

## The Cows come home to Michie

The class appellation that is least well known is how juniors came to be known as Cows. Supposedly it has something to do with the old phrase about the cows coming home; so with that in mind, let's take a look at the Cows returning to play football at Michie this season.

Twenty-one members of the class got the chance to play as plebes on the Army team, a fact that pays off this year in considerably more experience than one normally expects from a group of juniors. A few have left since then, but most are back and ready to take on a stronger leadership role this season. They are joined by a handful of players who made their marks last season and have moved up to earn starting roles.

While the depth charts are not firm at this point, it's likely that 7 members of the Class of 2015 will start on offense and 4 will start on defense. Another two are expected to receive significant playing time on offense and another 4 on defense.

Most of these names should already be familiar to Army fans, but I've provided a summary of their achievements to date and a look at what to expect from them this season.

### ***Grizzled Veterans***

This includes all the players who have already earned 2 Varsity Letters along with a few others that started enough games last year to qualify as grizzled veterans. Most of these guys will be starting this season, but several will play key roles in reserve of on special teams.

**#6 Geoffrey Bacon** (Free Safety, 24 games with 17 starts) started his career on special teams but won the starting role at MLB the last 5 games of his plebe year. He was the third leading tackler on the 2011 team with 60 tackles. He was the leading tackler on the 2012 team with 134 tackles, and was named to Phil Steele's All Independent and Fox Sports All Service Academy teams. This spring, the staff decided to try him at Free Safety, and then made the move permanent in pre-season. He is generally considered the best man on the defensive team this year. (STARTER)

**#26 Larry Dixon** (Fullback, 23 games with 15 starts) took over starting job at fullback from Jared Hassin in 2011, and finished as the 4<sup>th</sup> leading rusher on the team with 542 yards and an average of 6.2 yards/carry. In 2012 he finished 3d on the team in rushing with 839 yards and an average of 6.0 yards with 6 TDs and 5 hundred-yard games. He suffered a hamstring injury in the Kent State game, which kept him out of the EMU game and may have kept him from a 1000 yard season as Tippet filled in for the entire EMU game and most of the Ball State game. Dixon is one of the recognized leaders on this year's team, and I look for him to pursue that elusive 1000 yard season, although he will

get a lot of help from Tippett at FB to keep him fresh. Dixon was named to Phil Steele's pre-season All Independent 2d Team (STARTER)

**#52 Ryan Powis** (Center, 20 games with 18 starts) earned the starting assignment at center in his 4th game as a plebe and played well enough to earn a spot on the watch list for the *Remington Award* given to the best center in FBS football each season in both 2012 and 2013 and was named to Phil Steele's All Independent 3d team and Fox Sports All Service Academy 1st team. (STARTER)

**#21 Chevaughn Lawrence** (Wide Receiver, 22 games with 11 starts) returns this year as the leading receiver from last year's team. He appeared in 8 games his plebe season and caught just one pass for 9 yards. Last season he started 11 games and caught 21 passes for 357 yards. The competition for playing time at WR will be stiff this year with two very good plebes joining a group of 3 other returning WRs with starting level experience. (STARTER)

**#9 Hayden Pierce** (SAM or Cornerback, 16 games with 16 starts) started 10 games as a plebe and recorded 32 tackles including 3 tackles for loss. He broke a collarbone about midway through the 2012 season, which limited him to 6 games and only 14 tackles in 2012. He underwent surgery for his shoulder in the off season, but is listed as a co-starter at SAM (strong safety) or Boundary Cornerback this season. (STARTER)

**#70 Steve Shumaker** (Left Guard, 15 games with 12 starts) had a breakout season last year, and is the only returning offensive lineman to start all 12 games last season. He was named to Phil Steele's pre-season All Independent 2d Team. Despite having earned only 1 VL, his stellar performance last year warrants consideration as one of the grizzled vets. (STARTER)

**#31 Terry Baggett** (A Back, 5 games with 4 starts) was unable to realize his full potential the first two years due to injuries. In 3 games with two starts his plebe year, he ran for 53 yards in 10 carries with 1 TD before being sidelined with a broken toe. He started the first two games of the 2012 season with a bang, with a 100 yard game and a TD against SDSU and 38 yards in three carries against NIU before a broken kneecap sidelined him for the remainder of the season. He was averaging a whopping 8.6 yards per carry at that point. (STARTER)

