

Martin out with injury
Leader Tony Martin breaks collarbone on 6th stage **3B**



The Herald-Dispatch
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SPORTS

Scoreboard **2B**
Comics **5B**

Sports editor: Rick McCann, 304-526-2759

Friday, July 10, 2015 **1B**



QUESTION: What NBA team has positioned itself the best in the early stages of NBA free agency?
Visit www.herald-dispatch.com and click on the sports tab to record your vote.

COMING UP

Valleyball 3-on-3 Basketball

Registration is underway for the ValleyBall 3-On-3 Basketball Tournament, July 17-19, at RPA Memorial Park in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Huntington.

The cost is \$100 per team. Contact Joda Burgess, 606-615-0938 or J.B. Blankenship, 304-412-1905.



All-Star Football

Mingo Central High School will host the East-West All-Star Classic football game at 8 p.m. Aug. 1 at Harless Stadium in Delbarton, W.Va.

East team players will represent Westside, Bluefield, Princeton, Wyoming East, Woodrow Wilson, Mount View, Shady Spring and River View high schools. West team players will come from Mingo Central, Wayne, Logan, Chapmanville, Tug Valley, Man, Scott, Sissonville, South Charleston, Capital and George Washington high schools.

Team rosters are to be released as the game approaches. A press release said additional players/schools are expected to be added.

Westside coach Larry Cook will direct the East. Mingo Central offensive coordinator Joey Fields will coach the West.

Mingo Central coach Yogi Kinder is the game director. Attorney Jeff Simpkins of Simpkins Law Office is the title sponsor.

Hannan H.S. football

(Subject to change)

Aug. 28 Montcalm
Sept. 4 Jenkins, Ky.
Sept. 11 at Green, Ohio
Sept. 25 West Union, Ohio
Oct. 2 at Miller, Ohio
Oct. 16 Paden City
Oct. 23 at Tygart's Valley
Oct. 30 Bishop Donahue

Wahama H.S. football

(Subject to change)

Aug. 28 Ravenswood
Sept. 4 Waterford, Ohio
Sept. 11 at Southern, Ohio
Sept. 18 at Belpre, Ohio
Sept. 25 Federal Hocking, Ohio
Oct. 2, Trimble, Ohio
Oct. 9 at Eastern, Ohio
Oct. 16 at South Gallia, Ohio
Oct. 23 Miller, Ohio
Nov. 6 at Buffalo

Golf tournament

Esquire Country Club in Barboursville is hosting a Red, White and Blue Shootout on July 26.

Golfers will play six holes from the red tees, six from the white tees and six from the blue tees. Golfers choose which holes to designate.

Entry fee is \$10 plus greens fees and carts. Call the pro shop, 304-736-1476.

Powerboat racing

Huntington Classic Regatta, July 24-26, at Harris Riverfront Park in Huntington. APBA North American Championships in the SST-60 and SST-120 classes.

More information at www.huntingtonclassic.com.

Williams ready for West Virginia Open

By **DAVID WALSH**
The Herald-Dispatch
dwals@herald-dispatch.com

CHARLESTON — Chris Williams likes a challenge in golf. He's certainly going to face one when he competes in the 82nd West Virginia Open scheduled July 20-24 at Berry Hills Country Club. "It's going to be a great field. That just makes me want to work harder, play better," Williams said Monday after his round at Open media day. "I love to go against this type of competition."

Williams is going against top pros

and amateurs from the Mountain State.

Top pros include defending Christian Brand of Charleston, seven-time winner David Bradshaw, Berry Hills pro Barry Evans, Craig Berner, Scott Davis, Garland Green, John Ross, Ty Roush and Brad Westfall.

The last time the West Virginia Open was held at Berry Hills was 2008 and Evans won by three shots over Bradshaw.

Amateurs to watch include 2015 West Virginia Amateur winner Sam O'Dell, Will Evans, Kenneth Hess, Alan Cooke,

Trent Roush, Jeremy Rogers, Philip Reale II, Jess Ferrell, Davey Jude, Pat Carter, Harold Payne, Steve Fox and junior Colin Bowles. The reigning Junior Match Play champion heads to Albany, Ga., after the tournament to continue his career.

"I always play my best in better fields," Williams said. "We'll see."

