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All-MIAA Football Team Announced

Gorillas get eight on first team; PSU's Henry, Western's Evans earn MVP awards

(OVERLAND PARK, Kan.) — The Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association champion Pittsburg State University Gorillas had eight players earn first-team honors on the 2001 All-MIAA Football Team, in a vote of the league's coaches.

Five of Pittsburg State's first-team choices were on defense – led by the conference's Most Valuable Defensive Player, senior LB Earl Henry.

He was a unanimous choice as first team linebacker, after leading the MIAA tackles (129 – 11.7 tpg) and tying for third in interceptions (5 – 0.45 ipg). He also earned first-team honors last season.

Joining Henry on defense from PSU was another unanimous choice, sophomore DL Aaron McConnell. He led the conference in tackles for loss (24) and tied for third in quarterback sacks (5). He, too, was a repeat first-team choice from 2000.

A third repeat selection on defense from the Gorillas was senior DB Travis Stepps, who topped the MIAA in passes defended (18 – 15 PBU & 3 Int.). Senior DL Brad Harris, the conference leader in sacks (7) and junior DB Aaron Hight round out the first-team Gorilla defenders.

Missouri Western State College had the only two other unani-

mous defensive selections –senior DB Tyreece Whyte and sophomore DL Eric McDowell.

The only two unanimous choices on the offense were linemen – PSU senior Matt Howard (a three-time first-team selection) and Northwest Missouri State junior Seth Wand (a 2000 first-team choice).

Missouri Western senior WR/KR Jerris Evans, the favorite target of MIAA career passing leader Kasey Waterman, was chosen as Most Valuable Offensive Player. He led the MIAA in punt returns (14.6 ypr), was second in receiving yards (94.6 ypg) and all-purpose yards (128.6 ypg) and third in receptions (6.64 rpg).

Northwest WR/KR Jamaica Rector, who led the MIAA in receiving yards (120.1 ypg) and all-purpose yards (181.6 ypg) and was second in receptions (6.78 rpg) despite missing the last two games with a knee injury, was chosen as the conference's Freshman of the Year.

The Coach of the Year award goes to first-year Southwest Baptist head coach Ray Richards. He guided the Bearcats to a 6-5 record in 2001, their first winning season since 1991, after the team went 2-9 last season.

First Team Offense

Eric Howe, TSU	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	West Des Moines, Iowa
Ken Okwuonu, UMR	RB	5-11	215	Sr.	Houston, Texas
Lee Thompson, CMSU	RB	5-7	195	So.	Liberty, Mo.
Andrew Blakley, TSU	WR	5-9	175	Jr.	St. Joseph, Mo.
Todd Devoe, CMSU	WR	6-3	200	Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Jerris Evans, MWSC	WR	5-11	188	Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Jamaica Rector, NWMSU	WR	5-10	175	Fr.	Celeste, Texas
Pat McNally, PSU	TE	6-5	236	Sr.	Pittsburg, Kan.
*††Matt Howard, PSU	OL	6-1	271	Sr.	Yukon, Okla.
*†Seth Wand, NWMSU	OL	6-7	296	Jr.	Springfield, Mo.
Curt Lessman, NWMSU	OL	6-3	296	Sr.	Sioux City, Iowa
Nick Ruud, TSU	OL	6-3	260	Jr.	Moline, Ill.
Steve Wells, PSU	OL	6-6	304	Sr.	Riverton, Kan.
†John Young, CMSU	OL	6-2	290	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo.
Eddie Ibarra, NWMSU	K	6-2	195	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo.
Kevin Nickerson, CMSU	KR	5-8	175	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo.

Four wide receivers & six linemen selected due to a tie in voting.

