



THIS IS YOUR PLACE TO ASK THE COACH YOUR QUESTIONS EACH WEEK. Call or e-mail us at Ducks Illustrated after every game up till 10 am. Monday and we'll choose what we think are the best questions each week for the coach. Email to: jettwin@yahoo.com or call 342-3720 and leave your question and name.

Q: Is your team prepared for the Mississippi heat and humidity?

A: I think we're in as good as shape as we can be. We've worked real hard and practiced every afternoon in pads in the heat of the day. There were two or three times during fall camp that the humidity index was within 10 points of what it was in Starkville.

Q: How are you going to play the two quarterbacks?

A: We're going to play both. We're committed to a two quarterback system at this point, for the first couple of games I think. We'll see how it goes. Obviously performance is going to be the indicator on who plays the most. I don't know it's too important who takes the reps first in the game. We haven't decided whether it's play by play, series by series, or quarter by quarter.

We'll talk with the quarterbacks a little bit, Andy and I and sit down and visit about it. I feel comfortable and confident that gives us the best chance to maximize our potential offensively and to attack defenses in some different ways. Statistically they've been fairly even, pretty close. They each have different strengths and I'm not going to detail their strengths and weaknesses, but I really do think that each can bring

a different thing to the table and put pressure on the defense. They both deserve to play and both have done a great job of leadership and they're great kids and I'm excited because I think they've improved. I think this takes the pressure off a little bit on the initial starting thing. It just puts more pressure on performance. It's really like every other position. The kid has to go out there and perform and if they do, they continue to play and get more reps and if they don't, we give the other guy the rep. I don't think it's less pressure in a game situation but they but I think it's less pressure in that now it's "hey I know I'm going to get to play."

Q: What are your concerns about Mississippi State?

A: They're a pretty veteran team. They have 16 returning starters which is more than we do. They're solid in the kicking game. They have a veteran quarterback returning. Actually they look like us a little bit, but they have 5 new coaches and new coordinators on both sides of the ball. My biggest concern is that they come out in something that we've never seen which they could do. So, we're looking at 3 different kinds of film from last year and trying to kind of guesstimate what they are going to do. It's the unknown factor that's always true for any first game. I've said often we're probably more concerned for the first game what we do and making sure we do things well that are sound. The biggest thing is that I want us to play hard. I want us to play with energy and with purpose.

Q: You mentioned that you'd like the team to play with a "chip on its shoulder". How are they doing?

A: I see good focus. I'm pleased with the attitude of this team. They come to work. They really come to work. I mean the positives of coming out here and getting things done in a positive manner, constructive, pushing each other. We have something to prove. We know that and I think that's a great way to go into the season.

Q: What or who has been the pleasant surprises of fall camp?

A: I can point to several. Reggie Kerney has dramatically improved over last year. Junior Siavii has dramatically improved over last year. A couple of freshmen, Dante Rosario and Dan Kause are probably the biggest surprises to me. Marques Binns has improved dramatically. Paul Martinez is as advertised as punter. He has a great leg and as he refines his technique he's going to be really awesome. Those guys have been the standouts of fall camp. There are others but those guys were not necessarily people I could count on and I think I can now. Dante is the biggest surprise because we thought it'd take him a year to adjust from 2A high school football. He's a football player. He's a very good athlete. He's going to play some fullback for us. He's starting on two special teams right now and probably will be starting on four. by midseason. He has made the transition very easily and that has been our most pleasant surprise of fall camp. **O**

Fearless Forecasts

by Ducks Illustrated Staff



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