

BULLDOG BANTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL

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The Game That Changed MSU History Forever

On March 15, 1963, five young men dressed in Mississippi State University jerseys stepped onto the basketball court in East Lansing, Mich., for a game against Loyola-Chicago that would change the state of Mississippi forever and become one of the defining moments in collegiate athletics.

Yet, it wasn't the men on this team or the players representing Loyola that changed the course of history. It was what they stood for and how they changed the perception of a racially divided state.

In that time period, the state of Mississippi shunned the idea of an all-white team playing another team with African-American players.

But after the Bulldogs won their third-straight Southeastern Championship title and were invited to participate in the NCAA tournament, they were told again they couldn't accept the bid due to an unwritten Mississippi law preventing them competing against an integrated team.

However, legendary MSU coach Babe McCarthy and his players strongly and morally disagreed with this stance, and instead chose to sneak out of Starkville and defy government officials after twice before in school history being denied a chance to accept the coveted bid.

These Bulldogs didn't see Loyola as a team with racial differences. They saw Loyola as another school with a basketball team competing for a national championship.

So with the help of university President Dean Colvard, McCarthy was able to sneak his team onto a plane to Michigan before Gov. Ross Barnett and other political leaders could serve the Bulldogs papers stopping them from leaving the state all together. Colvard and McCarthy both risked their jobs for a chance to participate on collegiate basketball big stage.

"The 1963 SEC champion Bulldogs were given the opportunity previous Mississippi State teams were denied - to compete for a national championship against the best teams in the country," MSU athletic director Scott Stricklin said. "To do so, they had to defy a sitting Governor, avoid a court injunction and sneak out of the state."

As the players stepped out onto the court that night, MSU center, Joe Dan Gold, stuck his hand out to shake the hand of his African American opponent, Jerry Harkness, Loyola's center. It was a moment that will never be forgotten, and a time the NCAA says is one of the top 25 events in collegiate sports.

The Loyola Ramblers went on to defeat the Bulldogs 61-51 en route to winning the national championship. However,

in the eyes of many the significance of the game had more meaning than the outcome.

"I am honored to be part of this game that recognizes the 50 year anniversary of a historic game that needs continued recognition and the story to be re-told to a younger generation," said first-year MSU coach Rick Ray said, who this past April became the first African-American basketball coach in school history.

On Dec. 15, these two teams will meet for the first time since that historical night in 1963 to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of game. Players from both teams will be recognized as they were in 1963, but with far fewer consequences.

"I wanted this game to happen regardless of the location because of how important it is to both Mississippi State's and Loyola's basketball legacy," Ray said. "This game will be a great experience for our players as they learn about the significance of that 1963 NCAA game against



these two storied programs."

The MSU players from 1963 will forever hold a place not only in the record books, but also in the heart of all State fans. They will always be remembered for their courage and love of the game. Some of the most known players from the MSU team include captain Joe Dan Gold, Leland Mitchell, and W.D. (Red) Stroud.

After the game against Loyola, Mitchell was chosen as the first Bulldog ever to be apart of the NCAA Tournament Midwest All-Regional team. Gold also went on to become State's head coach in 1965 after the resignation of McCarthy.

This game not only affected the athletic teams at MSU, but the students as well. That night will forever live in the hearts of the students on campus as a symbol of great strides taken in the fight for civil rights in Mississippi and across the nation. It is even harder to believe that those young men who decided to risk everything were merely young college students, the same that walk the Starkville campus today.

"Without that important night who knows where our University would be today," Lee VanHorn, a senior at MSU, said. "Those players had more courage 50 years ago than most students today could ever have. They should be role models for all of us as at Mississippi State."

The game that took place between MSU and Loyola University was and will always be more than just a basketball game, but a change in life. This game will forever be one of the most important events ever to happen to Mississippi State University as it helped unite two different races at a time when that wasn't the norm.



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MAUI INVITATIONAL 2012



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT



Gavin Ware

• Fr • Center •
Starkville, Miss.

