

Football News

Release

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2001 FOOTBALL TEAM AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Big Rapids, Mich. – Senior flanker **Clarence Coleman (Miami, Fla./Miramar)** of the 2001 Ferris State University football team, presently one of nine national finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year, was recently chosen the team's Most Valuable Player and the Most Valuable Offensive Skill Player for the 2001 season at the program's annual awards banquet. Ferris State finished the 2001 campaign with a 7-4 overall record, which included a third-place 7-3 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) mark.

The 5-11, 182-pound Coleman, the Bulldogs' 2000 Most Valuable Player, concluded his four-year career as the NCAA-II's all-time leader in receptions (323) and receiving yards (4,983). He also had 42 career touchdown receptions while averaging 7.7 receptions per game, 15.4 yards a catch and 118.6 receiving yards a contest in 42 career outings. The 2000 consensus first-team All-America honoree closed out his career ranking among all four NCAA Division all-time leaders in six statistical categories – second in receptions, third in receiving yardage, sixth in all-purpose yards (8,009), ninth in receiving yards per game, tied for 13th in receptions per contest, and tied for 16th in touchdown receptions. Coleman, who holds 11 school career and single-season records, totaled 11 double-figure reception games and 27 100-yard plus receiving single-game performances in his career.

Senior defensive tackle **William Foster (St. Ignace/LaSalle)** was the recipient of the Most Valuable Defensive Lineman Award after totaling a personal career-best 66 tackles this fall, including 9.5 tackles for loss (-28 yards). The three-year starting lineman placed fourth among the team's leading tacklers this campaign. The Rich Currie EPEP (*Every Player, Every Play*) Award went to senior outside linebacker **Charlie Pierson (St. Ignace/LaSalle)**, who finished second in team tackles with 106 total to go along with 7.5 tackles for loss (-34 yards) in 11 games this year. Pierson racked up 16 career double-digit single-game tackle efforts, including six this season. Junior tackle **Justin Giordano (Memphis)**, a two-year starter on the Bulldogs' offensive line, garnered Most Valuable Offensive Lineman laurels.

Junior cornerback **DeRen Ellis (Detroit/Harper Woods Notre Dame)** earned the Most Valuable Defensive Skill Player Award with a personal career-high 54 tackles (eighth on team) along with a pass theft in 11 contests. He ranks tied for sixth place with nine career interceptions (126 yards) among FSU's all-time leaders. The Most Improved Offensive Player Award was presented to junior flanker **Robert Giles (Mt. Clemens/L'Anse Creuse North)** and junior defensive end **Bo Moore (Montrose)** was the recipient of the Most Improved Defensive Player Award. Giles set personal career-bests in receptions (19), receiving yards (325) and touchdown receptions (four) this season while Moore's personal career-high 68 tackles was third best on the squad. Moore paced the Bulldogs with 15.5 tackles for a loss of 63 yards, which included 11 quarterback sacks for minus 47 yards.

The Special Teams Player of the Year Award was given to sophomore kicker **Tom Perez (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)**, who connected on nine-of-14 field goals and 31-of-34 extra-point kick attempts this season while finishing second in team scoring with 58 points. He kicked a game-winning 34-yard field in the Bulldogs' 16-13 double-overtime win over Indianapolis (11/10). Redshirt freshman quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** earned the Outstanding Offensive Rookie Award after throwing for 1,537 yards and 15 touchdowns on 122-of-222 attempts (55.0%). Marsan's 1,537 passing yards ranked 12th best among the school's career leaders and was 15th highest in a single season. Redshirt frosh outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** was named the Outstanding Defensive Rookie after placing ninth on the squad with 49 tackles and a pass theft in 10 games.

Receiving the Coaches Award for outstanding leadership for the second straight season was senior split end **Lamar Patterson (Milan)** along with senior outside linebacker **Jason Wells (Tipp City, Ohio/Bethel)**. The Ken Hicks Pump Award (team spirit) went to senior strong safety **J.J. Moreland (Marcellus/Three Rivers)**, who placed seventh in team tackles with 59 stops and recorded an interception in 11 games. The Bill and Lynn Scheible Scholarship Award (Tomorrow's Team Offensive Player of the Year) was awarded to freshman tackle **Phil Teeple (Bancroft/Durand)** and frosh free safety **Aaron Sawyer (Belmont/Rockford)** earned Tomorrow's Team Defensive Player of the Year Award.

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