

TIGERS HOPE THE **I** HAS IT



Mickey Holmes, who handles public relations chores for the Big Eight office, can scarcely conceal his excitement when he talks about the upcoming football season.

"Almost two-thirds of last year's starters return to conference teams," he likes to point out, "including seven of the eight quarterbacks. And the 1967 race was a real donnybrook. In the 28 conference games, there was only a 6½-point spread between winner and loser."

But when he starts ticking off names, Missouri fans have reason to be something less than enthusiastic. A Tiger signal caller is not among them. In fact, the genial Mr. Holmes could have gone one step further. Not only do Missouri's seven conference foes return their quarterbacks, but so do the Tigers' nonconference opponents, Kentucky, Illinois, and Army. And at least half of them are nationally known stars, Bob Warmack of Oklahoma, Bobby Douglass of Kansas, Bob Anderson of Colorado, Frank Patrick of Nebraska, and Steve Lindell of Army.

Dan Devine, dean of Big Eight grid mentors and the fourth winningest coach in the country, seems strangely unmoved by this information; he doesn't feel lack of a proven quarterback is Missouri's No. 1 problem.

"We'll have a quarterback," he says, "and it could be a pretty good one."

Devine was hoping that someone would win the job outright during spring practice, but none of the candidates really looked head and shoulders above the others. Top spot probably will go to either letterman Garnett Phelps or junior college transfer Terry McMillan, although sophomores Guy Gardocki and Mike Farmer can't be discounted completely.

Gardocki, who runs the hundred in under 10 seconds, and Farmer, who alternated with him on the freshman team until injuring his knee, are considered above average sophomore prospects. Farmer underwent corrective surgery and missed spring practice, but he now appears sound. At any rate he battled his way to the quarter finals of the state amateur golf tournament this summer.

Both Phelps and McMillan had good springs (McMillan especially impressed the 8700 fans at the intrasquad windup), and both are good passers (and passing will be a more important

part of the Tiger offense this season). McMillan, a junior college all-America a year ago at Missouri Southern at Joplin, is considered the better runner. Devine points out, however, that McMillan has yet to play a down of major college ball and that it was Phelps who threw the touchdown pass that beat Nebraska in 1967.

"Anyway," says the head coach, "whoknows? Maybe it's a good thing we have two quarterbacks of near equal ability. They take a pretty good beating in this league."

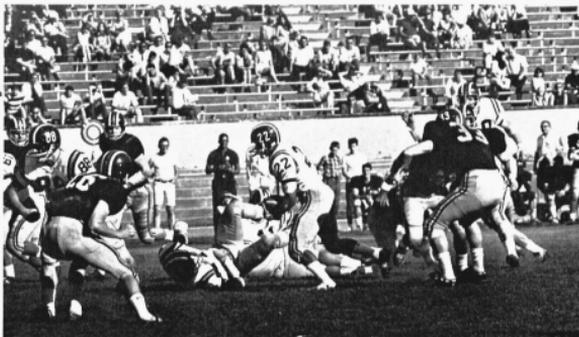
Vic Rapp, who works with the offensive ends, thinks about a different aspect of the passing game. He knows that no matter how well the ball is thrown, the yardage doesn't count unless the catch is made. A split end needs quickness and good moves, that is an ability to run the patterns. A tight end must be able to block and be an adequate pass receiver.

"Good hands help," says Rapp, "but nothing is more important than concentration. That's what it really takes to catch the ball."

In Chuck Weber, the senior split end, the Tigers have a sure-handed performer with good moves and fair speed. His willingness to block down field is a plus. On the tight-end side are Tom Shryock and Jim Juras, converted from split end. Shryock is probably a little better blocker; Juras, a little better receiver. Both are lettermen, but at 200 pounds, they aren't especially big as tight ends go. Behind Weber is a sophomore, John Henley, who owns more speed (about a 10-second hundred) than any of the others. Another possibility is Steve Kenemore, the Tiger punter. He may be moved from slot back to take advantage of his good hands and size (6-3, 195).

During the spring, the Tigers worked exclusively on the I formation, and, while Devine is not ready to say that the familiar Wing T won't be used too, he does admit that the I now is an integral part of the Missouri offense.