Q: What was your favorite part of the Hawaii trip?

A: The beach, and being able to play against players I've seen on TV and look up to.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: Fast Five

Q: Which SEC arena are you most looking forward to visiting this season?

A: Kentucky's Rupp Arena

Q: Who is your all time favorite basketball player?

A: Dirk Nowitzki

Q: What is your favorite thing about MSU?

A: Basketball and the academics.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS: CAPTURING OVERALL SEC CROWN MISSISSIPPI STATE AT ALABAMA MARCH 6, 2004

Unbelievable. In one word, legendary play-by-play man Jack Cristil fully captured Mississippi State's epic clash with Alabama in the 2004 regular season finale.

For the Bulldogs, the stakes could not have been any higher on that Saturday in Tuscaloosa. With a 13-2 SEC record, MSU was one win away from claiming its first outright SEC Championship since 1963. Rick Stansbury's squad was undefeated in road games, and the team's two losses were by a combined margin of five points. One of those defeats, however, came at the hands of the Crimson Tide, so the Maroon and White looked to gain a measure of revenge in the matchup.

Alabama quickly built a huge lead on the Bulldogs and was in total command of the game. MSU trailed by 16 points after 31 minutes of basketball, and the hopes of a conference championship looked very bleak. But there's a reason why they play the full 40 minutes.

Suddenly, the Bulldogs began to heat up from beyond the arc. Three



three pointers cut the Crimson Tide lead in half with more than six minutes to play.

Mississippi State then went to their low post players in Branden Vincent and Winsome Frazier, both recorded two lay-ins, and the game was tied with three minutes to go after a 19-3 run. Still, Alabama seemed to weather the storm and led by five

with 25 seconds to play. But senior guard Timmy Bowers refused to let the Dawgs lose this game.

Bowers quickly drained a three, and the lead cut to two. Alabama missed a free throw, which gave MSU a chance in the waning moments, and Bowers drained a leaner with 1.2 ticks on the clock to send the game into overtime.

The Crimson Tide quickly gained a 79-75 advantage early in the extra period, but Mississippi State again fought back. After a Bowers lay-in and a Gary Ervin three-pointer, the Bulldogs finally took the lead.

However, two free throws put Alabama ahead by one point in the final minute. With 19 seconds remaining, the ball was once again in the hands of Timmy Bowers. With a defender in his face, Bowers banked in a baseline shot with one second to go, giving the Mississippi State the 82-81 overtime victory. The Bulldogs were SEC Champions.

Unbelievable.

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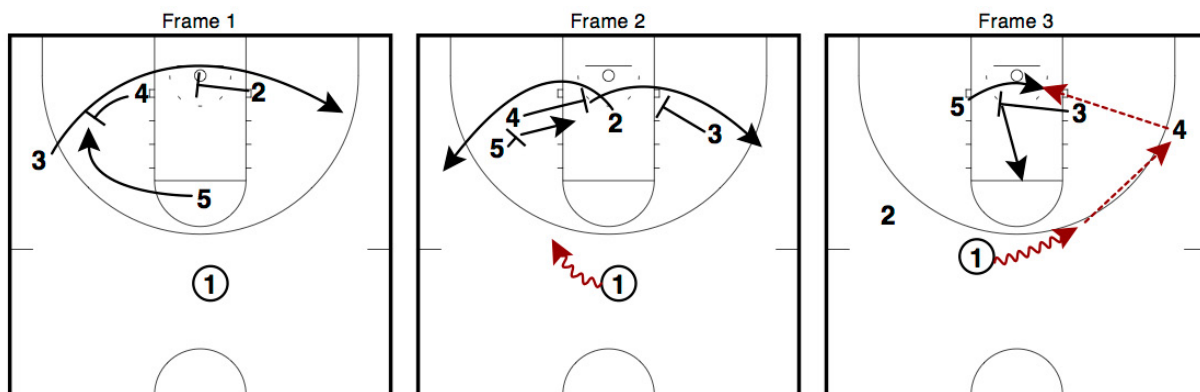
MISSISSIPPI STATE



