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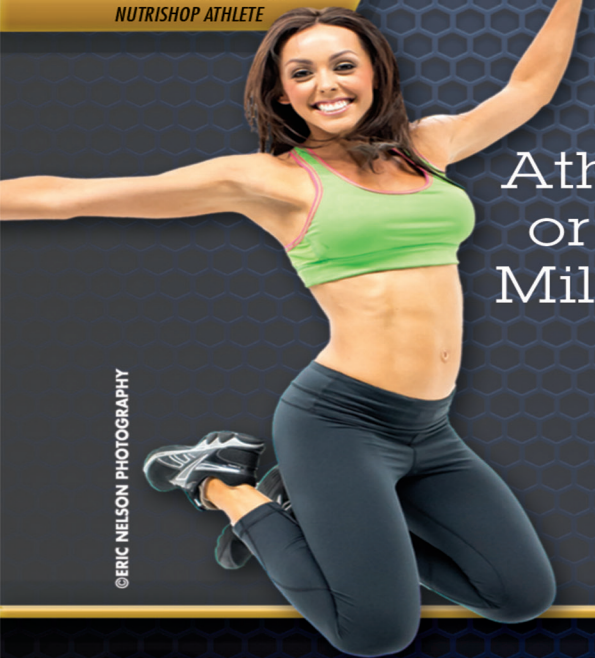


FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2014



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AGGIE FOOTBALL 2014



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UTAH STATE POSITION

Quarterbacks:

Chuckie Keeton returns to lead the team into his senior season. Nominated to the Heisman Trophy watch list, Keeton ranks first all-time in school history in career completion percentage (.665) and second in career touchdown passes (56). Prior to his season-ending knee injury in 2013 Keeton completed 136-of-196 passes for 1,388 yards and two touchdowns and added another 241 rushing yards also resulting in two touchdowns.

Darrell Garretson, now with more experience after filling in for the injured Keeton in 2013, is more than capable of stepping up to complete games. In 2013 Garretson won his first five starts at quarterback, a new school record. He completed 126-of-209 passes for 1,446 yards, a new freshman record.

Behind Garretson, senior **Craig Harrison** will be available in case the injury bug strikes again. Harrison made his first and only career start in 2013 against Boise State. Harrison played in nine games last season and completed 35-of-74 passes two of which resulted in touchdowns.

Running Backs:

After a disappointing injury ended **Joe Hill's** 2013 season early, the senior looks to come back stronger than ever. Mentally and physically tough, Hill will add some leadership on the field in addition to his rushing and pass-catching abilities. In the five games that Hill started he rushed for 252 yards on 53 touches averaging 4.4 yards and scored one touchdown.

Junior second string running back **Rashad Hall**, listed at 6 feet 1 inch tall and 200 lbs, brings speed and power to the position and adds depth to the Aggie running core. Hall redshirted his first season at Utah State after transferring from Contra Costa College where he averaged 127.5 rushing yards a game.

Kennedy Williams, the sophomore younger brother to former Aggie Kerwynn Williams, is a quick and dynamic player that played as a true freshman last year and will likely see more opportunities to shine this year. In his first season as an Aggie Williams played in 10 games and rushed for 68 yards averaging 3.2 yards per carry.

Wide Receiver:

Brandon Swindall is a junior wideout that stood out last year and will only be better this season. At 6-foot-4, he will be one of Chuckie's favorite end zone targets. Swindall started five of the 13 games he played in last season. He finished the season with 29 receptions for 285 yards and a team-leading six touchdown receptions.



Jojo Natson is a lightning-quick receiver in his junior season who played in all 15 games last season starting eight of them. He completed the 2013 season with 59 receptions for 395 yards and three touchdowns.

Ronald Butler should be counted on for big plays in this his senior season. He ended the 2013 season with 24 receptions for 346 yards and three touchdowns of his own.

There's a stockpile of options and depth at wide receiver this season, including newcomers Braelon Roberts (FR) and Hunter Sharp (JR), as well as Damonte Patterson (FR), Shaan Johnson (SR), Devonte Robinson (JR) and Hayden Weichers (FR).

Tight End:

After starting three games last year for the injured D.J. Talavea, sophomore **Wyatt Houston** is ready to roll. He finished the 2013 season with seven catches 118 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior **Jefferson Court** is recorded at 6 foot 3 and 238 lbs and played in all 14 games last year. Court switched positions from linebacker to tight end in 2013.

Landon Horne is a sophomore transfer from Snow College where he had 39 catches for 406 yards and five touchdowns. Court and Horne are both capable of getting starts this year as well.

Offensive Line:

After losing four starters from last year's team at arguably the most overlooked position, the Aggies will be looking to senior left tackle **Kevin Whimpey** to protect Chuckie Keeton's blind side as well as lead the rest of the group by example. Starting every game in 2013 Whimpey finished the season with 35 tackles, including a season-high eight against BYU.

