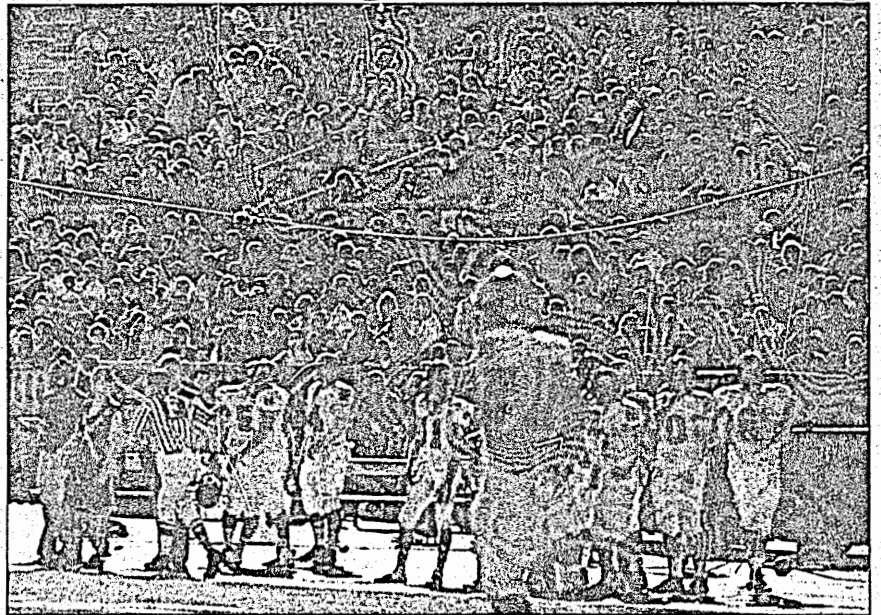
In a way it's a bit like Chicago's Wrigley Field - except there are no troughs in McAndrew.

Both have been a part of their teams since before World War II. Both have seen long stretches of ineptitude on the field. Both have small, narrow aisles with uncomfortable bench seating, but at least at McAndrew there is no threat of the overhead concrete chunks falling on you.

After this season, the Salukis will move into their new horseshoe-style stadium next to the basketball arena.

While it may never have puddles near the concession because of leaks and rain, there is something the new stadium will take years to develop: character.

Some people say McAndrew scares them, especially with the rumor the stadium would collapse if everybody were to jump at once.



JOE RHANA | DAILY EGYPTIAN  
Fans look on as there is a break in the action during the Salukis' 40-21 victory over North Dakota Nov. 1, 2008. This is the final season for McAndrew Stadium, which will host its final regular season game Nov. 14. The stadium has been home to the Salukis since 1937.

But there is definitely some personality. How else could one describe the hard, steel bench seating that clamors like the sound of a thousand buffaloes stampeding as the fans kick it when there is a critical play on the field?

Or Lew Hartzog Track, named after one of the greatest track coaches in school history. The track will need a new home next season,

as it will not carry over into the new field.

The structure of McAndrew also prevents the start of any crowd waves, how can that be a bad thing?

Then there is the long history that should not be ignored. Say goodbye to the field where the only Saluki team to win a national championship played, or the field where Jerry Kill revived a program that was long dormant

on the national scene.

So as we say goodbye to "The Mac," remember that change is not always for the better. Sure, the new stadium may be structurally sound, but that old charm that makes McAndrew so appealing will be hard to replicate.

Character is something money cannot buy.



EOTYA BLASZCZYK | DAILY EGYPTIAN

# True freshman runs with opportunity

Strother only freshman on team not red-shirted

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There are 16 freshmen on the SIU football team and all of them have been redshirted — except for one.

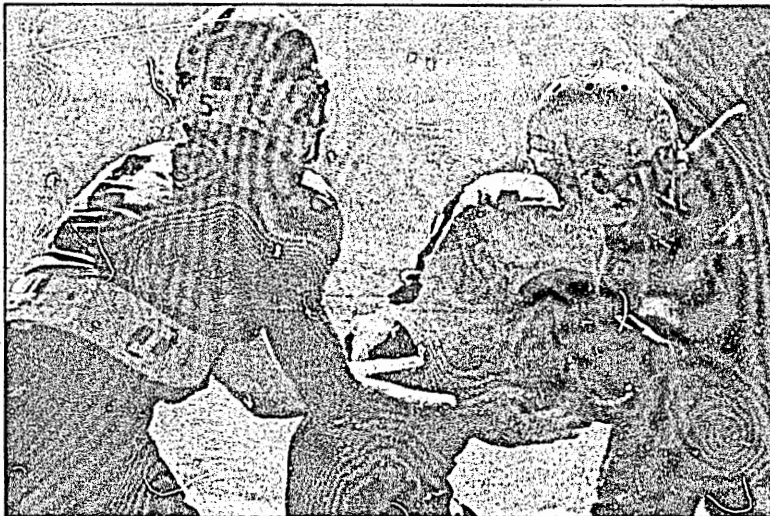
Running Back Steve Strother is the lone freshman on the Salukis to receive any playing time this season. Running back coach Steve Crutchley said he is impressed by what he sees from the freshman.