Williams is from Scott Depot and played high school golf at Winfield. He made West Virginia Class AAA All-State twice and won the West Virginia Golf Association's Junior Player of the

Year Award in 2012.

During his career, Williams has played the par-70 Berry Hills layout many times.

The court is tight and features smaller, undulating greens.

"It's demanding," Williams said. "Honestly I feel I'm hitting the driver the best I ever have. You need to do that to play this course. My short game is coming along. I need to touch up my iron play."

Please see **WILLIAMS/3B**

HEART OF A CHAMPION

Gage Rhoades overcomes heart surgery; returns to court

By **TIM STEPHENS**
The Herald-Dispatch
tstephens@herald-dispatch.com

CHESAPEAKE, Ohio — Gage Rhoades lay crying in the floor of his doctor's office, his mother Kim's arms around him, thinking he was dying.

In January, the Chesapeake High School basketball star had been diagnosed with Right Ventricular Hypertrophy, a heart condition that restricts blood flow to the lungs. Rhoades' doctor had called his father, Ryan Rhoades, into the room next door. Trembling, Ryan Rhoades expected the worst.

The Rhoades were relieved to find out Gage wasn't dying, but devastated to be told he never would play basketball again. Rhoades not only loved basketball, he was good at it. College scholarship good at it. A special mention all-stater, Rhoades was player of the year in District 13, All-Ohio Valley Conference, All-Tri-State Area by The Herald-Dispatch and featured a 19.1-point-per-game average.

"His mom and I were scared to death," said Ryan Rhoades, himself a survivor of open heart surgery and a stroke. "The doctors told us Gage couldn't exert himself ever again. This is a kid who played basketball, who ran two or three miles a day."

It all began with a severe, two-day headache. Rhoades never thought the pounding in his temples had anything to do with his heart. During a trip to the emergency room, though, he mentioned that his heart had been racing. Doctors performed a CT scan and an EKG, finding a blip. Another trip to the hospital for an echocardiogram and other tests returned the same diagnosis.

"They said I couldn't play anymore," Rhoades said.

Word spread quickly through the Tri-State and beyond. The outpouring of condolences and prayers overwhelmed Rhoades and his family.

Twitter was abuzz with players not only from Chesapeake, but from opposing schools, offering prayers for the 5-foot-9 guard. The entire River Valley boys basketball team signed a card and sent it to Rhoades.

He received heartfelt support from arch-rival Fairland and league co-leader Portsmouth. South Point Principal Ben Coleman prayed for Rhoades when the Panthers played the Pointers.

Please see **RHOADES/3B**



Bishop Nash/The Herald-Dispatch

ABOVE: Chesapeake's Gage Rhoades (23) drives the baseline as the Chesapeake Panthers outlast the Ironton Tigers, 41-40, in overtime on Jan. 9 at Ironton High School in Ironton.

LEFT: Rhoades shows off his scar from his recent heart surgery.

Photo provided



Tracking Rakeem Cato
Montreal (1-1) at
Winnipeg (1-1)
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Investors
Group Field
TV: ESPN2 (according
to ESPN listings)

All eyes are now on Cato

Alouettes' QB looks to duplicate successful start

By **GRANT TRAYLOR**
The Herald-Dispatch
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HUNTINGTON — Exactly one week ago, no one in the Canadian Football League had any idea who Rakeem Cato was.

All they knew about him is that he was option No. 3 or No. 4 for the Montreal Alouettes, who were in big trouble after suffering long-term injuries to both their starter and veteran backup quarterbacks in Jonathan Crompton and Dan LeFevour.

Heck, even head coach Tom Higgins didn't know whether Cato or fellow rookie Brandon Bridge would line up under center for the Alouettes against the Calgary Stampeders, the defending Grey Cup champions.

As the story goes, Cato went on to wow his own coaches, players and the rest of the CFL by going 20-of-25 for 241 yards and three touchdowns in his first career start while leading the Alouettes to a 29-11 blow-out win that wasn't even as close as the final score indicated.

The performance earned Cato the award as the CFL's Top Performer of the Week.

More importantly, though, it gained Cato all sorts of attention — both in Canada and back home in the United States with the mainstay being Marshall fans.