Don't be surprised to see **Bill Vavou** at left guard, **Taani Faisalau** at right guard and **Jake Simonich** at right tackle. **Austin Stephens** got the start in Knoxville and performed well. There is always room to improve along the offensive line, made especially apparent in the season opener versus the Volunteers.

Safety:

Utah State is fortunate to have an excellent returning starter in **Brian Suite**, who was named to the 2014 Pre-season Jim Thorpe Award watch list. He's been reliable for the past two seasons and his experience will be crucial to the 2014 squad, with a lot of less experienced safeties waiting in the wings. In the 2013 season Suite recorded 77 total tackles (37 solo, 40 assisted). He

BREAKDOWN 2014

also recorded five interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

Opposite Suite is **Frankie Sutura**, a player that is aggressive and goes hard every play. Sutura recorded 29 tackles (10 solo, 19 assisted) in the 14 games he played in in 2014. He had his first career interception against Hawai'i which he ran back for 61 yards.

Other safeties that have the potential to make an impact this season include Devin Centers, Myron Turner and Marwin Evans.

Defensive Back:

After having guys like Nevin Lawson (drafted to the Detroit Lions), Maurice Alexander (drafted to the St. Louis Rams), Tay Glover-Wright (signed free agent contract with the Atlanta Falcons) and Quinton Byrd (signed free agent contract with the Kansas City Chiefs) leave for the NFL, the defensive secondary could quite possibly be the biggest mystery.

Sophomore Tennessee transfer **Daniel Gray** is ready to play after redshirting last year. At Tennessee Gray played in eight games as a true freshman and recorded six tackles (1 solo, 5 assisted) in the season.

Utah State often uses five or six defensive backs at a time, so there will be lots of chances for more guys to make an impact. Another name to watch is sophomore **Marquan Ellison**. Guys that could be covering slot receivers or be seen in nickel packages also include talented freshman Jalen Davis, along with Bryant Hayes, Tyler Floyd and Deshane Hines.

Inside Linebacker:

Arguably the strongest position on the entire team, the Aggies are led by **Zach Vigil** and **LT Filiaga**. These two have proved that they aren't just good, they are dominant. The Aggie defense is consistently one of the best in the country because of the strong linebacker corps. Vigil started all 14 games last season where he recorded 124 tackles, 47 solo and 77 assisted.

Behind Vigil and Filiaga there is an abundance of experience with La'Bradford Harold and Jarom Baldomero returning.

Outside Linebacker:

The obvious leader in this position group is junior **Kyler Fackrell**, a player that—prior to the Tennessee game—was a preseason All-American candidate and had played and started the last two complete seasons. However, Fackrell could be done for the year after an injury against Tennessee in the season opener. Fackrell is tied for ninth in Utah State history in interception return



yards with 125 and returned an interception for 99 yards and a touchdown against Hawai'i in 2013, giving him the third longest return in both Utah State and Mountain West history.

Torrey Green, a junior, played well in his stead during the second half, but Fackrell simply can't be replaced. Green played in seven games in 2013 and recorded seven total tackles. Fellow outside linebacker **Alex Huerta** recently underwent season-ending shoulder surgery, leaving the Aggies thin at what was once an abundantly talented position. The Aggies will look for **Michael Okonkwo** and true freshmen Ian Togiai to contribute.

Defensive Line:

B.J. Larsen was excellent last year as a defensive end and is ready to repeat that effort in his senior season. He ended the season second on the team with four sacks and three quarterback hurries. Larsen posted eight tackles for a loss in 2013.

New starters that need to bring it this season are Jordan Nielsen (JR) on the other defensive end position and in the middle Elvis Kaimana-Matagi (SR) and Travis Seefeldt (JR). Obviously, a lot of guys will be in the rotation here so pay attention to Ricky Ali'ifua (SO), Siua Taufa (SO), Edmund Faimalo (JR) and John Taylor (JR).

Kick Returner:

It will be interesting to see how Coach Wells decides to rotate between **Kelvin Lee**, **Rashad Hall** and **Kennedy Williams**, as all of them can really create some big opportunities with their blazing speed. In the Tennessee game it looked to be Williams' job, but could potentially change from game to game.

Kicker:

Kicking duties will be split between **Nick Diaz** (SR) and **Jake Thompson** (SO). Diaz ranks second all-time in school history with 91 career extra points made and third all-time with 92 career extra point attempts giving him an extra point percentage of 98.9. He has 27 career made field goals in 36 attempts.

Punter:

There is plenty of experience with **Jaron Bentrude** (SR) at punter. It's safe to take confidence in Bentrude, a specialist at pinning opponents deep in their own territory.

UTAH STATE

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Mountain West Coach of the Year 2013

► By Emily Duke

Utah State football is in its second year in the Mountain West Conference. The team is also in its second year with Head Coach and Aggie alum Matt Wells at the helm.