PLAY OF THE MONTH

"X Action"

The December play of the month comes to you from Mississippi State's November 4th exhibition match-up with William Carey University. The Bulldogs won the game 80-74 due to well excuted plays like the one below. Our play of the month offers quick a hitter with multiple "screen the screener" actions. The 1st screen the screener action comes with the 2 coming off a double stagger following his screen for the 3. The 2nd one comes with the 4 receiving a screen from the 3 following his screen on the 2 in the double stagger. Finally, the last screening action is the 5 receiving a block to block cross screen from the 3.



[Click here to see the Play of the Month](#)

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Progression (Transition Drill)

This drill is a competitive drill that works on scramble defense and advantage basketball on the offensive side of the ball. This drill starts off with 2 teams. One team (white) shooting a free throw and the other team (maroon) has two defensive players lined up for a free throw. If the defensive players rebound the ball, they push the ball on a 2-on-1 break, with maroon having 2 players and white having 1. Then after that break, 2 more white team players will come in and they will have a 3-2 break. After that break, 2 more maroon players will come in and they will have a 4-3 break down the floor. After that break, 2 more white players will come in and they will have a 5-4 break down the floor. The final break down the floor, 1 more maroon player will come in and they will have a 5-5 break down the floor. Main thing to remember is that the offensive team will always have one more player than the defensive team, except for the final break down the floor. The scoring for this drill is 1 point for any basket, no matter if it is a 2 or 3 pointer, and 1 point for a foul in the act of shooting. The duration of this drill can be 5 minutes, or until everybody on both team's shots of free throw to start of the drill.

[Click here to see the Drill of the Month](#)

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING DRILL OF THE MONTH

Partner Med Ball Toss

The key to building a strong athletic base lies in the basics of strengthening the core of the body. The core is activated through out an entire lifting session but can be specifically targeted by performing abdominal exercises. The core is generally thought of the muscles that provide support for the spine, provide stability, and also help generate power during athletic movements. The primary muscles in the abdomen region used during core movements are the rectus abdominis, internal and external obliques, and erector spinae. One of the best ways to work the core is with a med ball. The following exercise sequence engages all of the abdomen muscles listed above. It can also be manipulated in several ways, for example the number of sets or reps along with adding or taking away additional movements.

[Click here to see the Partner Med Ball Toss](#)

2013 CAMPS

TEAM CAMP
MAY 31ST - JUNE 2ND

INDIVIDUAL CAMP
JUNE 3RD-JUNE 6TH

DAY CAMP
JULY (TBA)

DID YOU SEE?

**SIXERS: Collins Turns
Moultrie Loose**

**Moultrie Likely to get
More Playing Time**

**JARVIS VARNADO; We
Were Wrong**

Mini Season Ticket Package
9 games for \$99. All five non-conference and all Wednesday SEC games are included in this deal. Tickets can be purchased online at HailState.com/tickets or by calling 888-GO-DAWGS.



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MISSISSIPPI STATE COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Question of the Month

Q: Is it possible for a student-athlete to receive complimentary admissions to allow for guest to attend the institutional event in which he or she participates?

A: Yes, an institution may provide four complimentary admissions per home or away intercollegiate athletics event to a student-athlete in the sport in which the individual participates. Complimentary admissions shall be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. "Hard tickets" shall not be issued.

[Click Here for Question of the Month Archives](#)

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

DATE	TEAM	TIME	TV
1-Dec	at Providence	11 am	ESPNU
4-Dec	Texas San-Antonio	7pm	
15-Dec	Loyola-Chicago	7pm	ESPN3
22-Dec	Central Arkansas (Jackson)	2pm	
30-Dec	Alabama A&M	3pm	CSS

DECEMBER 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31					1
2	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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