



NEWS RELEASE

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South of the Border

The 20 seniors on this year's AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team earned invitations to play on the AFCA's Division III all-star team that met a team of Mexican college all-stars in the Aztec Bowl on December 16 in Aguascalientes.

Eighteen of those players will be on the field in Saturday's game.

Team Background

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

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The return specialist position has been replaced by an all-purpose player this season.

The Award

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

MOUNT UNION'S PIERRE GARCON, WESLEY'S MARIO HARRIS HEADLINE THE 2006 AFCA DIVISION III COACHES' ALL-AMERICA TEAM

WACO, TEX. — Mount Union wide receiver Pierre Garcon and Wesley defensive back Mario Harris headline the 2006 AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team announced today by the American Football Coaches Association.

The AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team is made up of players from NCAA Division III 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

Mount Union's **Pierre Garcon** caught 59 passes for 1,096 yards and 15 for touchdowns, for the Purple Raiders this season. Garcon averaged nearly 20 yards a reception and was voted the receiver of the year in the Ohio Athletic Conference.

Joining Garcon in this year's AFCA All-America receiving corps are receiver **Chris Barnette** of Guilford and tight end **Michael Allan** of Whitworth.

Barnette caught 94 passes for 900 yards and nine touchdowns for the Quakers. Allan, a returnee from the 2005 AFCA All-America team was the leading tight end receiver in all of Division III this season with 53 catches for 1,100 yards and nine touchdowns.

Quarterbacking this year's AFCA All-America Team is Occidental's **Andy Collins**.

A threat to beat you with his legs or his arm, Collins guided the Tigers to the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title and a berth in the Division III playoffs. He completed 64 percent of his passes for 2,189 yards and rushed for 349 yards this season.

Joining Collins in the backfield are runningbacks **Tom Arcidiacono** of Union (N.Y.) and **Phil Porta** of Bethel (Minn.).

Arcidiacono finished the regular season ranked No. 2 in rushing and No. 5 in scoring in Division III. He ran for 4,919 yards in his career, the 15th-best total in Division III history. Porta capped his stellar career at Bethel by becoming the all-time leading rusher in Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference history with 5,270 career rushing yards.

The offensive linemen on this year's AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team are Washington & Jefferson's **Chris Teter**, Springfield's **Adam Feit**, Hardin-Simmons' **Josh Knox**, Willamette's **Brandon Bennett** and Wooster's **Rick Drushal**.

Teter anchored an offensive line that helped the Presidents lead the Presidents' Athletic Conference in 12 statistical categories, including total offense, scoring and rushing offense. Feit was the key blocker for an offensive line that helped the Pride lead Division III in rushing with an average of 387.7 yards per game this season. Knox centered an offensive line that cleared the way for the Cowboys to average nearly 450 yards in total offense per game. Bennett opened holes for a Willamette ground game that averaged 173 yards per game. Drushal was a key component of an offense that averaged 337 yards per game in 2006.

THE DEFENSE

The defense is led by Wesley defensive back **Mario Harris**. The second returnee from the 2005 AFCA All-America Team, Harris headlines a Wesley secondary that propelled the Wolverines deep into the Division III playoffs this year. Harris posted two interceptions and 13 pass break-ups this year.

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Harris is joined in the secondary by Wisconsin-La Crosse's **Steve Teeples**, King's' (Pa.) **Craig Haywood** and Salisbury's **Byron Westbrook**.

Teeples ended the season with 7 interceptions, and also blocked two kicks for the Eagles this season. Haywood set a school record with 12 interceptions this year and finished with 19 picks for his career. Westbrook finished the year with 33 tackles, five interceptions and five pass break-ups.

Wheaton's **Andy Studebaker**, Alfred's **Don Miller**, Cortland State's **Adam Haas** and Ohio Northern's **Jason Trusnik** man the defensive front on this year's All-America Team.

Studebaker was the Defensive Player of the Year in the CCIW, finishing the season with 24.5 tackles for loss, 17.5 sacks and 19 quarterback pressures. Miller finished the season with 57 tackles and four sacks for the Saxons. Haas posted 71 tackles and 15.5 TFLs for the Red Dragons. Trusnik led the Ohio Athletic Conference in tackles for loss (19.5) and sacks (11).

Thomas More's **Mark Carlisle**, Mount St. Joseph's **Matt Lawless** and Mary Hardin-Baylor's **Jerrell Freeman** are the linebackers on this year's AFCA All-America Team.

Carlisle was named the Most Valuable Player in the President's Athletic Conference this year. Lawless earned Defensive Player of the Year honors in the Heartland Conference. Freeman was the leading tackler on a Crusader defense that surrendered only 12.8 points per game this year during the regular season.

THE SPECIALISTS

Johns Hopkins' **Ben Scott** averaged 41.6 yards per punt for the Blue Jays. St. Norbert's **Bob Forstrom** converted on 56 PAT attempts for the Green Knights in 2006. Christopher Newport's **Rob Rodriguez** has blocked nine kicks over the last two seasons and ended the regular season in 2006 with nine career interceptions.

