

"THESE GUYS WANT TO BE LED. THEY ARE BEGGING FOR A LEADER"



## IT'S ALL IN HIS HANDS

OPPORTUNITIES ARE ENDLESS FOR REDSHIRT FRESHMAN DAN LEFEVOUR

### The LeFevour File

#### Hometown

Downers Grove, Ill.

#### By the Numbers

81-of-141 passing for 935 yards, eight touchdowns and four interceptions

Took over starter job on third play of the season when sophomore Brian Brunner was knocked out with a concussion

#### Quotable

"Just because I can throw a football doesn't make me any better of a person than anyone else."

Dan LeFevour

"He might be quiet (off the field), but he is a no-holds-barred, take no prisoners kind of guy on the field."

Gary Goforth, Benet Academy football coach

#### cm-life.com

► Check out cm-life.com after Saturday's game for complete game story

BY NATHAN MUELLER | SENIOR REPORTER

It all happened so fast.

Two plays to be exact.

It was on the third play in the season-opening game against Boston College that CMU got a glimpse of its future star quarterback when sophomore Brian Brunner got knocked out after two plays.

But Dan LeFevour's first appearance wasn't exactly glamorous. He fumbled his first play.

"Honestly, I didn't have too much time to think," the redshirt freshman quarterback said on Tuesday. "Once I got the first play out of my way, they tried to call some plays so I could complete some passes and get my confidence."

LeFevour finished the game 22-of-37 for 221 yards, one touchdown and an interception. He also rushed for 72 yards and two touchdowns.

He also finished with a firm grasp on the starting quarterback job. A job that was wide open prior to the season.

Brunner was the starter because he had the most experience, but LeFevour and redshirt freshman Duane Brooks also were in the mix. Neither took the job from Brunner during the fall, but what LeFevour did against Boston College was all coach Brian Kelly needed to see.

"You really don't know (how good a player) is until you get out there in a competitive, live situation," Kelly said.

"When the lights went on and it became competitive, he was able to go through his progressions like a veteran."

#### How it all started

Quarterback was not LeFevour's natural position.

He played running back from fourth grade until his sophomore year of high school at Benet Academy in Lisle, Ill. He tried to play quarterback his freshman year, but wasn't very good. He tried again sophomore year, and started the last three games of the season.

"He is a competitor," said Benet Academy coach Gary Goforth. "He might be quiet (off the field), but he is a no-holds-barred, take no prisoners kind of guy on the field."

Goforth, who has been coaching for 28 years, said LeFevour ranks in the top two of



FILE PHOTO BY DAVE WILLIAMS  
Redshirt freshman Dan LeFevour also has the ability to run the ball when the pocket breaks down.

SEE LEFEVOUR | 2B

### FOOTBALL

## Unholy Toledo: Rockets off to sluggish start

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
SENIOR REPORTER

This is not the same Toledo football team of the past.

The Rockets have started 2-3 for the first time in coach Tom Amstutz's six-year tenure.

They are 0-1 in the Mid-American Conference for the first time since 2000.

And they are still struggling to find a replacement for All-MAC quarterback Bruce Gradkowski.

"As a defensive player we are glad (Gradkowski) isn't back there, but they have other guys," said junior linebacker

Red Keith. "He was a tough guy that ran that offense and led that team."

Toledo has won eight MAC West Division titles in the last 10 years, but a loss Saturday at the Glass Bowl could hamper its chances at another one.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. The game will be televised on ESPN2.

"Whenever a team goes through a quarterback change there is always a transition time," Amstutz said. "It just takes time for a quarterback to get a grasp of the offense and run it well."

Losing at the Glass Bowl isn't

#### Game Outlook

- What: CMU at Toledo
- Where: Glass Bowl, Toledo, Ohio
- When: 7 p.m. Saturday
- TV/Radio: ESPN2; 104.3 WCYZ, 830 AM

something that happens often, though. The Rockets are 26-2 at home since Amstutz took over in 2001. Their only losses were against Northern Illinois last season and Miami in 2002.

"If you want to be a champion, there is no better place to play than at the Glass Bowl

against Toledo," Keith said. "Toledo is a program you look up to in the history of the MAC; they are always the champions. That is where we want to put our program at."

CMU is one of only three MAC teams still undefeated in conference play. It ended a 10-game losing streak against UT last season in a 21-17 win at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

The Chippewas are on a six-game losing streak at the Glass Bowl, their last win coming in 1993.

"It is the biggest game of my

SEE PIVOTAL | 3B

Sophomore running back Ontario Sneed missed last Saturday's game against Kentucky because of an ankle injury. He has just 51 carries for 166 yards this season. The Chippewas play at Toledo on Saturday.



FILE PHOTO BY DAVE WILLIAMS