First Team Defense

*†Aaron McConnell, PSU	DL	6-3	285	So.	Midwest City, Okla.
*Eric McDowell, MWSC	DL	6-1	213	So.	Savannah, Mo.
Brad Harris, PSU	DL	6-3	267	Sr.	Pontotoc, Miss.
Nick Heggeman, SBU	DL	6-3	260	Sr.	Marshasville, Mo.
*†Earl Henry, PSU	LB	5-11	203	Sr.	Wichita, Kan.
Lloyd Thompson, CMSU	LB	6-0	200	Sr.	Carthage, Texas
Eric Walker, MWSC	LB	5-8	214	Jr.	Belle Glade, Fla.
*Tyreece Whyte, MWSC	DB	5-10	180	Sr.	Orlando, Fla.
Aaron Hight, PSU	DB	6-1	193	Jr.	Riverton, Kan.
†Donte McCoy, ESU	DB	6-1	211	Jr.	Wichita, Kan.
†Travis Stepps, PSU	DB	5-10	195	Sr.	Fort Scott, Kan.
Pat Amon, ESU	P	5-10	155	Sr.	Holtton, Kan.

*=Unanimous selection

†=Repeat first-team choice from 2000

††=Repeat first-team choice from 1999 & 2000

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Second Team Offense

Kasey Waterman, MWSC	QB	6-0	186	Sr.	Blue Springs, Mo.
Ryan Hackett, NWMSU	RB	5-8	200	Sr.	Burlington Junction, Mo.
Jesse Owen, PSU	RB	5-11	197	Sr.	Olathe, Kan.
Marc Green, SBU	WR	6-2	205	So.	Rockwall, Texas
Colon McNeal, WU	WR	6-0	195	Sr.	Rosenberg, Texas
Alfonso Pugh, TSU	WR	6-4	205	Jr.	Galesburg, Ill.
Ken Ennis, UMR	TE	6-3	235	Jr.	Cadillac, Mich.
Jason Ferguson, ESU	TE	6-3	242	Sr.	Mattawan, Mich.
Jason Riney, TSU	TE	6-5	255	Sr.	Byron, Ill.
Joe Glab, NWMSU	OL	6-3	298	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
Anders Grove, WU	OL	6-3	305	Sr.	Grand Prairie, Texas
Eric Martin, ESU	OL	6-1	300	So.	Hutchinson, Kan.
Brett Mingee, MWSC	OL	6-2	288	So.	Smithville, Mo.
Jerry Schwartz, CMSU	OL	6-2	295	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo.
Austin Lepper, TSU	K	6-1	170	Jr.	Ames, Iowa
Levi Neaville, PSU	KR	5-10	191	So.	Bronson, Kan.

Three wide receivers and three tight ends were selected due to ties in voting.

Second Team Defense

Jason Chancellor, MWSC	DL	6-1	273	Jr.	Las Vegas, Nev.
Shawn Linder, SBU	DL	6-2	290	Jr.	Wrightville, Ga.
Kevin Nelson, MSSC	DL	6-3	250	Sr.	Ganado, Ariz.
Caleb White, PSU	DL	6-2	246	Jr.	Kingsdown, Kan.
Mike Best, MWSC	LB	6-0	218	Sr.	Cameron, Mo.
Shawn Stephens, UMR	LB	6-1	200	Jr.	Racine, Wis.
Jake Willrich, TSU	LB	6-0	205	Jr.	Grimes, Iowa
Drew Bullocks, UMR	DB	5-11	175	Sr.	Blue Springs, Mo.
Derek Kent, TSU	DB	5-10	185	So.	Lucas, Iowa
Joey Maiwelmal, SBU	DB	6-3	205	Fr.	Lone Oak, Texas
Desmond Polk, MWSC	DB	5-7	160	So.	Lee's Summit, Mo.
Marcel Smith, NWMSU	DB	5-11	185	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo.
Chris Lutz, PSU	P	5-11	196	Jr.	Eureka, Kan.

Five backs selected due to a tie in voting.