Hank Kuhlman, who tutors the offensive backs, is especially high on the new attack. "The I will be good to us," Kuhlman predicts. "It meets our personnel requirements and is generally effective against the 5-4 monster defenses we often meet. When we were in the unbalanced line, the monster man played the strong side and usually was right. With the I and a



1968 University of Missouri Football Roster

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CLASS	HOMETOWN	NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CLASS	HOMETOWN
10	Joe McCarthy	HB	6-1	180	Soph.	St. Louis	56	Bob Dobbs	LB	6-2	190	Soph.	St. Louis
11	Wayne Schindler	S	6-3	200	Soph.	Kansas City	57	Chris Obermark	G	6-1	200	Soph.	St. Louis
12	*Garrett Phelps	QB	5-11	180	Jr.	Louisville, Ky.	58	Mike O'Brien	T	6-2	215	Soph.	St. Louis
14	Mike Farmer	QB	6-2	175	Soph.	Jefferson City	59	John Gillespie	C	6-2	205	Soph.	Springfield
15	Alan Bush	QB	6-0	185	Soph.	Quincy, Ill.	60	John Cowan	G	6-1	200	Soph.	Springfield
16	Guy Gardocki	QB	5-11	170	Soph.	Baldwinsville, N. Y.	61	*Joe Clark	G	5-11½	205	Jr.	St. Louis
17	Craig Weaver	QB	5-10½	170	Jr.	Columbia	62	Dan Kelley	G	6-0	188	Soph.	St. Louis
18	Terry McMillan	QB	6-1	178	Jr.	Coral Gables, Fla.	63	*Sam Adams	G	6-0	202	Jr.	Midland, Tex.
21	Mal Gray	HB	5-9	175	Soph.	Santa Rosa, Calif.	64	**Carl Garber	G	6-1	205	Sr.	St. Louis
22	*Jon Stagers	HB	5-10	180	Jr.	Jefferson City	65	Adam Vital	G	6-0	200	Soph.	Houston, Tex.
23	**Roger Wehrli	HB	6-0	180	Sr.	King City	66	*Mike Carroll	G	6-3	225	Jr.	Ste. Genevieve
24	*Henry Brown	HB	6-2	190	Jr.	Middletown, Pa.	67	**Roger Boyd	G	6-1	215	Sr.	Butler
25	*Greg Cook	HB	6-0	185	Sr.	Seneca	69	*Jay Wallace	T	6-1	212	Jr.	Fulton
26	Nip Weisenfels	LB	5-11	198	Soph.	Webster Groves	70	Eric Lowder	T	6-5	220	Soph.	Kirkwood
27	George Fountain	HB	5-9	170	Soph.	Houston, Tex.	71	Darryl Haynes	T	6-2	230	Soph.	Wentzville
28	*Dennis Poppe	S	6-3	198	Jr.	Anchor, Ill.	72	Mickey Kephart	G	6-0	210	Soph.	N. Kansas City
30	Dennis Rudanovich	LB	6-1	195	Soph.	St. Louis	73	Bob Luther	T	6-0	200	Soph.	Kirkwood
31	Rex Brinkman	HB	5-11	170	Soph.	Kirkwood	74	Lynn Cox	T	6-1	225	Soph.	Memphis, Tenn.
32	*Ron McBride	FB	6-0	200	Jr.	Fulton	75	Larron Jackson	T	6-3	230	Soph.	St. Louis
33	*Jerry Boyd	LB	6-3	194	Jr.	Butler	76	Steve Mizer	G	6-0	199	Soph.	Kansas City
34	Jim Smith	FB	6-3	210	Soph.	Alsado, Ill.	77	*Jim Anderson	T	6-4	217	Sr.	Webster Groves
35	Gary Buntion	HB	5-11	178	Soph.	Kansas City	78	Ron Slihan	T	6-2	215	Soph.	Platte City
36	James Harrison	FB	6-4	230	Soph.	San Antonio, Tex.	79	Mark Kuhlen	T	6-3½	212	Jr.	St. Louis
38	Edwin Glosson	HB	5-10	170	Soph.	San Antonio, Tex.	80	John Hentley	E	5-10	170	Soph.	San Bernardino, Calif.
39	Larry Pirotte	FB	6-2	195	Soph.	Carroll, Ia.	81	Ron Stoeckel	E	6-0	180	Jr.	Belleville, Ill.
40	**"Butch" Davis	HB	5-11	190	Jr.	Chillicothe	82	John Burns	E	6-4	215	Soph.	Kansas City, Kans.
41	**Larry Moore	HB	5-11	190	Sr.	Timewell, Ill.	83	*Jim Judd	E	6-2	210	Sr.	St. Louis
46	*Joe Moore	HB	6-1	195	Soph.	St. Louis	84	Joe Hauptman	E	6-1	205	Jr.	Granite City, Ill.
46	*Steve Kenemore	HB	6-3	195	Jr.	Lee's Summit	85	*Elmer Bernhardt	E	6-3	210	Sr.	St. Louis
47	Stan Hunter	HB	6-0	190	Jr.	Joplin	86	*Jim Juras	E	6-0	200	Sr.	St. Louis
48	Tyrone Walls	HB	6-3	215	Soph.	Antioch, Ill.	87	*Bill Schmitt	E	6-3	212	Sr.	Imperial
49	John Hamilton	HB	5-9	185	Soph.	Trenton	88	**Chuck Weber	E	6-0	192	Sr.	Jefferson City
50	*Tim Crsko	G	6-0	200	Jr.	St. Louis	90	Gl Stevens	E	6-3	208	Jr.	Joplin
51	*Con Rees	C	6-2	200	Sr.	Sedalia	92	Tim Kelley	E	6-2	198	Soph.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.
52	Gene Hertz	C-G	6-3	207	Soph.	Creston, Ia.	93	*Tom Shroyack	E	6-0	200	Jr.	Fredricktown
53	Braxton Snyder	LB	6-1	195	Soph.	St. Louis	94	Chuck Colclasure	E	6-2	190	Soph.	Wood River, Ill.
54	Leonard Sparks	C	6-2	220	Soph.	Kansas City, Kan.	95	Lou Caputo	E	6-4	208	Soph.	St. Louis
55	*Steve Lundholm	LB	6-0	190	Jr.	Des Moines, Ia.	96	Ron Tegedine	E	6-2	205	Soph.	Columbia