"He's got a good feel for the game. He has good hands as well so he can catch the ball out of the backfield," Crutchley said. "He is pretty dynamic and has some speed as well. We like his shiftness and his awareness."

Crutchley said as long as Strother can contribute to the play of the team, the coaches would find a way to give him some playing time.

"We're looking to get him some experience so he can help us down the road," Crutchley said. "We're not trying to put pressure on one guy though. We definitely try to coach our players and put them in a situation to be successful. We do that with all our backs, not just Steve."

Strother was a three-time first-



Freshman running back Steve Strother receives a handoff during practice Aug. 22. Strother is the only freshman on the team who was not red shirted. He gained 34 yards on five touches in SIU's 31-28 loss to Marshall Sept. 5. JULIA RINDOLEMAN/DAILY EGYPTIAN

team all-conference selection as both a running back and defensive back at Eastern View High School in Culpeper, Va. He rushed for 3,988 yards and scored 45 touchdowns.

Strother also earned second-team all-state honors and was team captain

and MVP during his high school career.

Head coach Dale Lennon said he was impressed by what he has seen out of the young running back.

"He has good speed, good balance — the things you look for in a running back," Lennon said. "He isn't the biggest running back out there, but he definitely has that explosive speed where he can just turn it on and create separation from himself and the defender."

In the Marshall game on Sept. 5,

Strother ran for eight yards on two carries. He also caught three passes in the game for a total of 25 yards, which was the second most catches and receiving yards on the team. Strother combined for 34 total yards on five touches.

Lennon said as long as Strother contributed to the team, he plans on giving him playing time. He said even though Strother showed a lot of potential, it was difficult to tell how he would perform the rest of the season.

Because Strother had a good

camp, Lennon said he is ready to compete at a high level, which his competitive high school conference helped prepare him for.

"Many times he can break a tackle and turn plays that should be dead into a big play," Lennon said. "He was able to do that at the high school level in a pretty good conference and we're hoping that's what we see from him here."

Strother could not comment because of a team policy restricting freshmen from speaking to media.

**“We’re looking to get him some experience so he can help us down the road.”**

— Steve Crutchley  
SIU running backs coach

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# Change of guard for Smith



**JAMES McDONOUGH | DAILY EGYPTIAN**  
Senior right tackle Shawn Smith takes a break during practice Wednesday. Smith made the change to right tackle after starting 38 games at right guard for the Salukis. Offensive line coach Phil Meyer said Smith has made a smooth transition.

**Derek Robbins**  
DAILY EGYPTIAN  
DORRIS@SALUKI

It's the same side of the field, but an entirely different position.

Senior Shawn Smith made the change from right guard to right tackle for the 2009 season. As a right guard, Smith started in 38 of 39 possible starts and earned the Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award, which requires a minimum of a 3.2 grade point average.

The change in positions has been a different experience for the senior.

"It's definitely different and it is definitely a change," Smith said. "I'm all isolated on the outside. It was a lot different being on my own out there. It's no problem; I'll get used to it, and with a game under my belt I know what I need to work on, and I think I'll be just fine."

Smith said he allowed a sack in the first game of play against Marshall, which the Salukis lost 31-28 Sept. 5. Smith said there was an error in communication.

"I really didn't see the guy, so it wasn't like I was beat physically," Smith said.

Along with the change of position, Smith also has a new offensive line coach in Phil Meyer — the third one in three years for SIU.

Meyer said he has only known Smith as a right tackle, and said he would not have

guessed that Smith started as a guard if he were asked.

"He is doing a really nice job at right tackle for us," Meyer said. "He knows the system real well, works hard and watches a lot of film. For him it has been a smooth transition, especially considering I didn't know him as a guard. So he has done a nice job for us."

Meyer said the offensive line as a whole has been performing well together and is gelling on the field.

"I feel pretty good about these guys," Meyer said. "Hopefully we are able to have some success running the ball this Saturday and through the rest of the season."

SIU outran the Football Bowl Subdivision's Marshall 105-72, in its first game of the season.

Smith has been with the team since 2005 and is in his final year of eligibility for the program.

The team is looking to Smith as well as the other seniors for leadership.