Please see **CATO/3B**

Williams routs Sharapova, will face Muguruza in final

The Associated Press

LONDON — Her game in high gear, history in the offing, Serena Williams is perfectly content to let everyone else talk about what a victory in the Wimbledon final would mean.

A "Serena Slam" of four consecutive major titles.

The third leg of a calendar-year Grand Slam. A 21st major singles trophy, one short of the Open-era record.

For now, the No. 1-seeded Williams is keeping her thoughts to herself, declaring she won't entertain questions about those topics, even after easily dismissing No. 4 Maria

Sharapova 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals at the All England Club on Thursday to close in on the milestones.

"I don't want the pressure of that, and I'm not thinking of that. When you talk about it every time, you can't help but think about it," Williams said. "It's been OK just to free my brain from that."

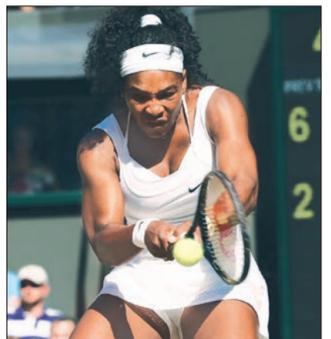
Whatever works. Clearly, Williams is doing plenty right at the moment. Particularly against Sharapova, whom she's beaten 17 times in a row.

Williams hit 13 aces, reaching 123 mph. Fewer than half her serves were put in play. She never faced a break point, and was pushed to deuce just once on her serve.

She had a 29-9 edge in winners.

In sum, Williams made Sharapova look like some sort of middle-of-the-pack wannabe, rather than the five-time major champion, career Grand Slam owner and former No. 1 that she is.

Please see **SERENA/3B**



The Associated Press

Serena Williams makes a return to Maria Sharapova at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, on Thursday.



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Olesen in lead at Scottish Open

The Associated Press

GULLANE, Scotland — Thorbjorn Olesen returned to form with a 7-under 63 to take a one-shot lead after the first round of the Scottish Open on Thursday, with Jimmy Walker leading a trio of top Americans in the chasing pack.

Rebounding from missing the cut in five of his last six events, Olesen made seven birdies — including three in a row on Nos. 15-17 — and was bogey-free in benign conditions for the morning starters over the Gullane links.

In a week in which Rory McIlroy withdrew from next week's British Open because of an ankle injury sustained playing soccer, it's fitting that Olesen is playing a starring role here.

The 25-year-old Dane sustained one of the most bizarre injuries of recent years when he fell off a camel while on holiday with friends in Dubai last year, pulled a groin muscle and was ruled out for two months. A hand injury forced him out of action this season from February to May, contributing to his poor recent form.

"It's been a tough time," Olesen said, "but I feel like I'm 100 percent with my body now."

Daniel Brooks of England, playing in the last group, birdied the final hole to take sole ownership of second place on 6-under ahead of a group of seven players a stroke further back.

The 12th-ranked Walker also avoided any trouble early in the first round, with only a light



Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen tees off at the 7th hole during day one of the Scottish Open at Gullane Golf Club, in Gullane Scotland on Thursday.

breeze coming off the Firth of Forth in the morning. Two birdies in his last three holes sealed a 5-under 65 for Walker and a share of third place with Matthew Nixon, Richard Finch and Seve Benson of England, Alejandro Canizares and Adrian Otaegui of Spain, and Sweden's Johan Carlsson.

Americans Rickie Fowler and Matt Kuchar were in a large group on 4-under 66, along

with two former champions — Graeme McDowell and last year's winner Justin Rose.

Rose picked up where he left off from Royal Aberdeen 12 months ago in what he called a "pretty stress-free round", while McDowell produced one of his best displays of a miserable 2015 that has seen him register just one top-10 finish either side of the Atlantic.

The 2010 U.S. Open cham-

pion, who has plunged to No. 52 in the rankings, raced to 5-under after four straight birdies on Nos. 5-8 but ruined his round by three-putting the last two holes for bogeys. McDowell is looking to revive his game by watching videos of his 2010 swing.

"It's about trying to turn this train round back the right way," McDowell said. "It's been a tough grind this year."

AP sources: James, Cavs agree to 2-year contract

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — There was no need for a heartfelt letter this summer. LeBron James isn't going anywhere.

