

Mocs Lose Three Players

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The University of Chattanooga football team has made some huge strides the last two years under head coach Russ Huesmann.

But as the old cliché goes, two steps forward and one step back, and that scenario best describes the Mocs and their current woes. Wide receiver/kick returner Brian Sutherland, who led the Southern Conference in all-purpose yards last season, has left the school for personal reasons, according to Huesmann, now in his third year with the program.

Sutherland led the SoCon with 166 all purpose yards per game in 2010. He also caught 50 passes for 729 yards, ran for 180 yards and he had 914 yards on kick-off returns. Sutherland transferred to Chattanooga from Miami of Ohio in 2009.

Also not returning this season is All-SoCon defensive end Chris Donald, who has been hampered by recurring wrist problems. Donald, who will no longer play, is coming off a solid season in 2010. The 6-foot-1, 225 pound senior from Huntington, TN., had 47 tackles, 12.5 tackles-for-loss, 7.5 quarterback sacks, two fumble recoveries, two quarterback hurries, and he forced three fumbles last fall.

And running back Keon Williams has been suspended for the entire 2011 season by Huesmann after he pleaded guilty to charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. He received two-years probation. Williams was second on the team in rushing last season with 500 yards (an average of nearly five-yards per carry) and he scored four touchdowns.

The Mocs were 6-5 last season. It was the first time they've had back-to-back winning campaigns since the 1990 (6-5) and 1991 (7-4) seasons. The Mocs have only had four winning seasons total since 1997.

Chattanooga opens the season at Nebraska September 3. The Mocs travel to Boone to play Appalachian State on September 24.