Wells took over for three-year head coach Gary Anderson when Anderson made the decision to take the head coaching position at the University of Wisconsin.

In his first year coaching the Aggies Wells made his mark when he led the team to the inaugural Mountain West Conference title game, despite the early loss of two starters; quarterback Chuckie Keeton and running back Joe Hill, both to torn ACLs.

Wells then led USU to its third-ever bowl game victory over No. 24 Northern Illinois. The Aggies took down the (Mascot) 21-14 in the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

Utah State entered their first season under Wells with a 9-5 overall record and a 7-2 record in their conference. At the end of the season Wells was named Mountain West Coach of the Year becoming only the fourth coach in the history of the conference to earn the honor in their first year in the conference.

Tim DeRuyter, the head football coach of Fresno State, and fellow Mountain West coach said of Wells, "Utah State had a great team in 2013 and Matt did a tremendous job coaching them, leading them to a fantastic season and overcoming adversity throughout the year. He is always high energy, extremely sharp and he's fun to be around because he's always positive. His team reflects his character and has success because of it."

Athletes who play for Wells are trusted by him to perform to the best of their ability and to be leaders on the field. Last season seniors on the Aggie's roster were expected by Wells to step up.

"Coach Wells really put the season in the hands of the seniors," said former Utah State running back Joey DeMartino. "He let us control how the year was going to go and he trusted us to police the team."

Prior to taking the head coaching position at Utah State Wells worked under Anderson as the offensive coordinator and quarterback coach in 2012 as well as head of recruiting in 2011. Wells is one of only 13 coaches who currently lead their Alma Mater as head coach. He is only the second Aggie graduate to be named head coach of the Aggies.

Wells overall coaching record at Utah State is 27-13. In his three years at Utah State he has helped to coach the Aggies to three consecutive bowl games and back-to-back bowl game wins for the first time in school history.

While working with as offensive coordinator in 2012 Wells led the Aggie offense that set single-season school records for total points (454), total offense (6,108 yards), completions (285) and total yards per game (469.8), while ranking second in points per game (34.9) and total passing yards (3,445).

In 2012 under Wells the Aggies offense had their most successful season in history. They won their first outright conference championship since 1936 and they were ranked in the Associated Press polls for three straight weeks.

Before coming to Utah State Wells coached for two different periods at New Mexico. He served as the Lobo's wide receiver and kickoff return coach in 2010 and its wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator from 2007 to 2008. In 2009 Wells left New Mexico and worked as the quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator at Louisville.

Before his first coaching period at New Mexico Wells coached for five years at Tulsa and five years and the U.S. Naval Academy.

Wells played Quarterback for Utah State from 1993-96. While playing for the Aggies he participated in the 1993 Las Vegas Bowl.

Wells is from Sallisaw, Okla. and graduated Cum-Laude from Utah State with a bachelors degree in business marketing in 1996. He and his wife Jen have two daughters Jady (11) and Ella (8), and one Son Wyatt (5).