This decision was easy.

Just shy of the one-year anniversary of his celebrated homecoming, James agreed to terms on a two-year, \$47 million contract, two people familiar with the negotiations told the Associated Press on Thursday.

The deal includes a \$24 million player option for 2016-17, said the people who spoke on condition of anonymity because James has not yet signed the contract.

That will be done soon enough as the four-time MVP has a busy schedule over the next few weeks to promote a new comedy film in which he portrays himself.

James is hosting a VIP screening for family and friends in Akron on Friday, where he'll walk the red carpet with the other stars of "Trainwreck", an R-rated movie he filmed last summer shortly after announcing he was returning to the Cavs.

Unlike last July 11, when his essay in Sports Illustrated touched Cleveland fans and changed the NBA's landscape, James wasn't the star attraction during this summer's free agency period.

DeAndre Jordan and others took care of all the drama as James went on vacation in the Bahamas with close friends Dwyane Wade, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony.

James ended any suspense or speculation about his future with Cleveland by saying several times during the past season that

he intends to end his career with the Cavs.

This is the first time since 2006 that James will re-sign with a team. On two previous occasions as a free agent he left for another team, signing with Miami in 2010 and Cleveland in 2014.

It had been expected that James would wait to see if forward Tristan Thompson, who is also represented by his agent, Rich Paul, would sign before he negotiated with the Cavs.

And while his agreement with the Cavs is not a surprise, it does give him future flexibility and the ability to make more money next summer when the league's new TV deal kicks in. The \$24 billion package is expected to escalate the salary cap by millions.

Williams

Continued from 1B

Williams has experienced success in the Mountain State's two big tournaments. He was low junior in the 2012 West Virginia Open and low amateur and runner-up in the 2012 West Virginia Amateur.

"I guess that makes me optimistic," Williams said.

In the West Virginia Amateur in late May, Williams posted a 76 each day in the first three rounds and closed with a 71 on Old White TPC at The Greenbrier Resort to tie for 11th (299).

"I couldn't put anything together the first three days," Williams said. "The last day I did a few things right."

Williams began his college career at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C. He played for the Chanticleers as a freshman, then transferred to West Virginia. The Big 12 school re-established golf in 2014 and resumes competition this fall with a 13-tournament schedule. Williams spent the past year in Morgantown to get ready for the team's debut on Sept. 6-7 in Verona, N.Y.

"I'll do what I can in the State Amateur and State Open and other qualifiers," Williams said. "Did a lot of inside work at school. It's exciting to be on the first team to play at WVU in more than 30 years."

West Virginia and Marshall will meet in two tournaments. The Mountaineers will play in the Joe Feaganes Marshall Invitational on Sept. 14-15 at Guyan Golf and Country Club in Huntington. The Thundering Herd will be in the 13-team Mountaineer Intercollegiate scheduled Oct. 19-20 at Pete Dye Golf Club in Bridgeport. One of WVU's big spring tournaments in 2016 will be the Robert Kepler Invitational at Ohio State's Scarlet Course in Columbus on April 9-10.

"Everyone's excited and ready to start playing," Williams said.

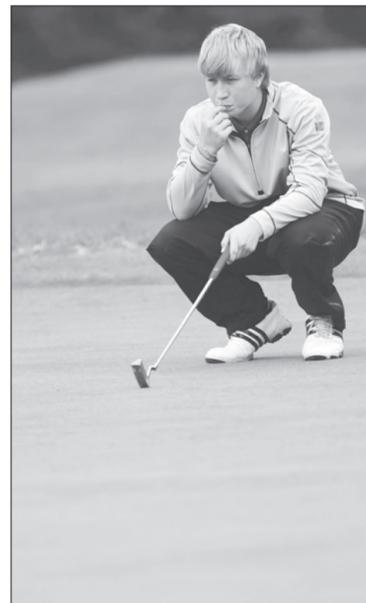
West Virginia will play in its first Big 12 Championships on April 29-May 1 at Whispering Pines Golf Club in Trinity, Texas.

"The Big 12 has always been strong in golf," Williams said. "Being in that tournament for the first time will be something special."

