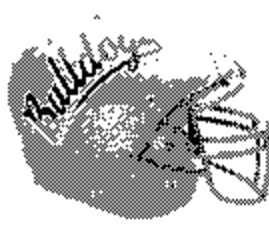


Football News Release

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CLARENCE COLEMAN NAMED FOOTBALL MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Big Rapids, Mich. – Junior split end **Clarence Coleman (Miami, Fla./Miramar)** was named the Ferris State University football team's Most Valuable Player for the 2000 season at the program's annual awards banquet held recently at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Big Rapids, Mich. Ferris State finished the 2000 campaign with a 5-6 overall record, including a 5-5 GLIAC mark (fifth-place tie).

The 5-11, 184-pound Coleman set both Ferris State and Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) career records for most receptions and receiving yards this season. He has currently totaled 3,637 career receiving yards on 229 catches in 31 contests at FSU while compiling 212 career receptions for 3,460 yards in conference games only. Coleman, who also received the Most Valuable Offensive Skill Player Award, established school single-season records for receptions (97), receiving yards (1,519) and touchdowns (15) this fall. His 89 catches for 1,441 yards in GLIAC outings only this season both represented conference records. He compiled nine 100-yard plus game receiving performances this campaign and three double-figure reception outings, which included a conference and school-record tying 15 catches at Grand Valley State (10/7).

Senior defensive tackle **Ryan Morris (South Lyon)** and senior defensive end **Dave Zuiderveen (Kalamazoo/Christian)** were co-recipients of the Most Valuable Defensive Lineman Award. Morris, who received the Rich Currie EPEP (*Every Player, Every Play*) Award, led the GLIAC with a personal season-high 24 total tackles for loss (-81 yds.) while his 77 stops on the season was fourth highest on the team. Zuiderveen placed fifth on the team in tackles with a personal season-high 76 stops (46 solos) to go along with 22 tackles for minus 77 yards. He paced the Bulldogs in quarterback sacks with 11.5 for 53 yards while ranking second among GLIAC leaders in both quarterback sacks and tackles for loss. Senior center **Jason Losinski (Warren/Mott)**, a three-year starter, garnered Most Valuable Offensive Lineman laurels.

Junior outside linebacker **Charlie Pierson (St. Ignace/LaSalle)** earned the Most Valuable Defensive Skill Player Award as a result of his team-leading and personal season-best 110 tackles (73 solos). He notched 17 tackles for loss (-105 yds.), including nine quarterback sacks (-77 yds.) to go along with three fumble recoveries. Pierson compiled six double-figure tackle game performances this season, including a season-best 16 stops against Mercyhurst (10/14). The Most Improved Offensive Player Award went to sophomore tackle **Justin Giordano (Memphis)** and sophomore cornerback **DeRen Ellis (Detroit/Harper Woods Notre Dame)** was the recipient of the Most Improved Defensive Player Award following his single-season school record eight interceptions for 71 yards this year.

Honored with the Special Teams Player of the Year Award was junior outside linebacker **Adam Riley (Corunna)**, who totaled 27 tackles (21 solo) in 11 outings. Freshman tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibsonston, Fla./East Bay)** earned the Outstanding Offensive Rookie Award after rushing for a team-high 1,227 yards and seven touchdowns on 262 carries (111.5 ypg.). He broke the GLIAC freshman rushing record held by Saginaw Valley State's Marlion Jackson (1998; 1,119 rushing yds.) with 1,162 rushing yards on 246 attempts (116.2 ypg.) in conference play. Meanwhile, freshman strong safety **Vito Ciaramellano (Rochester Hills/Rochester)** was honored as the team's Outstanding Defensive Rookie as a result of placing 12th among the squad's tackles leaders with 40 total stops (23 solos) this season.

Receiving the Coaches Award for outstanding leadership were senior outside linebacker **Rob Ridling (Sault Ste. Marie/Sault Area)** and junior split end **Lamar Patterson (Milan)** while the Ken Hicks Pump Award (team spirit) was presented to senior tight end **Josh Heppner (Marshall)**. The Bill and Lynn Scheible Scholarship Award (Tomorrow's Team Offensive Player of the Year) was awarded to freshman tight end **Austin Malloy (Grand Rapids/Catholic Central)** and frosh middle linebacker **Brad Morris (South Lyon)** earned Tomorrow's Team Defensive Player of the Year Award.

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