**#10 Trenton Turrentine** (A Back, 13 games with 6 starts) has been filling in for Terry Baggett at A back in the pre-season and will most likely see a lot of action in reserve. Like Terry, he has been limited by injuries his first two seasons, but is expected to have a breakout season this year if he stays healthy. He was sidelined after the first two games of his plebe season and finished the year with 98 yards in 28 carries for an average of 4.7 yards per carry. He was the primary backup to Malcolm Brown last season and rushed for 177 yards with a 6.1 yards per carry average. It's useful to think of Baggett and Turrentine as a combo at A back with a combined 18 games and 10 starts. Turrentine was out with injuries when Baggett got his starts, and vice versa. Hopefully, they'll both stay healthy this season and provide a one-two punch at A Back.

**#27 Stephen Fraser** (C Back, 18 games with 2 starts) has been the primary backup for Raymond Maples at the C Back position the last two seasons. In 2011, Stephen appeared in 6 games with two starts and rushed for 77 yards in 14 carries, and in 2012 rushed for 40 yards in 10 carries. He was also the primary kick return specialist at the start of last season, but was replaced by Julian Crockett after his second fumble.

**# 98 Richard Glover** (Nose Tackle 13 games with 6 starts) is competing for the starting assignment and playing time with sophomore TJ Altimalala and plebe Ammon Tuimaunei. Two years ago, with the departure of Mike Gann, Ellerson abandoned the NT alignment in favor of two DTs. Glover was considered as a candidate to replace Gann at NT, but wasn't up to the job at that time. He played in only 3 games with 2 total tackles. In 2012, he played in 10 games at DT and chalked up 27 total tackles including 7.5 TFLs and 2 Sacks. He also recovered one fumble.

**#3 Angel Santiago** (Quarterback, 6 games with 1 start) rebounded from a mediocre yearling year to move ahead of AJ Schurr at the #1 spot on the depth chart in the pre-season. In his plebe year, Angel played in 4 games with one start against Rutgers after he replaced Max Jenkins as the primary backup for Steelman. In those four games he rushed for 162 yards and a 3.9 average and completed 7 of 21 passes. He began last year as the primary backup to Steelman but lost out to Schurr when he appeared indecisive in his brief opportunities in the SDSU and Wake Forest games. He finished the season with only 12 yards in 8 carries. Over the summer he's worked hard on his deficiencies and apparently outperformed Schurr in the early pre-season to take over the lead in the competition for the starting job at quarterback. (STARTER)

**#2 Lamar Johnson-Harris** (Field Corner Back, 11 games with 10 starts) played in 11 games as a plebe with 9 starts. Recorded 20 tackles, 1 INT and a pass breakup. Sat out his entire yearling year with an injury, but returned in the spring where he replaced Avery at the starting CB spot for most of spring training. He does not have the size or speed of other CBs on the team, but his game experience makes him a valuable backup to an outstanding plebe named Jenkins.

**#4 Marques Avery** (Field Corner Back, 7 games with 5 starts) Sat out his plebe year with injuries, but played in 7 games last season with 5 starts and recorded 10 total tackles last year. Avery's career has been hampered by shoulder injuries and he had surgery in the off season and missed spring practice. Avery is probably the fastest of our DBs but doesn't have a lot of experience; so missing spring practice was a major setback for him. If he gets healthy, he'll be competing with classmate Johnson-Harris and the outstanding plebe CB, Jenkins for time.

**#55 Colin Linkul** (Quick End, 21 games with no starts) is one of the backups at the Quick End position this year. At 6' 0" and 188 lbs, he's described as an undersized but explosive athlete along the defensive line. He's used primarily in passing situations, where his speed off the line enabled him to lead the team in QB sacks plebe season and finished third in sacks as a yearling. He is likely to be used in that role again and may

also see action on special teams. The Special Teams coach was seen working with him on blocking kicks.

**#92 Mike Ugenyi** (Defensive Tackle, 12 games with 6 starts) played in all 12 games with 6 starts last season, and recorded 13 tackles and 1 fumble recovery. He's listed 3d on the depth chart behind Bobby Kough and will most likely be used in reserve.

