



AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

# NEWS RELEASE

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

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AFCA CONTACT:

Vince Thompson, Manager of Publications and Media Relations Assistant

254 754-9900

## 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 — Division I-A and Division I-AA. In 1996, the College I and College II teams were renamed Division II and Division III respectively. The AFCA is selecting an NAIA-only team for the first time this year.

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 The return specialist position has been replaced by an all-purpose player this season.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 I-AA 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.

## CHADRON STATE'S DANNY WOODHEAD, ALBANY STATE'S ALTON PETTWAY HEADLINE 2006 AFCA DIVISION II COACHES' ALL-AMERICA TEAM

**WACO, TEX.** — Chadron State runningback Danny Woodhead and Albany State defensive lineman Alton Pettway headline the 2006 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team announced today by the American Football Coaches Association.

### THE OFFENSE

Quarterback **Cullen Finnerty** of Grand Valley State is the signal-caller on the 2006 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team. In 2006, Finnerty led the nation in pass efficiency rating (175.3) and touchdown passes (40). He is one of four players in NCAA all-division history to pass for over 10,000 yards and rush for over 2,000 yards.

Finnerty's receiving corps on this year's team features **Anthony Merritt** of North Alabama, **Weston Dressler** of North Dakota and **Mike Peterson** of Northwest Missouri State. Merritt caught 48 passes for 541 yards and four touchdowns, rushed for 181 yards and a touchdown and also threw three touchdown passes. Dressler led the nation with 90 receptions and also finished the season with a school-record 1,215 receiving yards and 16 receiving touchdowns. Peterson, twice named to the All-MIAA team, is the Bearcats' third leading receiver in 2006 with 34 catches for 497 yards, at an average of 14.6 yards per catch.

Chadron State's **Danny Woodhead** and Wayne State's (Mich.) **Joiqie Bell** are the runningbacks on this year's team. Woodhead became the first college player in history to rush for more than 2,700 yards in a season, finishing with a nation's best 2,756 yards. He also led NCAA Division II in scoring with 38 touchdowns (228 points). Bell set the Wayne State and GLIAC single-season rushing mark and became the 14th player in NCAA D-II history to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season (2,065). In addition, he set school records for rushing touchdowns (22) and total touchdowns (23).

The offensive line features **Allen Barbre** of Missouri Southern State, **Jason Capizzi** of Indiana (Pa.), **Tim McCutcheon** of California (Pa.), **John Cook** of Texas A&M-Kingsville and **Rayshaun Hollings** of Southeastern Oklahoma State.

Barbre helped lead an offensive line that saw Adam Hinspeter become just the second quarterback in Missouri Southern history to throw for 2,500 yards twice in a career. Capizzi was the leader of an offensive line that led the way for 171.7 yards rushing per game and allowed a total of nine sacks on the year. McCutcheon was the lead blocker for an offense that ranked among the PSAC leaders in rushing offense (199.5, first), passing offense (217.9, fourth), total offense (417.9, first) and scoring offense (31.0, third). Cook allowed only one quarterback sack in 321 pass attempts, had 79 knockdowns and paved the way for a quartet of 100-yard rushing performances. Hollings was the top lineman for the nation's seventh-best passing attack (276.5 ypg) and earned LSC North Division Lineman of the Year honors.

### THE DEFENSE

The defense is led by Albany State defensive lineman **Alton Pettway**. Pettway led Division II in quarterback sacks with 14.5 and was sixth nationally in tackles for loss with 22.5. Joining Pettway on the defensive line are **Ron Ellington** of Catawba, **Odell Willis** of West Georgia and **Trey Lewis** of Washburn.

Ellington led the South Atlantic Conference in sacks with 8.5 this season, and posted a team-leading 74 tackles. Willis collected 53 tackles on the season, including seven sacks, which led the Gulf South Conference. Lewis was named the MIAA's Most Valuable Defensive Player. He finished third on the team with 62 tackles and had four sacks.

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This year's linebackers include **Charleston Hughes** of Northwood, **John Tackmann** of Winona State and **Mike Klobucher** of Ferris State. Hughes led Division II with 6.5 solo tackles per game (71 total), and ranked fourth in the GLIAC in total tackles (9.4 per game) and fifth in tackles for loss (1.18 per game). Named Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Defensive Player of the Year, Tackmann ranked second to Hughes with 6.3 solo tackles per game and led the NSIC with 10.4 tackles per game. Klobucher racked up 92 total tackles, including 47 solo, 6.5 tackles for a loss, 2.5 sacks and two fumbles recovered.

The secondary feature's **David Jones** of Wingate, **Darvin Peterson** of Texas A&M-Commerce, **Quincy Skinner** of Arkansas Tech and **Robert Towns** of Harding. A first team All-South Atlantic Conference performer for the second year in a row, Jones recorded four interceptions, made 24 tackles and knocked down 12 passes. Peterson earned LSC North Division Defensive Back of the Year honors after recording four interceptions and leading the team with 81 total tackles. Skinner tied for the GSC lead with eight interceptions and recorded 63 tackles, 2.5 tackles for a loss and five pass break-ups. Towns had a team-high eight interceptions, the third most in Harding history, and was second on the team with 57 tackles.