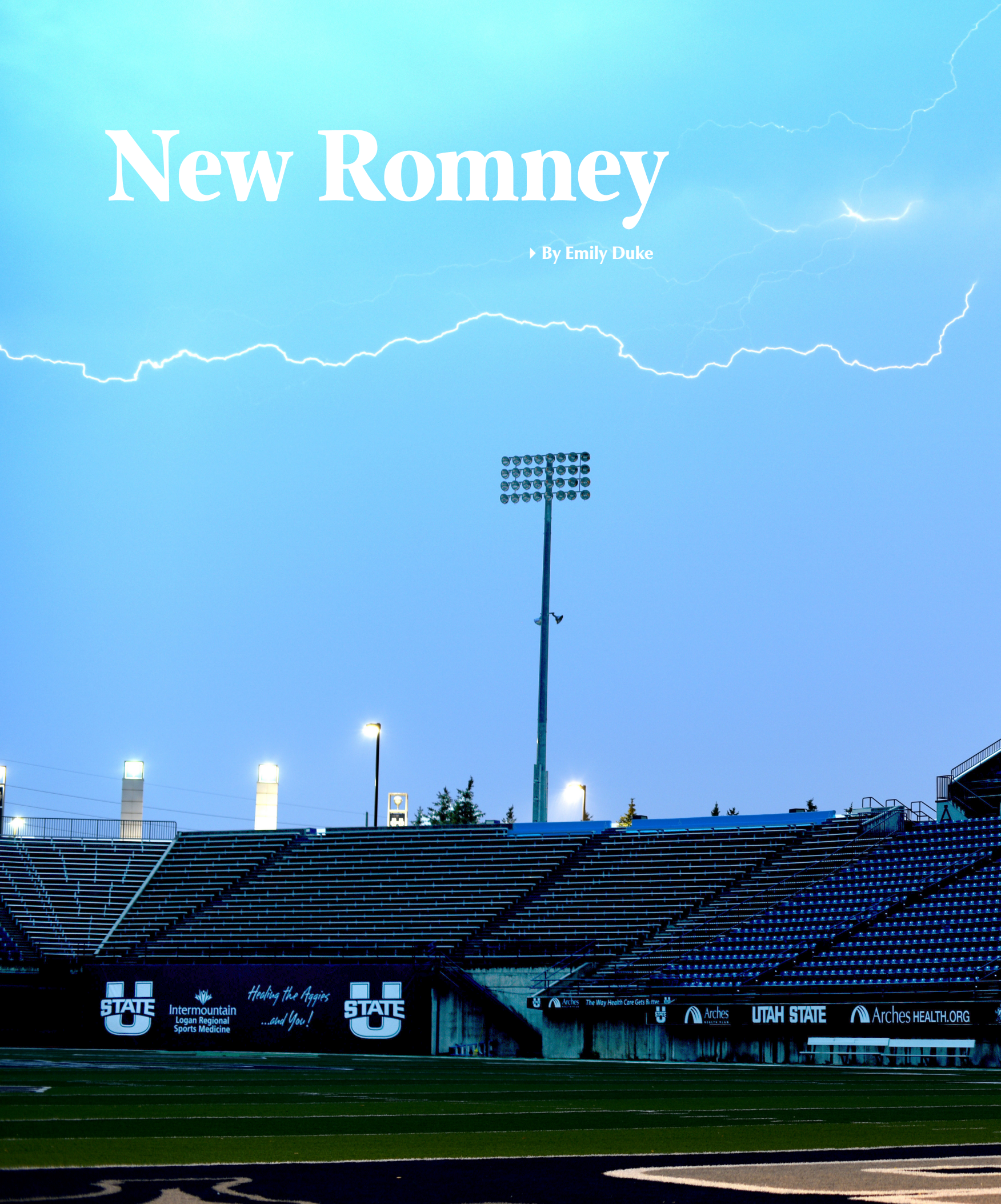
MATT WELLS



Photo: KYLEE LARSEN

New Romney

► By Emily Duke



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The melody of the famed school spirit song “The Scotsman” echoed over a sea of blue shirts and painted faces as the Utah State Aggies stepped up to the line of scrimmage. Students screamed from their place stuffed tightly into the bleachers, alumni cheered from their seats and the coaching staff signaled to the team. The ball was snapped, and the season began.

This was the scene at the first game ever played in the new Romney Stadium on September 14, 1968, a game in which the Aggies would overcome New Mexico State in a 28-12 victory.

Previous to 1968, the Aggies’ home games were played in the “Old Romney”, located a few blocks south at the current stadium, at what is now the location of the Health Physical Education and Recreation or HPER building.

The original Romney Stadium, dedicated in 1927, served as the Aggies’ home for 41 seasons. It was named for E.L. “Dick” Romney, the winningest coach in USU football history. Romney led the Aggies to four conference championships and held a 128-91-16 record in his 29 seasons as head coach. The final game played at “Old Romney” took place on November 11, 1967, when the Aggies defeated Montana State 20-14.

Sheila Miller, an Aggie alumni, attended the first USU game at Romney Stadium with her dad when she was 23. Miller said though many people were saddened by the loss of the old Romney Stadium, the energy in the new stadium was contagious.

“It was very exciting of



course,” Miller said. “Even though I think a lot of people were nostalgic about the old stadium, it was like a fresh new beginning.”

The Romney Stadium USU plays in today, which many Aggie alumni refer to as the “New Romney”, retained the name of the original home field. The first game in the new stadium took place on September 14, 1968 and the structure was officially dedicated September 27, 1969, after the completion of the Aggies season.

“I think it just seemed so fresh and new,” Miller said of the new stadium. “It was like we

were entering a new era in USU football. It was like a fresh new beginning.”

Since its construction, New Romney has hosted 46 seasons of Utah State football. Of the 222 games played in the arena, 124 were Aggie victories.

The new Romney Stadium went through many changes since it was built, including the

or of NFL and NCAA Football Hall of Fame member, All-American and former Aggie, Merlin Olsen.

A statue, sculpted by Blair Buswell, was added outside the south gates of the stadium which depicts Olsen in his college years with his helmet resting under his arm. The sculpture was unveiled in an official dedication ceremony which took place on October 23, 2010 as part of the homecoming festivities.

The 25,513-seat stadium has a record attendance of 33,119, set on October 4, 1996 at a game against BYU.

