

## **Prankster McFadden all smiles on, off field**

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Posted on Tuesday, November 7, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/Sports/46879/>

This joker is wild.

Defenses know that already, of course. Now they are not only bedeviled by Arkansas tailback Darren McFadden collecting 100-yard plus rushing games like a wool suit collects lint. They even get bedeviled by him as an occasional quarterback, too. In fact, as a tailback / occasional quarterback, the Razorback sophomore ran up a career-high 219 yards on 25 carries with two touchdowns in the Razorbacks' 26-20 SEC victory last Saturday night at South Carolina.

Arkansas' offensive wild card isn't just a joker on the field. He's a joker off the field, too. We got a glimpse of that, thanks to an Arkansas Democrat-Gazette photographer. The photographer chanced upon him and took a picture with the clown suit McFadden wore all over the UA campus on Halloween.

"He wore that clown suit all day," Arkansas trainer Dean Weber said. "I know he was wearing it around here."

McFadden was asked about it during Arkansas' weekly media teleconference call.

"It was just a clown outfit I got the night before Halloween," McFadden said. "Just messing around."

McFadden doesn't need a clown suit to clown around, says Weber.

"He'll come up behind a coach during practice," Weber said, "and tap him on the right shoulder and the guy looks that way and he'll be on the left side."

Apparently he saves his best for Weber.

"He's always teasing me about being old and bald headed," Weber said. "He called me one day about two weeks ago on a cell phone going to class. 'Dean, I'm down here in the HPER Building and there's an old baldheaded guy down here looks just like you. I'm just making sure it's not you.'"

McFadden and Arkansas' other great sophomore tailback, Felix Jones, are two of Weber's all-time favorites.

“ Felix always has a smile, ” Weber said. “ Just as personable as he can be. I’ll tell him, ‘ Hey Felix, it won’t be long before we go to the same barber. ”

If McFadden isn’t joking or Jones not smiling, then Weber knows it’s really serious — at least most of the time.

“ Neither one of those guys complain about anything, ” Weber said, “ unless it is something. So when they do say something you pay attention. Now McFadden will tease me and say, ‘ Dean, it’s my shoulder, and my ankle and my toe. ’ And I’ll say ‘ Come on let’s start treatment and he’ll say, ‘ No, it’s straight’ and go on. Obviously it’s not really bothering him. ”

**But when something really does, McFadden will live in the training room if that’s what it takes to heal. That’s why he played the season opener Sept. 2 against Southern California when some feared his season ended with major toe surgery on July 29.**

**Banged up all over from his 25 totes, McFadden went directly to the training room when the Hogs bused in from Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport around 3: 30 a. m. from their South Carolina trip.**

**“ We have this Game Ready, ” Weber said of a treatment, “ it’s an ice-pressure type thing that’s really good. So I said, ‘ Let’s put this Game Ready on for 20 minutes. So he sat there texting people on the phone and watched ‘ SportsCenter. ’ He never said ‘ It’s too late. ”**

“ Thank you ” is more appropriate than “ it’s too late” in McFadden’s view.

“ I appreciate, ” McFadden said, “ him taking the time out of his night to do that. I had slept on the plane. I wanted to watch some TV for awhile so I might as well do something useful. ”

Apparently he did. McFadden and Stephen Parker, the fifth-year senior offensive guard also injured against South Carolina, both should be ready to go against Tennessee in Saturday night’s ESPN 2 televised game in Fayetteville.

Despite his 219 yards rushing, McFadden got overshadowed for SEC Offensive Player of the Week. LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell, with 247 yards passing, including a game-winning TD pass with nine seconds left to beat Tennessee, got the SEC nod.

However, Arkansas does have another SEC Player of the Week honoree. Senior special teamer / reserve defensive end Anthony Brown, now calling Hot Springs home, was named SEC Special Teams Player of the Week. Brown blocked a punt in the end zone that for a safety during the first half of last Saturday’s 26-20 Razorback victory.

**“ That’s another one of our seniors who has been a tremendous leader, ” Arkansas coach Houston Nutt said, “ and never complains he doesn’t get many plays, but when he does, it’s with all-out effort. That blocked punt was a game-changer. ”**