



AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION™

NEWS RELEASE

100 Legends Lane • Waco, Texas 76706 • (254) 754-9900 • Fax: (254) 754-7373 • www.afca.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 10, 2003

AFCA CONTACT:

Vince Thompson, Assistant Director of Media Relations

254 754-9900

Team Background

The AFCA has selected an All-America team every year since 1945.

The four 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 — Division I-A and Division I-AA. In 1996 the College I and College II teams were renamed Division II and Division III respectively.

From 1965-81, a 22-player (11 offensive, 11 defensive) team was chosen. In 1982, a punter and place-kicker were added to the team. In 1997 a return specialist was added, giving us the current 25-player team.

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.

The Award

Members of the AFCA Coaches' All-America Team receive a plaque commemorating their selection to the team.

ST. CLOUD STATE'S KEITH HECKENDORF, MANSFIELD'S DAN HOLLAND HEADLINE THE 2003 AFCA DIVISION II COACHES' ALL-AMERICATEAM

WACO, TEX. — St. Cloud State quarterback Keith Heckendorf and Mansfield linebacker Dan Holland headline the 2003 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team announced today by the American Football Coaches Association.

The AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team is made up of players from NCAA Division II and NAIA institutions.

The AFCA has selected an All-America team since 1945 and currently selects teams in all four of its divisions. 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 OFFENSE

Quarterback **Keith Heckendorf** of St. Cloud State is the signal-caller on the 2003 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team. He has thrown a touchdown pass in 22 straight games and threw for 2,905 yards and 30 touchdowns this season. He ranks 11th nationally in total offense (289.9) and 18th in passing efficiency. Academically, he is a National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete award recipient.

Heckendorf's receiving corps on this year's team features **Antonio Carter** of Glenville State, **Mark Gallik** of Carroll (Mont.) and **Jamaica Rector** of Northwest Missouri State.

Carter caught 81 passes for 1,168 yards and 13 touchdowns for Glenville State this season and finished No. 2 nationally in receptions per game. Gallik caught 54 passes for 1,028 yards and 10 touchdowns for the defending NAIA champions. Rector caught 63 passes for 971 yards and eight touchdowns and also carried the ball 11 times for 85 yards and two scores.

Southern Oregon's **Dusty McGroarty** and Nebraska-Omaha's **Justin Kammrad** are the runningbacks on this year's team.

McGroarty averaged 189.1 yards per game for the NAIA's Raiders and ended his career with more than 5,000 yards rushing. Kammrad led NCAA Division II in rushing this year with 1,865 yards and 14 touchdowns. He averaged 169.6 yards per game.

The offensive line features **Joe Valroda** of Edinboro, **Kevin Palmer** of Texas A&M-Kingsville, **Tyler Strong** of Fort Hays State, **Ben Olson** of North Dakota and **Britt Lively** of Abilene Christian.

Valroda solidified an Edinboro offensive line that helped the Fighting Scots average nearly 400 yards per game this season. Palmer anchored an offensive line that cleared the way for nearly 200 yards in rushing offense each game for the Javelinas. Strong was a two-time All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference selection for the Tigers. Olson was the Offensive Lineman of the Year in the North Central Conference as the Fighting Sioux offensive line surrendered only four sacks as a unit this year. Lively was a three-year starter at ACU and blocked for a Wildcat offense that averaged 312 yards per game.

THE DEFENSE

The defense is led by Mansfield linebacker **Dan Holland**. Holland had 136 tackles for the Mountaineers this season as they posted their best record in the school's 112-year history. Joining Holland at linebacker are **John Sullivan** of Georgetown (Ky.) and **Kevin Myers** of Ferris State.

Sullivan led the Tigers with 104 tackles and had 9.5 tackles for loss and two sacks this season. Myers finished the season with a team-high 141 tackles along with three interceptions and five forced fumbles.

-(MORE)-

Leading the way on the defensive line is **Anthony Maddox** from Delta State. Maddox led the Statesmen in tackles from his defensive line position with 84. He also posted 16 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks. Pittsburg State's **Aaron McConnell** finished the season with 56 tackles, including a team-high 25 for loss with 7.5 sacks. Arkansas Tech's **Tommy Edwards** was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference performer for the Wonderboys. He posted 13 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks this year. **Rod Green** of Central Missouri State rounds out this year's defensive line. Green was a two-time All-MIAA selection for the Mules and had 63 tackles this season.

The secondary is led by Tusculum's versatile **Ricardo Colclough**. A Harlon Hill Award finalist in 2003, Colclough was the Defensive Player of the Year in the South Atlantic Conference this season. Ashland's **Toure Carter** led the Great Lakes Conference with nine interceptions this season, including four in one game. Missouri Western's **Pierre Thomas** tied the Division II record for interceptions in a season with 14, which he returned for an NCAA record 362 yards. Minnesota State-Mankato's **Jared Ziemke** rounds out the secondary. Ziemke set an NCAA record with eight forced fumbles this season and led the North Central Conference in tackles per game.