**#99 Bobby Kough** (Defensive Tackle). Kough (pronounced Cow) did not start his career with the Class of 2015 and may in fact be a member of the Class of 2014, but he's a football junior; so I'll at least mention him here. Kough missed his sophomore season when he went home to be with his family after the death of his father, but he returned to start all 12 games at DT last season. He started the season a little slow but improved enough over the course of the season to earn a spot on the pre-season All Independent and All Service Academy teams. He led all defensive linemen in tackles with 42, tackles for loss with 9.5, and was second only to Glover in sacks with 1.5. He's a weight room junkie and added 20 pounds over the off season and expects to play at somewhere between 260 and 265. He is generally recognized as the leader of the defensive line. (STARTER)

**#42 Julian Holloway** (LB, 14 games with no starts) missed most of spring training but is third on the depth chart at MLB and should see some action this year in reserve. He is one of the veterans on special teams.

### ***Late Starters***

Several members of the Class of 2015 made their debuts as yearlings and earned starting assignments. These relative "new guys" have moved up to starting roles this season.

**# 54 Joe Drummond** (Bandit Tackle, 10 games with 1 start) was a direct report plebe and appeared in just one game and did not earn a VL his plebe year. He played in 10 games last year with one start and moved to #1 on the depth chart in spring training. Drummond is small for a DT at 238 pounds, but this is the same position that Mackey played at 235 pounds in 2010. (STARTER)

**#43 James Kelly** (Whip LB, 11 games with 3 starts) made his college debut as a Quick End last year and appeared in 11 games with 3 starts including a start against Navy. He was moved to Whip LB in spring practice and started the opening game at Whip. (STARTER)

**#55 Nick Bennett** (Left Tackle, 2 games with no starts) is one of two "rookies" on the Army offensive starting line this season. He played in two games as a reserve last year, just enough to earn his varsity letter. Earned the #1 spot on the depth chart in spring training and is expected to start some games at LT this season. (STARTER)

### ***Reservists***

These guys all earned their varsity letters last year and are expected to contribute as reserves/special teams this season.

**#20 Lawrence Scott** (A Back) played in 6 games last year and earned a VL. He was third on the spring depth chart at A Back behind Baggett and Turrentine, and is being used on special teams as a punt blocker.

**#32 Steve Ricciardi** (LB/FS 9 games with no starts) started career as a linebacker, but was switched to free safety in spring practice. So far his playing time has been limited to special teams in 8 games last year, but he's listed on the depth chart as a backup for Bacon at FS as well.

**#94 Derek Sanchez** (Quick End, 5 games with no starts) made his college debut last season appearing in 5 games with 1 recorded tackle. He's listed third on the spring depth chart at Quick End.

**#19 Tony Giovanelli** (RB/WR, 6 games with no starts) saw action in 6 games on special teams last year but did not figure statistically.

**#85 Justin Newman** (WR, 4 games with no starts) appeared in 4 games last season. Newman is reputed to be one of the fastest of the WR corps.

### ***Brand New Guys (Plebes)***

While the theme of this report is our affiliation class, I thought some of you might enjoy hearing a few words about the incoming plebes on the team as well. Last year I predicted that no plebes were going to make the starting team and 4 managed to make it; so you never can tell. Look for at least two plebes to make an immediate impact either as starters or as early backups.

On offense, the guy to look for is **Xavier Moss**, a big WR with enough speed and the hands to be a real deep threat. He may win the starting role ahead of Laird, but if not, he will see significant playing time, especially in passing situations. This guy is the real deal and will keep the opposing DBs honest this year. We only passed for 3 TDs last season, but with this guy at WR and a better passing QB, that number should go up considerably. Don't expect us to pass a lot more, just more effectively.

On defense, the guy to watch for is **Josh Jenkins**, a talented corner back who was defensive player of the year at USMAPS. He has all the skills, but still has to adjust to playing at D1 level. He may win the starting role over Avery, who is still recovering from shoulder surgery and Johnson-Harris, who has the experience but not as much size or speed.

Other plebes to keep an eye out for: **Ammon Tuimaunei** is probably the best natural Defensive Tackle we've recruited in years. At 6'3" and 275, he's already as big as Mike Gann was as a senior, and Mike started out at 240. Another big boy, **Lofi Tomasese**, is

likely to stay in a reserve role as the backup for Powis at center. **Jalen Noble** is the son of a former Army player who initially opted for AFA but while in Prep school decided he belonged at Army. Noble will likely see some time as a boundary CB but more likely as a punt returner. **Edgar Allan Poe** is a name that most academy grads can relate to, and he's another WR with the size and speed to get some playing time despite a plethora of veteran WRs this season.