

1-1-2009

Thanks to Luke and Skip, YouTube can learn to play the game

Vince Moore
Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

Recommended Citation

Moore, Vince (2009) "Thanks to Luke and Skip, YouTube can learn to play the game," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 51 : Iss. 3 , Article 21.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol51/iss3/21>

This Article is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact scholarexchange@furman.edu.

Thanks to Luke and Skip, YouTube can learn to play the game

When it comes to football coaches, Luke Jesper and Skip White are about as “old school” as it gets. They wear T-shirts tucked into gym shorts, speak in thick Southern accents replete with double negatives, and have no use for coaches who want to over-complicate the game with new-fangled ideas.

“Football is a man’s game,” Luke says. “That’s the first thing you got to know.”

But that’s not all there is to know. If you look at Luke and Skip’s instructional videos on YouTube (just google Luke and Skip), you’ll find such old school lessons as how a quarterback should set up underneath center (ridiculously low to the ground in an effort to see more of the field) and the proper way to run (knees up to the chin and heels straight down into the ground, a motion that creates the illusion of great speed). There is even a primer on kicking, although Luke acknowledges that it’s an “unfortunate” part of the game.

Of course, if you look more closely at the videos, you’ll realize that Luke and Skip aren’t wizened old veterans but a couple of 20-something Furman football players having a good time after practice. Chris Rogers, who graduated in December, plays Luke, while Patrick Sprague ’07 is his sidekick, Skip. And what transpires is a funny parody of every Southern football coach who ever blew a whistle and preached a message of how simple the game is.

“We were just trying to capture the essence of your basic, stereotypical, Southern high school football coach guru,” Sprague says.

Rogers and Sprague had been doing the Luke and Skip characters for a while to the delight of their teammates, so they were asked if they would videotape their performances and put them on YouTube to share them with family and friends. They got together with a few other Paladins for



Take it from Skip (Patrick Sprague, left) and Luke (Chris Rogers): *Football ain't a game for sissies.*

an hour after practice one day in 2007, and the Luke and Skip instructional series was born.

The videos are unscripted and delightfully unprofessional, which give them much of their charm. With help from Jimmy Wayne Steve (Austin Holmes '07) and Earl “Crackback” Rogers (Andrew Thacker '08) on how to play defensive back, and a lesson from Clay Carroll III (Scott Shuford '08) on offensive line play, most every facet of the game is dutifully lampooned.

Luke shows quarterbacks how to “high step” past blitzing defensive ends and elude the inevitable pass rush that comes when “a big fat offensive lineman don’t know where his head’s at and lets a D-tackle right through.” Among Skip’s contributions is a lesson on protecting the football, which, if done properly, allows the runner to deliver a right uppercut to the chin of a defensive player who would try to strip the ball.

“You could hear Andrew Thacker laughing in the background the whole time we were shooting,” says Rogers. “Whenever I watch the videos, that’s what strikes me as most funny.”

The videos had lived a relatively quiet life on YouTube for a year, getting a couple of hundred viewings. Then, in October, the *New York Times* published a story about Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner. When Tebow was asked what he liked to do for fun, he said he and his teammates were big fans of the Luke and Skip series and that they were fond of quoting Luke and Skip at practices — as was the Gators’ offensive coordinator, Dan Mullen.

As Tebow told the *Times*, “He [Mullen] quotes it all the time.”

Things haven’t been quite the same since the *Times* article. The main Luke and Skip video has surpassed 14,000 viewings on YouTube, and Rogers and Sprague met in Atlanta with Keith Arnold, a Los Angeles screenwriter and *Sporting News* blogger, during the weekend of the Southeastern Conference championship game to see if they were interested in doing something more “scripted” with the Luke and Skip series.

Sprague is not sure if anything will come from that meeting, but he and Rogers have a few other ideas if they can find the time. Sprague, who finished his Furman career fifth all-time in receptions, now works in Birmingham, Ala., while Rogers, a running back and physics major, has taken a job with a Greenville company.

“We’re always talking about what we might do next with Luke and Skip,” Sprague says. “We’ve talked about creating an instructional series on basketball, hunting, even marriage.”

In the meantime, they’re still trying to figure out how a “silly” video they put on YouTube more than a year ago ended up in the *New York Times*.

“It was pretty wild to learn that Tim Tebow liked the videos,” Rogers says, “but now I know why he won the Heisman Trophy.”

— VINCE MOORE