* Indicates number of years lettered



Watching the spring windup game from the stands, a relaxed Coach Dan Devine enjoys work of his hard-hitting sophomore fullback, James Harrison, above.



balanced line, a simple audible by the quarterback can change the direction of the play, and make the monster always wrong."

Last season, the Tigers didn't pass out of an unbalanced setup often; they shifted to a balanced line. This meant additional blocking assignments to learn, both for pass blocking and for the running series necessary to make the passing attack go. The sprint-out type of pass used in '67 also was tougher to block for. This fall, the Tigers will utilize a basic drop back pass to go with their play-action pass sequences. Pass blocking, therefore, will be simplified and hopefully more effective. In fact, the I is a relatively simple formation. It has few basic plays, enabling most of the practice time to be spent on execution. And execution is the secret to a passing — or a running — game.

Another success ingredient not so secret is, of course, quality running backs. On this score the Tigers would appear to be deeper than any time since the 1965 Sugar Bowl team — although at this point, some of the depth is extremely "iffy."

At tailback, the post which gets most of the work from the I, are Jon Staggers and Greg Cook. There are bigger and faster backs than Staggers — but if his development continues,

there may be few better ones. Cook had an outstanding spring practice, and the senior letterman seems especially adapted to running from the I formation. Behind them, sophomore Joe Moore, a 190-pounder with 10.1 speed, has been shifted from slot back. And then there's Mel Gray, a transfer from Fort Scott Junior College whose consistent 9.4 hundreds (and he has been clocked in 9.3) will encourage Tiger coaches to find a place for him somewhere. Gray will be the fastest athlete in Tiger history.

In the Missouri version of the I, the fullback carries the ball more often than in most I attacks. At the same time he must be a strong blocker. Ron McBride, who played both half-back positions last year, blocks well and is an above-average runner. He may be pushed, however, by James Harrison, a 6-4, 230-pound sophomore. Although injured much of the spring, Harrison turned in a sparkling performance in the final intrasquad game. Incidentally, he runs 50 yards in 5.7 seconds; that corresponds to a 10.2 hundred.

Senior Larry Moore, a strong runner with average speed, was at fullback during the spring, but he could return to his 1967 position of right halfback (or slotback, as it's called in the I). Although he doesn't carry the ball as much as the other backs, the slotback should have run-

ning, blocking, and pass catching ability. Henry Brown is a possibility here; so is Kenemore. And here's the "iffy" part: Two junior college transfers, Tyrone Walls from Fort Scott, and Stan Hunter from Missouri Southern could play a big role — if they live up to their advance billings.

Now — lest the Tiger fan be overcome by visions of long runs and touchdown bombs — consider "what's up front." It's one reason why Devine doesn't consider quarterback the weakest point.

John Kadlec, who works with the offensive line, says his charges lack size, experience and depth, but, he adds, "they'll work hard and play with eagerness."