The 2013 Aggies set several records at Romney Stadium last year, including most points scored (70) and most touchdown passes thrown by a quarterback (5, Chuckie Keeton) in a homecoming game versus in-state rivals Weber State and

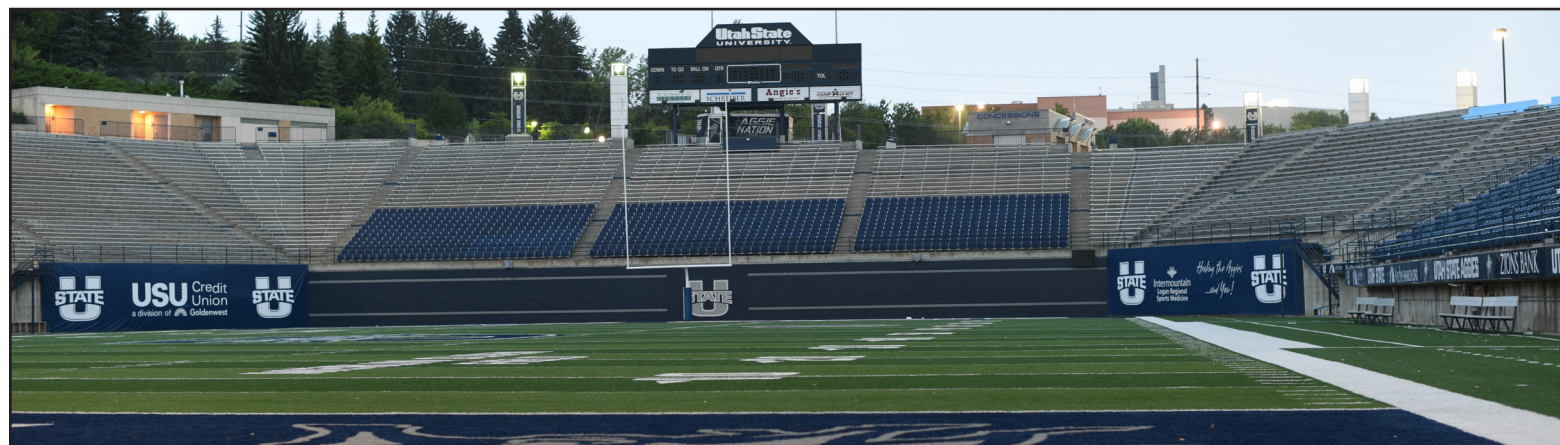
Utah State currently holds a 124-98 home record and continues to be a formidable place for opponents to play. The Aggies have only had 13 losing home records in the 46 years since the stadium was built.

Miller said that one of her favorite things about Utah State football is the atmosphere at home.

“I just love standing in the stadium, and I know this is going to sound really hokey, but when the sky is perfectly blue and the leaves are turning and the band starts playing Show Me the Scotsman,” she said. “It gives me goosebumps. There’s just nothing like Show Me the Scotsman, and our stadium is so beautiful, you just can’t beat it.”

installation of a synthetic SprinTurf field in 2004 replacing the original bent bluegrass. The summer of 2012 saw further changes when the Athletic department went through a re-branding, reinstalling the field’s turf with a new U State logo and giving each endzone a modern look. The south endzone reads UTAH STATE, while the north endzone read AGGIES flanked on either side with the athletic bull logo.

Utah State announced the field at Romney Stadium would be named Merlin Olsen Field on December 5, 2008, in hon-



Putting in

the work

► By Taylor Orton

Kylee Larsen photo

Opening kickoff Saturday in Knoxville is quickly approaching, and though it will be Utah State's first official football game since its 21-14 victory over Northern Illinois in December's Poinsettia Bowl, the coaches and players that together make up Aggie football have been anything but on break.

Through spring training, summer workouts, conditioning and fall practice, being in shape and ready for a competitive season takes months of grueling preparation.

From designing nutrition plans to tailoring workouts to each position, head strength and conditioning coach Dave Scholz performs a delicate balancing act each fall, preparing the Aggies for the challenges that lay ahead in the season while working to prevent costly injuries from damaging the team.

ACL injuries to starting quarterback Chuckie Keeton and Joe Hill last season caused the Aggie coaching staff to be especially interested in finding ways to avoid the costly "injury bug".

"We have brought in quite a few consultants to go over the things that we are doing and seeing what areas we could do better," Scholz said.

"We know that the hip and ankle joints play a big part in knee injuries as well and we've really focused on

strengthening those ankle and hip movements to try to limit the potential knee problems this season."

During the summer, players train with with coach Scholz eight hours per week in addition to any extra time the athletes put in on their own. Scholz has several years of experience with high-caliber athletes, serving as a strength, nutrition and conditioning assistant with the San Francisco 49ers in 2012.

Since being named Utah State's head strength and conditioning coach in 2013, Scholz has combined muscular strength training and cardio workouts during the hot summer months to prepare the Aggies for their competitive Mountain West schedule.

Typically, Scholz has the team focusing on strength and weightlifting at the start of the summer, transitioning to cardio as the season approaches.