Pete Dye Golf Club is one of West Virginia's eight different home courses. The others are Lakeview Resort, Pines Country Club and Mountainview Golf Course in Morgantown, The Links at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort, Mystic Rock, Nemaquin Golf Academy and Palmer Course at Stonewall Resort.

West Virginia's coach is Sean Covich, who spent the past three years as an assistant at Mississippi State.

"He's working hard to get everything ready," Williams said.



Sholten Singer/The Herald-Dispatch

Chris Williams of Winfield checks out the putting green during the 2010 High School Golf Class AAA regional tournament at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club in Hurricane.

Rhoades

Continued from 1B

People as far away as Arkansas sent prayers and well wishes. Pastor Chuck Lawrence and the members of Christ Temple Church fervently prayed for Rhoades. Chesapeake coach Ryan Davis prayed for Rhoades and continually texted him encouragement.

All that support inspired Ryan Rhoades not to give up. He faced the real-life equivalent of a length-of-the-court shot with one second to play, but it was a shot he was willing to take in the form of a visit to the Cleveland Clinic. The day the Rhoades left for Cleveland was cold and dreary.

"It matched how I felt," Gage Rhoades said. "I was depressed, but I knew God would bring good from this."

Two MRIs, an EKG, another echocardiogram and several vials of blood later, Dr. Gerard Boyce, considered by many one of the top five pediatric heart physicians in the nation, told the Rhoades that Gage had been

misdiagnosed. He didn't have RVH.

Instead, he had Sinus Venosus Atrial Septal Defect, a serious but much less debilitating condition. Heart surgery still was required, but chances were high that Rhoades could resume playing basketball.

Not only that, the surgery wasn't urgent. Rhoades could continue his season after missing two games and have the surgery afterward.

"It was answered prayer," Ryan Rhoades said.

Gage Rhoades helped the Panthers to a co-OVC championship and to the district finals. Outwardly, he was elated. Inwardly, he was apprehensive. The thought of heart surgery on June 26 still weighed on him.

"I was very scared," Rhoades said. "After all, it's open heart surgery. They had to stop my heart during it. I was thinking about it

in class. I was really depressed."

Then, Rhoades thought about all those praying for him. He considered his faith in God and asked himself if he really trusted his Creator. Rhoades' worry disappeared.

"I got really happy," Rhoades said. "I was ready to get it done. A lot of people had prayed for me. I knew God had my back. I just gave it to God."

Dr. Robert Stewart performed the surgery, which was successful. Normally, a patient requires 12 weeks before being approved for activity. Boyle cleared Rhoades in six.

Rhoades said the initial pain didn't compare to the mental anguish his heart condition brought. The five-and-a-half-inch scar on his chest is a reminder, though, of how he said God got him through the ordeal.

"The Lord gave me my heart

"The Lord gave me my heart and Drs. Boyle and Stewart saved it."

Gage Rhoades

Chesapeake High School student, basketball player

Martin becomes 2nd Tour leader to pull out injured

The Associated Press

LE HAVRE, France — The yellow jersey seems to be an unlucky charm at this Tour de France.

German rider Tony Martin started Thursday's sixth stage in the lead and ended it in the hospital after breaking his collarbone in a crash that he caused near the finish line. He became the second race leader to pull out of the race, after Swiss rider Fabian Cancellara fractured two vertebrae in his lower back on Monday.

"The collarbone is in lots of pieces, so it was a major impact," Martin's Etixx Quick-Step team doctor Helge Riepenhoff said. "One of the pieces came through the skin, which means it's an open fracture."

The crash also dragged down defending champion Vincenzo Nibali and fellow Tour contender Nairo Quintana, but they escaped with cuts and bruises. Czech rider Zdenek Stybar rode away amid the chaos to clinch his first Tour stage win.

While neither Martin nor Cancellara was a contender for the overall victory, the injuries they sustained highlight how tough this Tour has been already — and the battered riders haven't even reached the mountains yet.

There was intense heat on day 1, ferocious side winds on day 2, a huge crash on stage 3, scary cobblestone sections on stage 4, and lashing rain on stage 5. And on the sixth day, another crash.

"This has been like a movie, an emotional roller coaster at this Tour," Martin said.