### THE SPECIALISTS

**Stefan Logan** of South Dakota is the all-purpose player on the AFCA Division II Coaches All-America Team. Logan rushed for 1,707 yards (6th nationally), had a 15.9 yard punt return average (8th nationally) and a 28.2 kickoff return average (10th nationally). Logan's single season total of 2,670 all purpose yards ranked second in Division II and is the seventh-best single season total ever in Division II.

The placekicker is **Mitch Warfield** of West Alabama. Warfield earned first-team All-GSC honors after going 10 of 14 in field goals and a perfect 37 of 37 on PATs. East Central punter **Curtis Lilly** was nation's leading punter with a 45.2 average. Fourteen of his punts traveled 50 yards or better and he set school records for punting average in a game (52.0), season (45.2) and career (42.4) in 2006.

### 2006 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team

#### Offense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
WR	Anthony Merritt	6-0	189	Sr.	North Alabama	Mark Hudspeth	Columbus, Ga. (Shaw)
WR	Weston Dressler	5-8	164	Jr.	North Dakota	Dale Lennon	Bismarck, N.D. (Bismarck)
TE	Mike Peterson	6-3	245	Jr.	Northwest Missouri St.	Mel Tjeerdsma	Atlantic, Iowa (Atlantic)
OL	Allen Barbre	6-4	295	Sr.	Missouri Southern St.	Bart Tatum	Granby, Mo. (East Newton)
OL	Jason Capizzi	6-9	315	Sr.	Indiana (Pa.)	Lou Tepper	Gibsonia, Pa. (Pine-Richland)
C	Tim McCutcheon	6-4	305	Jr.	California (Pa.)	John Luckhardt	Sewickley, Pa. (Quaker Valley)
OL	John Cook	6-3	310	Sr.	Texas A&M-Kingsville	Richard Cundiff	Houston, Texas (Spring Woods)
OL	Rayshaun Hollings	6-2	290	Sr.	Southeastern Okla. St.	Ray Richards	Grand Prairie, Texas (Grand Prairie)
QB	Cullen Finnerty	6-2	210	Sr.	Grand Valley St.	Chuck Martin	Brighton, Mich. (Brighton)
RB	Danny Woodhead	5-9	200	Jr.	Chadron St.	Bill O'Boyle	North Platte, Neb. (North Platte)
RB	Joiqee Bell	6-0	213	Fr.	Wayne St. (Mich.)	Paul Winters	Benton Harbor, Mich. (Benton Harbor)

#### Defense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
DL	Ron Ellington	6-4	225	Jr.	Catawba	Chip Hester	Charlotte, N.C. (Independence)
DL	Odell Willis	6-3	242	Sr.	West Georgia	Mike Ledford	Yantley, Ala. (Choctaw County)
DL	Trey Lewis	6-3	290	Sr.	Washburn	Craig Schurig	Topeka, Kan. (Washburn Rural)
DL	Alton Pettway	6-3	258	Sr.	Albany St.	Mike White	Bay Minette, Ala. (Baldwin County)
LB	Charleston Hughes	6-1	235	Sr.	Northwood	Pat Riepma	Saginaw, Mich. (Saginaw)
LB	John Tackmann	6-2	210	Sr.	Winona St.	Tom Sawyer	Eau Claire, Wis. (Altoona)
LB	Mike Klobucher	6-2	248	Sr.	Ferris St.	Jeff Pierce	Grand Haven, Mich. (North Muskegon)
DB	David Jones	6-1	196	Sr.	Wingate	Joe Reich	Greenville, S.C. (Greenville)
DB	Darvin Peterson	6-0	200	Sr.	Texas A&M-Commerce	Scotty Conley	Mesquite, Texas (Dallas Adamson)
DB	Quincy Skinner	5-10	170	Jr.	Arkansas Tech	Steve Mullins	Coral Springs, Fla. (Ely)
DB	Robert Towns	5-11	195	Sr.	Harding	Randy Tribble	Memphis, Tenn. (Briarcrest)

#### Specialists

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
P	Curtis Lilly	6-5	225	Sr.	East Central	Kurt Nichols	McIntire, Iowa (Riceville)
PK	Mitch Warfield	5-9	154	Fr.	West Alabama	Bobby Wallace	Bay Minette, Ala. (Baldwin County)
AP	Stefan Logan	5-7	180	Sr.	South Dakota	Ed Meierkort	Miami, Fla. (Jackson)

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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 A&M-Kingsville is Pittsburg State (17/14), Indiana (Pa.) (16/14), American International (14/13), North Dakota (14/13), Texas A&M-Commerce (14/12), North Alabama (13/12), Grand Valley State (12/11), Northwest Missouri State (12/8) and Ferris State (12/11).

**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 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team is made up of 17 seniors, six juniors and two freshman.

**First Time Schools:** **Rayshaun Hollings** of Southeastern Oklahoma State and **Trey Lewis** of Washburn are the first players from their schools 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](http://www.afca.com).*

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