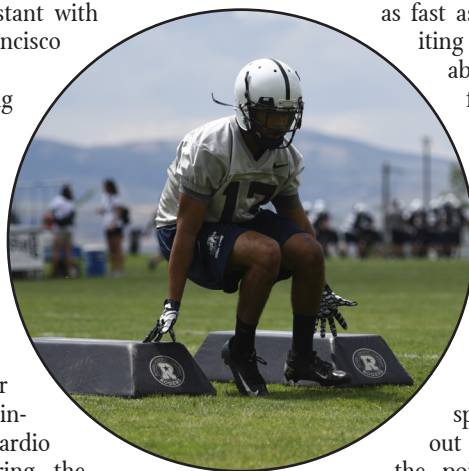
"The second half of the summer is

when we start getting into the serious cardio every day and getting the players ready for fall camp, to be able to hit the ground running," Scholz said.

Cardio conditioning plays a central role in stopping one of the current trends in college football—the implementation of the no-huddle offense. The objective of the no-huddle is to run as many plays as possible as fast as possible, limiting the defense's ability to prepare for the next play and catch its breath.

Championed by Chip Kelly and the Oregon Ducks in 2006, this offensive philosophy has spread throughout the NCAA to the point where, according to Scholz, "almost every team runs a form of the no-huddle offense in some way or another".

This fast style of play takes its toll on the bodies of the players on both sides of the ball, causing teams to make special preparations for these challenging conditions.



Keeton Returns

► By Logan Jones



Five games, 18 touchdowns and 1,388 passing yards and into last season, Utah State's star quarterback Chuckie Keeton suffered an ACL tear in the first quarter of a home game against BYU. The emotional blow to the team and its fans was painfully apparent, as all who were present in Romney Stadium stood silently, watching the leader of their team taken off the field.

"The play I got hurt on, I had messed up," Keeton said. "I put a little bit of the blame on myself. I tried to watch it when I was in the training room. I tried to look past it just because there was so much good that came out of the season. Why spoil it with my injury? That's how I looked at it."

Without Keeton, the Aggies suffered losses to both BYU and Boise State before finishing the season with a Bowl game victory and a Mountain Division title. Still, the feeling that resonated with many fans after one of the most successful USU football seasons in program history remained one of what could have been.

Keeton felt differently.

"I understood that I was somewhat of a big piece and that it was emotional when I went down," Keeton said, "but the guys found a way to bounce back after my injury and the injuries of other guys and come back and win a bowl game and have a chance at winning a championship which may not have happened at other schools. It definitely shows what kind of team we had last year. We're looking forward to building off of it."

If there is one quarterback in the country who can use such a devastating injury to better his game, it's Keeton. After a season spent watching from sidelines, analyzing with coaches and in all ways learning the game, Keeton is ready for what could be a prolific 2014 season.

"He does a really good job processing information," said head football coach Matt Wells. "From what he's coached to do, to accepting a signal on the field, to playing the play, there's a lot of processing going on and it happens really fast."

Fortunately for Keeton, a season spent studying the game means things on the field have slowed down.

"The guy has an unbelievable ability to retain knowledge and it's really cool to see," Wells said. "It's also a problem because

Matt Wells
head coach

"I'm not going to put a harness on that guy."

you can't be wrong, he'll call me out. I think he understands his reads and progressions. He understands being stingy with the football, he understands it's okay to punt, he understands putting the ball four rows up in the stands and living to play another down. He just does a good job, he's one of the most coachable kids I've ever coached. Some kids want to learn what you're coaching them to do, but to do it in a live game is another thing and he can do both"

Though caution must always be taken with a weapon as talented as Keeton, Wells knows better than to hold back the Heisman hopeful quarterback — even when that quarterback takes off on foot.

"Absolutely, touchdown, first down, get down," Wells said. "I'm not going to put a harness on that guy."

Keeton says his offseason started the day of the BYU game, and the friendship of fellow injured starter Joe Hill has both athletes ready for a second season in the Mountain West.

"For me and Joe having to deal with our injuries at the same time just gave us a stronger connection," Keeton said. "At the end of the day, that means that chemistry is going to flow over onto the field."

With so much of the spotlight on Keeton, Wells isn't overly concerned with the distraction of a Heisman campaign or of the multitude of 16 jerseys throughout Romney Stadium.

"Chuckie Keeton handles that Heisman campaign as well as any-

body," Wells said. "That's why we agreed to do this. He understands that he's not any more important than this team. Kyler (Fackrell) and Zach (Vigil) love the attention that Chuckie gets. He's one of the biggest fans, one of the best teammates you can be in the locker room, and Kyler and Zach know it."

For Keeton, his senior year isn't about proving anything to anyone — it's about Utah State football winning games.

"For me it's just trying to produce wins," Keeton said. "It doesn't really change as far as trying to get a certain amount of stats. That's never really the goal. You can have 1,000 yards and still lose a game. At the end of the day we just have to have more points than the other team. For me it's just trying to be the best player I can be for these guys. That's on the field, off the field, being a mentor and leader and being a competitor."

