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Former Herd QB performs CPR, saves man's life

By TIM STEPHENS 7 hrs ago



Former Marshall University and Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Eric Kresser, right, and his wife Jenna watch the Thunder Herd's Green-White Game from a skybox at Edwards Stadium Saturday afternoon. Saturday morning, Eric Kresser admir CPR to a man who collapsed at Starbucks, saving the man's life.

HUNTINGTON - As many great performances as Eric Kresser turned in as a quarterback at Marshall University, none rivaled what he did Saturday morning.

Kresser, in town for the reunion of the Thundering Herd's 1996 NCAA Division I-AA national championship football team, performed CPR on a man at Starbucks at Pullman Square, saving his life.

James Cameron fell to the floor and was turning blue when Kresser revived him before an ambulance arrived.

"I thought he was just getting his breath," said Kresser, who lives with wife Jenna in Jupiter, Florida. "Someone touched his shoulder and he didn't respond. Then I touched his shoulder and he didn't respond. I thought he was gone and he probably was. We got him on his back and he had no pulse and wasn't breathing, so I performed CPR."

As a teacher and football coach, Kresser is required to be certified in CPR, but he said he had never put the training in practice until Saturday.

"I just did what I was taught to do," Kresser said. "The kids I teach don't want to go to their CPR class. They'd rather play basketball or something. Maybe this will help them understand how important it is."

Kresser performed in a similar fashion as he did as a quarterback. He calmly analyzed the situation and reacted appropriately.

"I think I gave him about 1,000 compressions," Kresser said. "He started breathing and the color came back into his face. He came to when the medics got there."

Jenna Kresser said she was amazed at Cameron's recovery.

"He stood up and got on the stretcher," she said. "That was pretty cool to see him do that."

Kyle Jenkins, shift supervisor at Starbucks, said he was impressed by Kresser's actions.

"He jumped right in there," Jenkins said. "He gave him CPR for about 10 minutes until the paramedics came."

Jenkins said he didn't know who Kresser was until several hours later when a reporter informed him that the life-saving hero was a Herd hero and former NFL player with the Cincinnati Bengals.

"I had no idea," said Jenkins, who rewarded the Kressers with free coffee. "That's amazing."

Kresser said he needed a while to settle down after saving Cameron's life.

"I was shaken up pretty good," Kresser said. "I'm glad he's OK."