Frenchman William Bonnet injured his neck after caus-



The Associated Press

Germany's Tony Martin, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, holds his arm in a position which stabilizes his shoulder and collar bone as he crosses the finish line of the sixth stage of the Tour de France in Le Havre, France, on Thursday.

ing Monday's crash, which brought down 30 riders, while Australian rider Michael Matthews finished Thursday's ride despite having two broken ribs sustained on the third stage. He is in last place overall.

With Martin out, 2013 Tour champion Chris Froome moves into the overall lead. The Briton may elect not to wear the yellow jersey on Friday — a sign of respect toward Martin under cycling's etiquette guidelines.

Serena

Continued from 1B

"Nothing to do with Sharapova," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "She does this to most of the top 10 players. It's true. She's dominating the game for a long time."

Williams beat her sister Venus in the fourth round and another past No. 1 and multiple major winner, Victoria Azarenka, in the quarterfinals.

On Saturday, with so much at stake, Williams will face No. 20 Garbine Muguruza of Spain, who advanced to her first Grand Slam final by eliminating No. 13 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

"If you want to win a Grand Slam, when you dream, you say, 'I want Serena in the final,'" the 21-year-old Muguruza said. "She's like one of the best players in all these years."

One of?

Five women have won four consecutive Grand Slam tournaments — and Williams already is among that group, having done it from 2002-03. Only three have pulled off a true Grand Slam, winning all four majors in a single season; Steffi Graf was the last, in 1988.

If Williams can beat Muguruza, the 33-year-old American

would head to the U.S. Open in August with a shot at that feat.

Under a cloudless sky at Centre Court on Thursday, it was quickly clear Williams' semifinal wouldn't last long. At age 17, Sharapova beat Williams twice in 2004, including in the Wimbledon final — and hasn't defeated her since.

In the opening game, Sharapova double-faulted three times and got broken. More ominously, the first four points that lasted at least six strokes ended with errors by Sharapova. If she couldn't serve well, and couldn't stay with Williams once the ball was in play, Sharapova was in trouble.

Asked what she needs to do to be competitive against Williams, Sharapova responded: "A lot more than I'm doing."

Radwanska, the runner-up to five-time Wimbledon champion Williams in 2012, used a six-game run to make things close against the hard-hitting Muguruza.

But a pivotal moment came with Muguruza two points from victory, serving at 5-3, deuce. A backhand from Muguruza landed near the baseline, and after Radwanska hit the ball, she stopped playing and lifted her racket to indicate she wanted to challenge the call — at the same time that Muguruza was missing a forehand.

Cato

Continued from 1B

The performance was impressive enough that Alouettes' offensive coordinator Turk Schonert — who deserves a lot of credit for putting Cato in successful situations in last week's initial start — made a comparison to Doug Flutie, who starred in the CFL before making the transition back to the NFL and becoming a Pro Bowl quarterback in 1998.

"(Cato) has the ability to change his angle of throwing and be accurate," Schonert told The Montreal Gazette's Herb Zurkowsky. "Doug had that same ability. He could drop his arm down. They had to do that because they were smaller. Those things are just innate. You don't teach those things. He has that feel for it."

Exactly how big did Cato blow up with last week's performance?

By the end of last Friday night, "Rakeem Cato" was trending on Twitter — one of the nation's top social media networks — and Marshall's fan base was once again abuzz with Cato-mania.

As this week has progressed,

the buzz from last week's game has diminished slightly, but a new buzz has formed.

That buzz?

Was it just a one-week, flash-in-the-pan performance based on teams not having any film on Cato or is this the dawning of a potential new star in the CFL?

All eyes will be locked on Cato and the Alouettes Friday night as the former Herd quarterback takes his team on the road in hopes of taking down the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

The Blue Bombers were trounced 52-26 in a loss to the Hamilton Tiger Cats last week and Hamilton quarterback Zach Collaros threw for 354 yards and two touchdowns in the win, which bodes well for Cato.

The former Marshall quarterback also has a bit of motivation for the matchup because of the quarterback on the other side of the football — Winnipeg's Brian Brohm.

Brohm is the younger brother of Western Kentucky head coach Jeff Brohm, whose team handed Cato his only blemish as a senior at Marshall in a 67-66 Senior Day loss at Joan C. Edwards Stadium.