



AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

NEWS RELEASE

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DECEMBER 12, 2007

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Team Background

The AFCA has selected an All-America team every year since 1945. What makes these teams so special is that they are the only ones chosen exclusively by the men who know the players the best — the coaches themselves.

The five teams now chosen for each AFCA division evolved from a single 11-player squad in 1945. From 1945 until 1967, only one team was chosen. From 1967 through 1971, two teams, University Division and College Division, were selected. In 1972, the College Division was split into College I and College II. In 1979, the University Division was split into two teams — FBS and FCS. In 1996, the College I and College II teams were renamed Division II and Division III respectively. In 2006, the AFCA started selecting an NAIA-only team.

From 1965-81, a 22-player (11 offensive, 11 defensive) team was chosen. In 1982, a punter and placekicker were added to the team. In 1997, a return specialist was added, giving us the current 25-player team. The return specialist position has been replaced by an all-purpose player this season.

Selection Process

The AFCA's Division II All-America Selection Committee is made up of three head coaches from each of the AFCA's nine districts, one of whom serves as a district chairman, along with another head coach who serves as the chairman of the selection committee.

The coaches in each district are responsible for ranking the top players in their respective districts prior to a conference call between the district chairmen and the committee chairman on which the team is chosen.

SHEPHERD'S DERVON WALLACE, DELTA STATE'S MICHAEL EUBANKS HEADLINE 2007 AFCA DIVISION II COACHES' ALL-AMERICA TEAM

WACO, TEX. — Shepherd runningback Dervon Wallace and Delta State linebacker Michael Eubanks headline the 2007 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team announced today by the American Football Coaches Association.

THE OFFENSE

Quarterback **Brad Roach** of Catawba is the signal-caller on the 2007 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team. Roach was named South Atlantic Conference Offensive Player of the Year after he threw a school record 32 touchdowns and 3,322 yards in 2007.

Roach's receiving corps on this year's team features **Cedric Jones** of Valdosta State and **Weston Dressler** of North Dakota. Jones led the Gulf South Conference with 92 catches and 1,076 receiving yards this season. He caught 10 touchdown passes and averaged 11.7 yards per catch. Dressler, a finalist for the 2007 Harlon Hill Trophy, caught 76 passes for a school-record 1,272 yards and 13 touchdowns and graduates as the owner of 19 different school records, including career receptions (243) and career receiving yards (3,382).

Bloomsburg's **Jamar Brittingham**, Northwest Missouri State's **Xavier Omon** and Shepherd's **Dervon Wallace** are the runningbacks on this year's team. Brittingham rushed for 1,493 yards and 23 touchdowns. He is now the sole holder of 28 school and PSAC records and is the PSAC's all-time career leading rusher with 5,689 yards. In 2007, Omon became the first player in NCAA history, at any level, to rush for at least 1,500 yards for four straight years. He also set a school record for most touchdowns in a season at 36. Wallace established a Shepherd and WVIAC record with 2,138 rushing yards in 2007. He is also the conference's all-time leading scorer with 464 points.

The offensive line features **Mackenzey Bernadeau** of Bentley, **Ben Hochstein** of Nebraska-Omaha, **Tim McCutcheon** of California (Pa.), **Christian Morton** of South Dakota and **Vince Cashdollar** of Ashland.

Bernadeau was named Northeast-10 Conference Offensive Lineman of the Year after helping guide the Bentley offense to an average of 334.8 yards of offense per game. Hochstein helped lead the way for a Nebraska-Omaha rushing attack that averaged 294.9 yards per game. McCutcheon earned back-to-back Coaches' All-America honors after allowing only two sacks in his four years. Morton started every game at center and did not allow a sack, and registered 65 pancake blocks. Cashdollar was graded out at 92 percent by his coaches this season and recorded 85 knockdown blocks.

THE DEFENSE

The defense is led by Delta State linebacker **Michael Eubanks**. In 2007, Eubanks became the NCAA Division II career leader in sacks with 39 and ranks third all-time in NCAA history in career tackles-for-loss with 67.5. He led the nation's third-ranked defense with a career-high 84 tackles, 12 sacks and 24 tackles-for-loss.