Kadlec hopes to get around part of the depth problem by having some players ready for more than one position. It'll work something like this: Con Rees, last year's starting center and a good one, and Jim Anderson, also a 1967 starter at tackle, should be the leaders. (Rees missed spring practice with a separated shoulder.) At the other tackle will be sophomore Larron Jackson. Mike Carroll, a '67 starter, and Tim Crnko will man the guards. They'll be backed by Joe Clark, a '67 starter, and sophomores Eric Lowder (tackle) and Gene Hertz, a brother of former Tiger star Tom. Carroll worked at tackle this spring and could go back there if the need arose. Crnko can play either center or guard; so can Hertz.

"In other words," explains Kadlec, "we're going to shift our first-line men, if someone gets hurt, rather than automatically moving up personnel from the second or third teams.

Al Onofrio, assistant head coach and architect of the defense, has somewhat the same problem: just not enough men ready to play.

This sounds a little strange when you consider that the Tigers lost only one part-time and three full-time starters from a platoon which finished second in the nation last year in defense against scoring (behind Oklahoma) and in total yardage allowed (behind Nebraska). This means that 7½ starters return.

"We lost Lee Mungai and Curtis Jones out of the interior line," reports Onofrio, "and Mungai was the most underrated man in the Big Eight. He never had a bad game." Jones has signed

a professional contract with San Diego.

At one tackle will be Rocky Wallace, who started as a sophomore last season but was hampered by a bad ankle during the spring. At the other will be either Mark Kuhlman, an unlettered squadman, or Lynn Cox, a sophomore who was voted the outstanding lineman of the spring game. He also can play guard. Carl Garber, a regular for two years, will be joined at guard by another senior, Roger Boyd, a part-time starter last year at tackle. They'll be backed by letterman Sam Adams, who can play either guard position.

This means the defensive line will be juggling players in the same manner as the offense to minimize the lack of depth. Four positions will be manned by six men, who will be shifted as the need arises.

Vince Tobin, the youngest assistant on the Mizzou staff, will help coach the defensive ends this year, and he appears to inherit the most talent. In the Missouri defense, the ends are committed 100 per cent to the rush; they have no responsibility for pass coverage. Their job is to contain the wide plays and harass the opposing quarterback. Elmer Benhardt and Bill Schmitt, both two-year lettermen, do this as well as anybody.

"They're different types, but I wouldn't trade them for anyone in the league," says Tobin. "Benny will give you the big play, and Schmitt is tremendously consistent; he's rarely beaten."

Behind these two are Jim Judd, a senior who has lettered at tight end, and Joe Hauptman, a squadman who was excused from spring practice to play baseball. A sophomore, John Burns, 6-4, 215, seems to have the tools to help, but needs work on his agility and technique.

Clay Cooper, starting his 22nd season as a football coach at his Alma Mater, has no such depth in the defensive secondary. And it takes quite a man to play there because so much of the emphasis is on man-to-man coverage.

At linebacker, the top performer of a year ago, John Douglass, is gone. Returning are two lettermen, Jerry Boyd, who started last season, and Steve Lundholm, who missed spring practice because of baseball. A sophomore, Nip

Weisenfels, was a happy surprise in the spring, according to Cooper, but except for those three, no other linebackers appear ready.

The same talent scarcity prevails in the deep secondary. Roger Wehrli, named to a couple of pre-season all-America teams, and the other wide-out halfback last year, Butch Davis, are solid. Last year's safety, John Meyer, passed up his final year of eligibility to enter medical school. Dennis Poppe, a letterman, played there this spring but needs to show improvement. Sophomore George Fountain looked good in April until slowed by a pulled muscle, and some help — the iffy kind — may be forthcoming from junior college transfer Edwin Glosson. Glosson, from San Antonio, Texas, runs the hundred well under 10 seconds.

Defense, as all Missouri fans know, is an extremely important phase of Tiger football. As Cooper says, "Dan lets us devote a lot of time and talent to it."

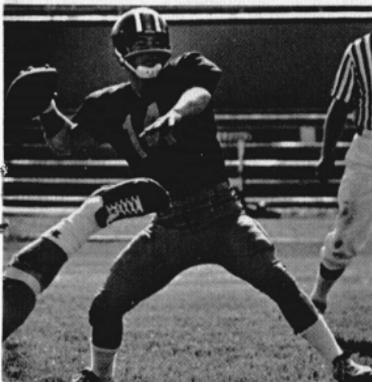
The Missouri defense also is different from most others. Onofrio calls it "reading and react" defense as opposed to the currently popular stunting and penetrating defenses (the 5-4 monster, for example). Without elaborating the technicalities, suffice to say that the Tigers use two basic defenses which are highly versatile and

yet relatively simple to learn. It's the execution that makes them work, practice and experience, experience and practice.