The Aggie defense passed the test of an inaugural season in the Mountain West in 2013, giving USU hope that with the return of a starting quarterback and running back Joe Hill, the team can rise into the national scene.

"Knowing that we have a good defense to get us the football back is definitely reassuring," Keeton said. "What a lot of people don't know is that a good defense generally leads to a good offense. The more you have the football, the more chances you have to score. That's something to fall back on with our defense. For the offense it means we have to take advantage of every opportunity we have. If we can do that, then we should score a lot more points and have more wins."

With the first home game of the 2014 season quickly approaching, the question of what could have been will soon be laid to rest. As Keeton takes the field in front of 20,000 football fans Saturday, there will be no question about it — Chuckie Keeton has returned.



MOUNTAIN WEST

Air Force Falcons

2013: (2-10, 0-8)



Picked to finish last in the Mountain Division, the Falcons finished last season without a single win against conference opponents. Quarterback Nate Romine showed promise passing the ball to an underwhelming receiving corps last year, but the pass-first QB is locked in one of the most run-heavy offenses in the nation. The explosive but

off-injured Jon Lee returns to lead the running back group. Eight starters return to the Falcons' porous defense, which struggled mightily with the running game and wasn't particularly impressive against the pass either. Drops limited freshman wideout Jalen Robinette's impact last season, but the 6-foot-3, 220 lb. receiver could end up being a gem this year if he and Romine can connect.

Wyoming Cowboys

2013: (5-7, 3-5)

The Cowboys offense took a hit this summer, losing standout quarterback Brett Smith—who racked up 8,834 passing yards and 76 touchdowns in two seasons—to the Canadian Football League. Running back Shaun Wick and wideout Dominic Rufran will have to carry the Wyoming offense as senior Colby Kirkegaard takes over the vacant starting quarterback

position. Wyoming's pass defense last season lost safety Marqueston Huff to the NFL draft, but the Cowboys' solid front seven returns most of its starters including junior defensive end Eddie Yarborough. Picked to finish fourth in the Mountain Division, Wyoming has the potential to upset some teams with new head coach Craig Bohl at the helm and rumors of a new-look offense created by offensive coordinator Brent Vigen.

Boise State Broncos

2013: (8-5, 6-2)



After quarterback Joe Southwick went down with an injury halfway through the season, junior Grant Hedrick filled in nicely, posting similar passing numbers to Southwick and rushing for over 300 yards and six touchdowns in half a season. With Hendrick needing targets, freshman tight end Chase Blakley could make a big impact this season, ranked on rivals.com as the nation's eighth best tight end and pos-

sibly the best player in his class out of Idaho. Jay Ajayi returns as arguably the best running back in the conference after a 1400-yard, 18 touchdown season. The defensive line loses three of its top five tacklers, including sack artist Demarcus Lawrence (20.5 tackles for a loss and 10.5 sacks). The Broncos were picked to finish first in the Mountain Division this year.

Hawaii Rainbow Warriors

2013: (1-11, 0-8)

The Rainbow Warriors lead by third year coach Norm Chow posted a 1-11 record in 2013. On offense they averaged 27 points per game but defensively they gave up 38. Hawai'i was 0-8 in the MWC and finished the season

sixth in the West Division.

A young team under a newer coach last year won just one game. This season UH returns all but nine players from the 2013 squad bringing with them lots of experience. Norm Chow has also overhauled the coaching staff from a year ago bringing in 10 new assistants. Hawai'i has been picked to finish sixth in the West Division in 2014.

PREVIEW 2014



Colorado State Rams 2013: (8-6, 5-3)

The running back position could be a major weakness for the Rams this year after losing their top three running backs Kapri Bibbs, Crockett Gillmore and Weston Richburg. Quarterback Garrett Grayson returns, along with five of his top six pass catchers from a season ago. The Rams had one of the best run defenses in

the conference last year thanks to a solid front seven, but the defensive line lost three starters, including leading tackler Eli Edwards. Senior kicker Jared Roberts returns to lead the special teams, his 8-of-9 mark of field goals 40 yards or more leading the Mountain West last year.

UNLV Rebels 2013: (7-6, 5-3)

After more than a dozen years of not playing in a bowl game UNLV made a return to postseason play in 2013. The Rebels had a 7-6 record overall, they started slow with losses at Minnesota and to Arizona at home but improved during conference play. UNLV faced

one ranked opponent last year in No. 17 Fresno State and lost 38-14.

This year The Rebels have been picked to finish fourth in the West Division of the Mountain West. They lose both the starting quarterback and running back from 2013 but return 50 letterwinners and the entire coaching staff.