Joining Eubanks at linebacker are **Anthony Adams** of Grand Valley State, **Will Clewis** of Central Oklahoma and **Eric Rice** of Carson-Newman. Adams led Grand Valley State with 94 total tackles and 20.5 tackles for a loss. He also recorded six sacks in 2007. Clewis earned LSC North Division Linebacker of the Year honors for the second straight year after he averaged 11.3 tackles a game to rank second in the LSC. Rice was the leading tackler on an Eagle team that led the league in rush defense. He was named the South Atlantic Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

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This year's defensive linemen include **Brandon Swain** of West Texas A&M, **Jake Visser** of Ferris State and **Kurt Kissner** of Mesa State. Swain ranked third on the Buffs squad with 71 tackles and led the team with 14 sacks, 24.5 tackles for a loss, 12 quarterback hurries and five forced fumbles. Visser ranked fifth in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in tackles for a loss with 14.5 while ranking sixth in total tackles with 106. Kissner was named Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year after ranking No. 2 in the nation in sacks (15.5). He also led the RMAC in sacks and tackles-for-loss (22.0).

The secondary feature's **Cary Williams** of Washburn, **Kendall Ricketts** of Central Missouri, **Craig Fox** of North Alabama and **Ranardrick Phillips** of Tarleton State. Williams led the MIAA with seven interceptions, which was second most in Washburn single-season history. Ricketts finished the season with 78 total tackles, five tackles for a loss, 1.5 sacks, one interception and one pass breakup. Fox finished second on the team with 74 total tackles, and registered seven tackles for a loss, three interceptions and five pass breakups. Phillips was named the Lone Star Conference Defensive Back of the Year for the third straight season after leading the Texans with 91 total tackles. He also registered four tackles for a loss, two interceptions and five pass breakups.

THE SPECIALISTS

De'Audra Dix of Johnson C. Smith is the all-purpose player on the Division II Coaches' All-America Team. Dix ranked first in the CIAA and third in the nation in kick-off returns, at 31.3 yards per return, while also ranking fifth in the conference in pass defended with 11. He registered 33 total tackles and four interceptions.

The placekicker is **Jared Guberman** of West Georgia. Guberman was 15-17 on field goals and 22-25 on PATs. He had a long field goal of 44 yards and was 3-4 from 40-49 yards. Arkansas Tech punter **Michael Podobnik** led both the Gulf South Conference and NCAA Division II in punting with a 45.2-yard average per punt. The 45.2-yard average is a new single-season Tech and GSC record.

2007 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team

Offense

| Pos | Name | Ht. | Wt. | Cl. | School | Coach | Hometown (High School) |
|-----|---------------------|------|-----|-----|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| WR | Cedric Jones | 6-0 | 180 | So. | Valdosta State | David Dean | Waycross, Ga. (Ware County) |
| WR | Weston Dressler* | 5-8 | 164 | Jr. | North Dakota | Dale Lennon | Bismarck, N.D. (Bismarck) |
| OL | Mackenzey Bernadeau | 6-4 | 303 | Sr. | Bentley | Peter Yetten | Waltham, Mass. (Waltham) |
| OL | Ben Hochstein | 6-4 | 298 | Sr. | Nebraska-Omaha | Pat Behrns | Hartington, Neb. (Cedar Catholic) |
| OL | Tim McCutcheon* | 6-4 | 305 | Sr. | California (Pa.) | John Luckhardt | Sewickley, Pa. (Quaker Valley) |
| OL | Christian Morton | 6-5 | 286 | Sr. | South Dakota | Ed Meierkort | Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk) |
| OL | Vince Cashdollar | 6-2 | 297 | Sr. | Ashland | Lee Owens | Newark, Ohio (Newark) |
| QB | Brad Roach | 6-6 | 245 | Sr. | Catawba | Chip Hester | Williamston, N.C. (Williamston) |
| RB | Jamar Brittingham | 6-0 | 203 | Sr. | Bloomsburg | Danny Hale | Levittown, Pa. (Neshaminy) |
| RB | Xavier Omon | 5-11 | 220 | Sr. | Northwest Missouri St. | Mel Tjeerdsma | Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice) |
| RB | Dervon Wallace | 5-6 | 177 | Sr. | Shepherd | Monte Cater | Lusby, Md. (Calvert) |