THE SPECIALISTS

Kevin Curtin of Winona State is the return specialist on the AFCA Division II Coaches All-America Team for the second year in a row. Curtin averaged 23 yards per kickoff return in 2003.

Grand Valley State's **David Hendrix** led the Lakers in scoring with 129 points as he converted 24-30 field goals and 57 of 63 PATs. Central Washington's **Joe Smith** led NCAA Division II in punting with an average of 44.2 yard per kick.

2003 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team

Offense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
WR	Antonio Carter	6-0	180	Jr.	Glenville St.	Paul Shaffner	College Park, Ga. (Oakridge)
WR	Mark Gallik	6-0	190	Sr.	Carroll (Mont.)	Mike Van Diest	Stevensville, Mont. (Stevensville)
WR	Jamaica Rector	5-10	182	Jr.	Northwest Mo. St.	Mel Tjeerdsma	Celeste, Texas (Celeste)
OL	Joe Valvoda	6-2	290	Sr.	Edinboro	Lou Tepper	Mantua, Ohio (Kenston)
OL	Kevin Palmer	6-3	280	Sr.	Texas A&M-Kingsville	Richard Cundiff	Pleasanton, Texas (Pleasanton)
OL	Tyler Strong	6-2	280	Sr.	Fort Hays St.	Tim O'Connor	Medicine Lodge, Kan. (Medicine Lodge)
OL	Ben Olson	6-5	295	Sr.	North Dakota	Dale Lennon	Windom, Minn. (Windom Area)
OL	Britt Lively	6-4	310	Sr.	Abilene Christian	Gary Gaines	Silsbee, Texas (Silsbee)
QB	Keith Heckendorf	6-1	200	Sr.	St. Cloud St.	Randy Hedberg	Mosinee, Wis. (Mosinee)
RB	Dusty McGroarty	6-0	220	Sr.	Southern Oregon	Jeff Olson	Warrenton, Ore. (Warrenton)
RB	Justin Kammrad	6-0	205	Sr.	Nebraska-Omaha	Pat Behrns	Council Bluffs, Iowa (Thomas Jefferson)

Defense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
DL	Anthony Maddox	6-2	308	Sr.	Delta St.	Rick Rhoades	Funston, Ga. (Monroe)
DL	Aaron McConnell	6-3	294	Sr.	Pittsburg St.	Chuck Broyles	Midwest City, Okla. (Midwest City)
DL	Tommy Edwards	6-3	245	Sr.	Arkansas Tech	Steve Mullins	Harrison, Ark. (Harrison)
DL	Rod Green	6-2	245	Sr.	Central Missouri St.	Willie Fritz	Brenham, Texas (Brenham)
LB	John Sullivan	5-11	225	Jr.	Georgetown (Ky.)	Bill Cronin	Hodgenville, Ky. (LaRue County)
LB	Kevin Myers	5-11	210	Jr.	Ferris St.	Jeff Pierce	Midland, Mich. (Midland)
LB	Dan Holland	6-1	225	Sr.	Mansfield	Chris Woods	Scranton, Pa. (Bishop O'Hara)
DB	Ricardo Colclough	6-0	185	Sr.	Tusculum	Frankie DeBusk	Sumter, S.C. (Sumter)
DB	Toure Carter	5-10	183	Sr.	Ashland	Gary Keller	Cleveland, Ohio (Rhoades)
DB	Pierre Thomas	5-11	175	Sr.	Missouri Western	Jerry Partridge	Lee's Summit, Mo. (North)
DB	Jared Ziemke	6-3	237	Sr.	Minnesota St.-Mankato	Clarence Holley	Janesville, Minn. (W-E-H)

Specialists

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
P	Joe Smith	6-2	183	Sr.	Central Washington	John Zamberlin	Enumclaw, Wash. (Enumclaw)
PK	David Hendrix	5-10	175	Sr.	Grand Valley St.	Brian Kelly	Stevensville, Mich. (Lake Shore)
RS	Kevin Curtin*	5-8	185	Sr.	Winona St.	Tom Sawyer	Midlothian, Ill. (Bremen)

*-2002 AFCA All-American

-(MORE)-

Top Teams: Texas A&M-Kingsville has been represented a total of 28 times by 24 players on the AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team. Overall, the Javelinas have earned All-America honors 30 times, counting players selected in the AFCA's old College Division (1967-71). Trailing A&M-Kingsville's 28 Division II selections is Indiana (Pa.) with 15 appearances by 13 players.

Consecutive Years: Texas A&M-Kingsville has had at least one player named to the AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team in each of the last 18 seasons.

Repeat After Me: Texas A&M-Kingsville's **Johnny Bailey** is the only player to earn Burger King 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-AA All-America honors as a Red Raider in 1991.

Class Distinction: This year's AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team is made up of 21 seniors and four juniors.

First Time Schools: Dan Holland of Mansfield and Pierre Thomas of Missouri Western are the first players from their schools to earn AFCA Coaches' All-America Team honors.

Back-to-Back: **Kevin Curtin** earned AFCA Coaches' All-America honors for the second consecutive year.

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

-(AFCA)-