Josh Cribbs waves to fans during the Cleveland Cavaliers' championship parade last June. Cribbs is set as an studio special guest for the parade.

Josh Cribbs returns to Kent State — as do his fond memories

By ALLISON WOPF/STAFF-WRITER

Fifteen years ago, Josh Cribbs was a highly-touted freshman recruit out of Washington, D.C., taking Kent State's football program by storm. By the end of his first collegiate season in '01, Cribbs had already established himself as a cornerstone of the Knights' backfield in Mid-American Conference history after leading the Golden Flashes to a 6-5 record, their first winning season in 15 years. He became just the second player in NCAA Division I-A history to eclipse 1,000 yards in both rushing and passing as a true freshman in '01, which ended with a dramatic 24-20 home victory over a Miami of Ohio squad featuring a talented first-year signal-caller of its own named Ben Roethlisberger.

Cribbs went on to rewrite the KSU record books during a four-year career as quarterback of the Flashes, and remains the school leader in career rushing touchdowns (38), total touchdowns (41) and total yards (5,000). Cribbs' professional career was just as astounding. After agreeing with the Cleveland Browns as an undrafted free agent, Cribbs played in three Pro Bowls and was a two-time First Team All-Pro selection as a returner. He finished his NFL career in 2014 with 13,448 return yards and 20 touchdowns, the latter coming on kickoff returns — which remains an NFL record.

Today, Cribbs continues to honor his hero on the gridiron. He’s serving as Grand Marshal of Kent State's 2016 Homecoming Parade, set to begin this morning at 10 a.m. Fellow alumni and fans will have the chance to meet Cribbs at the Kent State University Alumni Association’s “Welcome Home” Party, set for 11 a.m. at a new event for Zeppetopia and Alumni Engagement (330 E. Lincoln Rd.).

Jack Nicklaus remembers Arnold Palmer as icon, legend, friend

By STEPHEN A. DERRICKIT/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

The boy Jack Nicklaus met "The King" Arnold Palmer Sept. 25, 1958, at Alcoa Country Club in southeast Ohio. They were paired together for an exhibition round on "Dow Finsterwald Day," celebrating the reigning winner of the PGA Championship. Their friendship yet firmly began with a contest on the first hole. Nicklaus, just 13 years old Ohioan amateur, prevailed. Palmer the 1958 Masters champion, shot a 63 and defeated Nicklaus by four strokes. Palmer grinned and told Nicklaus, "got ya." But both had a victory they would remember.

Jack Nicklaus said on ESPN's "Sport Center" that week on reflecting on their relationship after Palmer died Sunday at 87. "That's what our matches were, our relationships," Nicklaus said on ESPN's "Sport Center." "That's what our matches were, our relationships." Nicklaus won a record 18 majors. Nicklaus won 52 PGA Tour events, including seven majors. Linked with Gary Player, the tradition

KSU starting QB Mitchell to miss remainder of 2016

Kent State redshirt freshman quarterback Mykel Mitchell will miss the remainder of the 2016 season following heart surgery in the first half of Saturday's loss vs. Akron.

See full story, page 84

Nicklaus penned a lengthy tribute. He and the game of golf, he wrote, had lost a great friend.

See full story, page 82

The Golden Flashes hoped to come out of their non-league schedule healthy and with momentum. They have neither, but with rival Akron coming to town, all that can change in 60 minutes today.

By ALLISON WOPF/STAFF-WRITER

Kent State has created the perfect platform to catapult in football team into the Mid-American Conference with a non-monumental victory over their bitter backyard rival that could lead to bigger and better things as the season progresses. It could lead to the Flashes’ general state of well being.

After losing to No. 1 Alabama and a pair of quartbacks during the non-conference portion of the 2016 slate, the Flashes are set into the first full contest that truly matters — both literally and figuratively.

"I feel good about our team," Meyer said this week. "I don’t like the injuries," said KSU fourth-year head coach Paul Haynes. "We’ve got a couple of really key positions in this four-week span. You always want to come out of non-league games healthy. It didn’t go that way. We’ve played hard. We’ve just got to get a little more discipline. That’s what we talked about, making sure that we are truly paying attention to everything that we do so when the lights come on and we get to perform we can do it at that time.”

The lights will be bright this afternoon, and the Flashes will have to perform at an extreme level to knock off an Akron squad that’s on the up-tick under fifth-year head coach Tori-Silva Brown.

The Zips won eight games last season, including the program’s first-ever bowl triumph over Utah State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.