"The main job of these guys is to pass on the legacy. If you look at the success here at SIU in the past five or six years, there is a reason why we have been successful," head coach Dale Lennon said. "We have a certain way of doing things, and that is something that the upperclassmen are responsible with passing down. That's how we do things here at SIU."

**It's no problem; I'll get used to it, and with a game under my belt I know what I need to work on, and I think I'll be just fine.**

— Shawn Smith  
senior right tackle

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# Jordan tackles way into record books

All-Conference player leads by example

Ryan Voyles  
DAILY EGYPTIAN  
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Passing an NFL Pro Bowler in the record books was only a matter of time for Brandin Jordan.

The senior inside linebacker continued his assault on other teams and record books in the Saluki 31-28 loss to Marshall on Sept. 5,

Jordan led the team with 12 tackles, one sack and two tackles-for-losses.

The performance earned Jordan the Missouri Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Week award, the third time he has earned that distinction. Jordan's two tackles for losses gave him 30 in his career, as he passed former Saluki and New York Jet Pro Bowler Bart Scott in the school record books. Jordan is now tied for seventh all-time in tackles for loss.

Inside linebacker coach Tom Dorsch said Jordan breaks records

because he never takes a play off.

"He's a guy who has been here so long, been good all that time, it only makes sense he would break some records," Dorsch said. "(Jordan) never seems to have an off-game, he's always out there doing what he does."

Junior quarterback Chris Dieker said he loves having Jordan on the team for a simple reason: he stops teams from scoring.

"He's a well-knowledged guy. He makes a lot of plays for us, really athletic, very talented and I'm

glad he's on our side," Dieker said.

Jordan has a family history of football excellence.

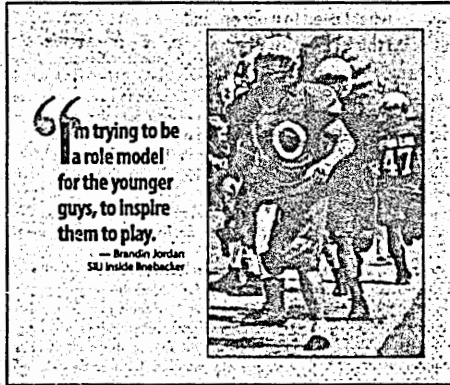
His father, Buford Jordan, was a standout running back at McNeese State, setting the then all-time rushing record for Louisiana collegiate football. Buford Jordan spent seven seasons in the NFL, scoring eight touchdowns while used primarily as a blocker for Reuben Mayes and Dalton Hilliard.

But Brandin Jordan has made his own mark in college game. He needs only 30 more tackles to crack the

top-10 for most in Saluki history. With one more forced fumble, Jordan will also enter the top-three all-time at SIU.

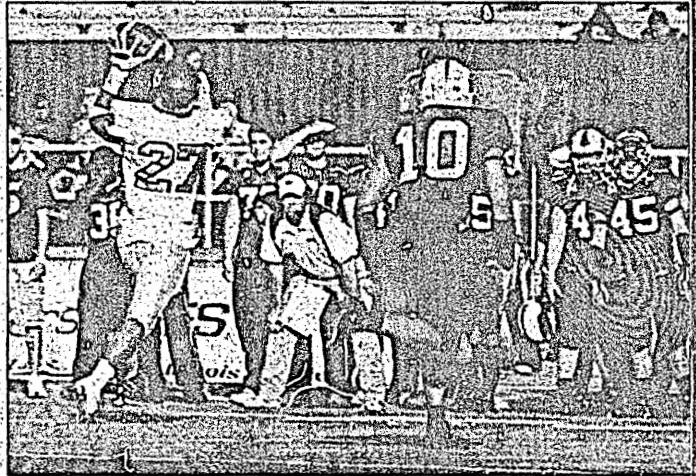
Despite all of his records, Jordan said he just wants to help the team and set an example for the younger guys.

"I'm trying to be a role model for the younger guys, to inspire them to play," Jordan said. "I know they're looking up to me for guidance in decision making, since I've been a starter since I was a freshman, I'm trying to make all the right decisions and do things right."

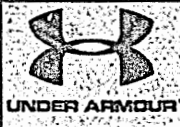


6 "I'm trying to be a role model for the younger guys, to inspire them to play."

— Brandin Jordan  
SIU inside linebacker



Joe Rehman | DAILY EGYPTIAN  
(Right) Senior inside linebacker Brandin Jordan prepares to tackle North Dakota's Josh Murray during SIU's 40-21 victory Nov. 1, 2008 in McAndrew Stadium. Jordan now has 30 tackles for loss, the seventh most in school history, passing New York Jet and former Saluki Bart Scott.



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