Defense

| Pos | Name | Ht. | Wt. | Cl. | School | Coach | Hometown (High School) |
|-----|---------------------|------|-----|-----|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| DL | Brandon Swain | 6-4 | 255 | Jr. | West Texas A&M | Don Carthel | Tulsa, Okla. (Washington) |
| DL | Jake Visser | 6-2 | 275 | Jr. | Ferris State | Jeff Pierce | Coopersville, Mich. (Coopersville) |
| DL | Kurt Kissner | 6-3 | 245 | Sr. | Mesa State | Joe Ramunno | Cedaredge, Colo. (Cedaredge) |
| LB | Michael Eubanks | 6-2 | 225 | Sr. | Delta State | Ron Roberts | Cleveland, Miss. (Cleveland) |
| LB | Anthony Adams | 6-2 | 234 | Sr. | Grand Valley State | Chuck Martin | Troy, Mich. (Troy) |
| LB | Will Clewis | 6-1 | 240 | Sr. | Central Oklahoma | Chuck Langston | Fort Worth, Texas (Eastern Hills) |
| LB | Eric Rice | 5-11 | 205 | Sr. | Carson-Newman | Ken Sparks | Thomasville, Ga. (County) |
| DB | Cary Williams | 6-2 | 190 | Sr. | Washburn | Craig Schurig | Miami, Fla. (Madonna College Prep) |
| DB | Kendall Ricketts | 5-10 | 190 | Sr. | Central Missouri | Willie Fritz | Raytown, Mo. (South) |
| DB | Craig Fox | 6-0 | 185 | Sr. | North Alabama | Mark Hudspeth | Kentwood, La. (Jewel M. Summer) |
| DB | Ranardrick Phillips | 5-10 | 202 | Sr. | Tarleton State | Sam McElroy | Madison, Fla. (County) |

Specialists

| Pos | Name | Ht. | Wt. | Cl. | School | Coach | Hometown (High School) |
|-----|------------------|------|-----|-----|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| P | Michael Podobnik | 6-0 | 230 | Jr. | Arkansas Tech | Steve Mullins | Frankfort, Ill. (Lincoln-Way East) |
| PK | Jared Guberman | 5-10 | 190 | Jr. | West Georgia | Mike Ledford | Boca Raton, Fla. (Spanish River) |
| AP | De'Audra Dix | 5-10 | 160 | Sr. | Johnson C. Smith | Daryl McNeill | Merritt Island, Fla. (Merritt Island) |

*-2006 AFCA All-American

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Top Teams: Texas A&M-Kingsville has been represented a total of 32 times by 28 players on the AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team. Trailing Texas A&M-Kingsville is Pittsburg State (17/14), Indiana (Pa.) (16/14), North Dakota (15/13), American International (14/13), Carson-Newman (14/13), North Alabama (14/13), Texas A&M-Commerce (14/12), Ferris State (13/12), Grand Valley State (13/12) and Northwest Missouri State (13/9).

Consecutive Years: Texas A&M-Kingsville had at least one player named to the AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team for 18 straight seasons, from 1986 to 2003, the most by any team in Division II.

Repeat After Me: Texas A&M-Kingsville's **Johnny Bailey** is the only player to earn Coaches' All-America honors in four consecutive years at any level. Bailey was a four-year pick at runningback in 1986-87-88-89.

One Player, Two Schools: Punter **Mark Bounds** is the only player to earn Coaches' All-America honors at two different schools. He was named to the AFCA College Division I team in 1990 while playing for West Texas A&M. He transferred to Texas Tech after West Texas dropped football and earned I-A All-America honors as a Red Raider in 1991.

Class Distinction: This year's Division II Coaches' All-America Team is made up of 19 seniors, five juniors and one sophomore.

First Time School: **Ranardrick Phillips** of Tarleton State is the first player from his school to earn AFCA Coaches' All-America Team honors.

For more information on the AFCA and its programs log on to the AFCA's website at www.afca.com.

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