Reading and reacting can also be said another way: waiting until the other guy moves before you go. This requires strength, courage, confidence. And it breeds poise, the hallmark of the Devine teams.

This is one reason why Missouri sometimes has depth problems. A boy must really be ready to play, both mentally and physically — and few sophomores can immediately step in. This doesn't mean, however, that there aren't other potentially good football players on the Tiger squad.

Keith Weber, who handled the freshmen for much of last season, considers the 1967 frosh "very much above average." Besides the Harrisons and the Weisenfels and the Jacksons mentioned earlier, Weber is high on a newcomer most fans have never heard of, Steve Mizer, a converted fullback who showed well at defensive guard this spring. This is typical of several sophomores: They may not be able to help early in the season, and maybe not at all in 1968. But as they mature, they can become contributing members of the varsity, capable of playing Big Eight ball.



Guy Gardocki, left
Garnett Phelps, center
Terry McMillan, right

The Quarterbacks

Bob Frala, Mizzou's head freshman coach, thinks this year's incoming freshmen make up another good group, including the "best running backs since I've been here." As a team they might not be unbeatable because Missouri doesn't recruit by teams, but by individuals. And the Missouri staff concentrates the first year's training on school adjustment, not football.

Frala also knows how dangerous it is to single out freshmen as blue chippers ("All of these boys aren't as good as we think they are.") He also remembers last year when one of the top prospects on paper wasn't even in school at the end of the first semester.

But he does name nine boys who appear top-notchers: Charlie Barnes, a 9.8 sprinter from San Antonio who weighs 215 pounds; Scotty Bell, called the best lineman in the Kansas City area; Lorenzo Brinkley, another speedster said to be the best back to come out of the St. Louis area in the past 15 years; Mike Fink, a 9.6 back from Kansas City and the state high school 100-yard dash champion; Nick Kanatzer, a 6-5 tight end and an honorable mention all-America from Kansas City, Kan.; Bill Mauser, from Belleville, a consensus all-state back in Illinois; Chuck Roper, passer deluxe who led Brentwood to four straight undefeated seasons; Ricci Stotler, Bethalto, Ill., the quarterback with whom Roper shared all-metro St. Louis honors; and Al Todd, 240-pound tackle chosen as the top scholar-athlete in the St. Louis area.

All of this, though, smacks too much of "wait 'till next year," and the interest now is the Tigers in '68.

Prentice Gault, newest member of the Missouri staff who this time last year was the regular fullback for the St. Louis football Cardinals, will do most of the scouting for the Tigers, as well as help with the offensive backs. He saw both the Kentucky and Illinois spring games, knows that both teams pack a powerful offensive punch, and is certain that Missouri, picked no better than fourth or fifth in the conference by most persons, has a rough time ahead this season.

"We're smaller than most of the teams we'll face, but I think we have the personnel to win games. How well we do depends on how our

players answer the question, 'How much will I give; how deep within myself will I go?'"

That, of course, gets back to the chief intangible of football, effort — and at Missouri effort is needed in the classroom as well as on the field.

Ed Dissinger, who watches over the players' grades, knows this better than most. Every season there are four or five players whose summer school performance will determine their fall eligibility. It's true again this year, so Missouri's already critical depth problems could be complicated by two or three ineligibilities.

"Missouri is a long way from being a football factory," says Dissinger. "Our athletes take the same courses as every one else. And when they get their degrees — and almost all the boys who get to be seniors do — the diplomas have the same value as any other graduate's."

Football fans will remember that one of the grievances by athletes at some schools this spring was that the athletes allegedly were put in special course sequences — ones designed to maintain their eligibility, but which made the attainment of a degree almost impossible. That isn't the way it works at Missouri, so the Tigers are likely to have more grade problems than some other universities; they also are likely to end up with more student-athlete graduates.

That, of course, suits Devine just fine. Now starting his 11th year at Missouri, the Tiger coach always has put obtaining a degree the first order of business for his players. He pledged that when he started at Missouri in 1958; he also promised to build Missouri into one of the nation's consistently good teams. And he has done that, too.

Anticipating the 1968 season, the Tiger fans find it comforting to reflect on Mizzou's 60-17-4 record in the 1960's. Only Alabama has a better won-lost mark for the eight-year period.

The Tiger fan also knows it would be foolhardy to predict a conference championship. Defending title holder Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, all will be powerful entries in the balanced Big Eight. But Devine will be "awfully disappointed" if Missouri doesn't have quite a bit to say about who finally comes out on top. That's the really comforting part. □