2006 AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team

Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
WR	Pierre Garcon	6-1	205	Jr.	Mount Union	Larry Kehres	West Palm Beach, Fla. (Leonard)
WR	Chris Barnette	6-0	190	Sr.	Guilford	Kevin Kiesel	Semora, N.C. (Person)
TE	Michael Allan*	6-7	264	Sr.	Whitworth	John Tully	Bellevue, Wash. (Interlake)
OL	Chris Teter	6-0	280	Sr.	Wash. & Jeff.	Mike Sirianni	North Canton, Ohio (Hoover)
OL	Adam Feit	6-2	250	Sr.	Springfield	Mike DeLong	Chicopee, Mass. (Comprehensive)
OL	Josh Knox	5-10	250	Sr.	Hardin-Simmons	Jimmie Keeling	Snyder, Texas (Snyder)
OL	Brandon Bennett	6-2	300	Jr.	Willamette	Mark Speckman	San Marcos, Calif. (La Costa Canyon)
OL	Rick Drushal	6-4	295	Sr.	Wooster	Mike Schmitz	Lakeville, Ohio (West Holmes)
QB	Andy Collins	6-2	210	Sr.	Occidental	Dale Widolff	Zillah, Wash. (Zillah)
RB	Tom Arcidiacono	6-0	210	Sr.	Union (N.Y.)	John Audino	Castleton, N.Y. (Columbia)
RB	Phil Porta	5-10	193	Sr.	Bethel (Minn.)	Steve Johnson	Cambridge, Minn. (Cambridge-Isanti)

Defense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
DL	Andy Studebaker	6-5	249	Jr.	Wheaton	Mike Swider	Congerville, Ill. (Eureka)
DL	Don Miller	6-2	310	Jr.	Alfred	Dave Murray	LeRoy, N.Y. (LeRoy)
DL	Adam Haas	6-0	260	Sr.	Cortland St.	Dan MacNeill	East Aurora, N.Y. (St. Francis)
DL	Jason Trusnik	6-5	250	Sr.	Ohio Northern	Dean Paul	Macedonia, Ohio (Nordonia)
LB	Mark Carlisle	6-2	230	Sr.	Thomas More	Mike Hallett	Canal Winchester (Bloom Carroll)
LB	Matt Lawless	6-1	230	Sr.	Mount St. Joseph	Rod Huber	West Chester, Ohio (Lakota West)
LB	Jerrell Freeman	6-2	205	Jr.	UMHB	Pete Fredenburg	Waco, Texas (University)
DB	Steve Teeples	6-1	165	Sr.	Wis.-La Crosse	Larry Terry	Black River Falls, Wis. (Black River Falls)
DB	Mario Harris*	5-8	180	Sr.	Wesley	Mike Drass	Annapolis, Md. (Annapolis)
DB	Craig Haywood	5-10	190	Sr.	King's	Rich Mannello	Chester, Pa. (Cardinal O'Hara)
DB	Byron Westbrook	5-10	192	Sr.	Salisbury	Sherman Wood	Fort Washington, Md. (DeMatha)

Specialists

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
P	Ben Scott	6-3	210	Sr.	Johns Hopkins	Jim Margraff	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Shady Side Academy)
PK	Bob Forstrom	5-7	170	Sr.	St. Norbert	Jim Purtill	Quinnesec, Mich. (Kingsford)
AP	Rob Rodriguez	5-8	150	Sr.	Chris. Newport	Matt Kelchner	Virginia Beach, Va. (Kempsville)

*-2005 AFCA All-American

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Top Teams: The leaders are Wittenberg and Augustana (Ill.), which have both been represented a total of 17 times by 16 players chosen since 1972. The Tigers and Vikings are followed by Mount Union (16 appearances/15 players), Wisconsin-La Crosse (15/15), Central (Iowa) (14/13), Emory & Henry (12/12), Washington & Jefferson (13/12), Widener (13/10), Ithaca (12/12), Springfield (Mass.) (12/11), Mississippi College (12/11), Montclair State (12/10), Frostburg State (11/10), Linfield (11/10), St. John's (Minn.) (10/10), Westminster (Pa.) (10/10) and Millsaps (10/7).

Consecutive Years: Emory & Henry had at least one player chosen for eight straight seasons from 1985-1992. Mount Union had one player chosen for six consecutive seasons from 1993-1998. Augustana (Ill.) had a player selected for six consecutive seasons from 2000-2005.

Repeat After Me: Five players have earned AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team honors three times. They are: DB **Tom Deery**, Widener, 1979-80-81, RB **Scott Reppert**, Lawrence 1980-81-82; RB **Joe Dudek**, Plymouth State 1983-84-85; DL **Sean Brewer**, Millsaps 1990-91-92 and P **Jeff Shea**, California Lutheran 1995-96-97.

Class Distinction: This year's AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team is made up of 20 seniors and 5 juniors.

First Time Schools: There are no first-time schools on this year's AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team.

Back-to-Back: **Mario Harris** and **Michael Allan** earned AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America honors for the second consecutive season in 2006.

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

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