San Jose State Spartans 2013: (7-6, 5-3)

The running back position could be a major weakness for the Rams this year after losing their top three running backs Kapri Bibbs, Crockett Gillmore and Weston Richburg. Quarterback Garrett Grayson returns, along with five of his top six pass

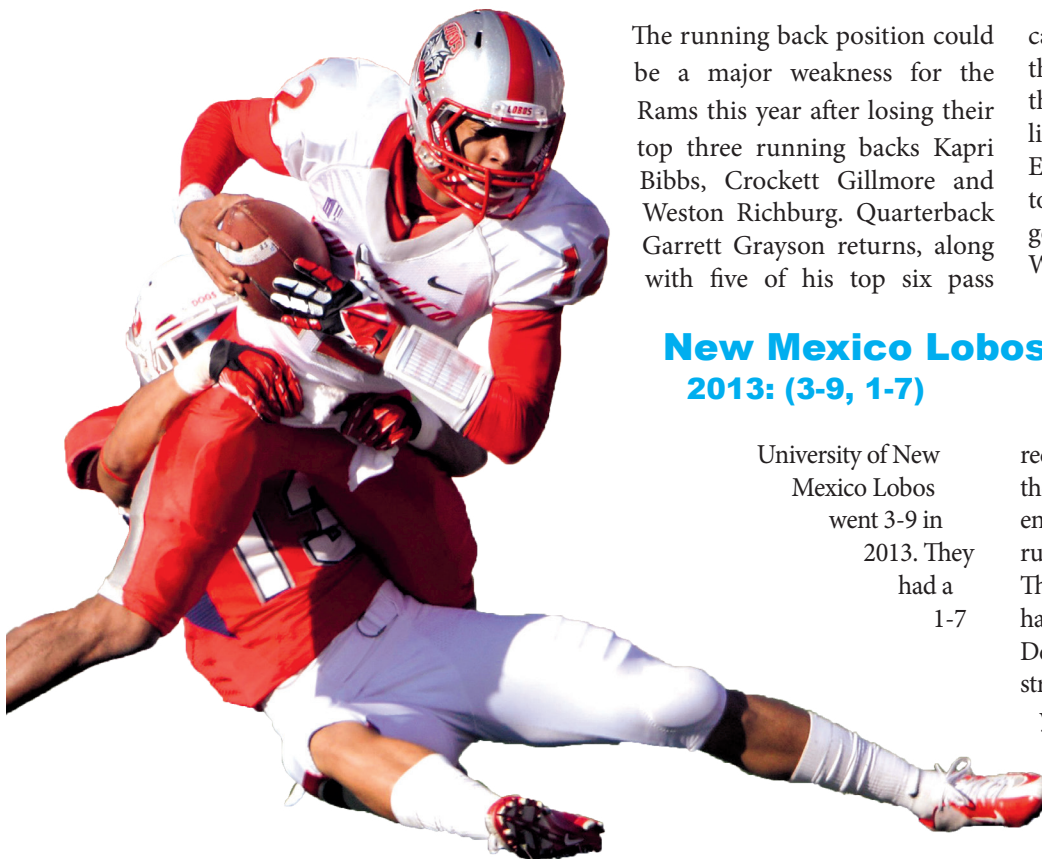
catchers from a season ago. The Rams had one of the best run defenses in the conference last year thanks to a solid front seven, but the defensive line lost three starters, including leading tackler Eli Edwards. Senior kicker Jared Roberts returns to lead the special teams, his 8-of-9 mark of field goals 40 yards or more leading the Mountain West last year.

New Mexico Lobos 2013: (3-9, 1-7)

University of New Mexico Lobos went 3-9 in 2013. They had a 1-7

record in the Mountain West Conference. Offensively the Lobos averaged 308 rush yards per game, good enough for fourth in the nation. UNM also scored 40 rushing touchdowns in 2013 and averaged 32.7 ppg. Through the air they scored nine touchdowns and had just 113 passing yards per game.

Despite a top five rushing attack, New Mexico struggled defensively. They gave up an average of 516 yards per game and opponents scored 42.8 points per game. In 2014 UNM has 20 players making their debut in division one football. In the Mountain West Conference preseason coaches poll the Lobos were picked to finish fifth in the Mountain Division.





8.31	TENNESSEE	KNOXVILLE, TENN
9.6	IDAHO STATE	LOGAN, UT
9.13	WAKE FOREST	LOGAN, UT
9.20	ARKANSAS STATE	JONESBORO, ARK
10.3	BYU	PROVO, UT
10.11	AIR FORCE	LOGAN, UT
10.18	COLORADO STATE	FORT COLLINS, CO
10.25	UNLV	LOGAN, UT
11.1	HAWAII	HONOLULU, HI
11.7	WYOMING	LARAMIE, WY
11.15	NEW MEXICO	LOGAN, UT
11.21	SAN JOSE STATE	LOGAN, UT
11.29	BOISE STATE	BOISE, ID
12.6	MWC CHAMPIONSHIP	TBA