Honorable Mention Offense

Josh Chapman, MSSC	QB	6-3	195	Jr.	Webb City, Mo.
Chris Lowe, SBU	QB	6-1	180	Jr.	Keller, Texas
John McMenamin, NWMSU	QB	6-4	215	Jr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
Neal Philpot, PSU	QB	6-4	240	Fr.	Norton, Kan.
Scott Brown, UMR	QB	6-3	178	So.	Bartlett, Ill.
Tyler Schuerman, WU	QB	6-3	215	So.	Riverview, Fla.
Joey Ballard, MSSC	RB	5-9	185	Sr.	Muskogee, Okla.
Brandon Rainer, WU	RB	5-11	220	Sr.	Richmond, Texas
Eugene Reed, SBU	RB	5-7	170	Sr.	Brownfield, Texas
Shon Wells, ESU	RB	5-8	175	So.	Rolla, Mo.
Deon Boykin, SBU	RB	5-9	185	So.	Callaway, Ga.
Anthony Chatmon, PSU	RB	5-11	191	Sr.	Houston, Texas
Antonio Whitney, MSSC	RB	5-4	183	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo.
Adam Ziesel, MWSC	WR	6-1	178	Jr.	St. Joseph, Mo.
Geoff Jensen, TSU	WR	5-11	175	Jr.	Grinnell, Iowa
Wes Middleton, PSU	WR	6-1	196	Sr.	Wichita, Kan.
Jason Siller, UMR	WR	6-3	180	So.	Detroit, Mich.
Chris Whittle, WU	WR	6-1	200	Sr.	Garland, Texas
Kevin Whitley, SBU	WR	5-7	160	Jr.	Crowley, Texas
Mike Carter, CMSU	TE	6-3	220	Jr.	Shawnee, Kan.
Jared Findley, NWMSU	TE	6-2	245	So.	Grant City, Mo.

Issa Banna, MWSC	OL	6-1	256	So.	Mesquite, Texas
Joe Johnson, CMSU	OL	6-4	305	Sr.	Houston, Texas
Clayton McCullah, SBU	OL	6-0	275	Jr.	Aurora, Mo.
Brandon Montgomery, TSU	OL	6-2	306	Jr.	St. Louis, Mo.
Adam Navan, SBU	OL	6-3	270	So.	Rockwall, Texas
Steve Purdy, UMR	OL	6-5	292	Jr.	O'Fallon, Mo.
Dustin Perkins, MSSC	OL	6-0	258	Sr.	Carthage, Mo.
Wes Hill, ESU	OL	6-6	293	So.	Sabetha, Kan.
Ryan Lonergan, PSU	OL	6-3	276	Sr.	Iola, Kan.
Alex Tuttle, NWMSU	OL	6-4	285	Jr.	California, Mo.
Tim Watts, WU	OL	6-4	285	So.	Topeka, Kan.
Justin Gray, ESU	K	5-10	185	Fr.	Liberal, Kan.
Pat Wilson, CMSU	K	5-8	185	So.	Festus, Mo.
Alex Mendrygal, UMR	K	5-11	170	Jr.	Libertyville, Ill.

Honorable Mention Defense

Justin Bowser, NWMSU	DL	6-3	290	Jr.	Lee's Summit, Mo.
Mike Kitchner, WU	DL	6-0	285	So.	Sugar Land, Texas
Rusty Miller, CMSU	DL	6-0	250	Sr.	Norton, Kan.
L'Quincy Pryor, MSSC	DL	6-2	249	Sr.	Augusta, Ark.
Brian Schertz, NWMSU	DL	6-0	292	Sr.	Bettendorf, Iowa
Nick Weite, TSU	DL	5-11	250	Jr.	Ottumwa, Iowa
Lamaris Young, MWSC	DL	6-2	255	Sr.	San Antonio, Texas
James Jack, MWSC	DL	6-1	260	So.	Blue Springs, Mo.
Steve Stanhope, PSU	DL	6-4	282	Sr.	Andale, Kan.
Chad Taake, UMR	DL	6-2	265	So.	Waterloo, Ill.
Tom Blancett, PSU	LB	5-11	180	Sr.	Metuchen, N.J.
Judd Lienhard, TSU	LB	6-2	232	Jr.	Louisiana, Mo.
Chad Pratz, ESU	LB	6-1	215	Jr.	Wheeling, W.Va.
Tray Smitherman, MSSC	LB	6-3	230	Fr.	Lubbock, Texas
Bryan Johnson, TSU	LB	6-3	195	Sr.	Byron, Ill.
Brent Matzke, ESU	LB	6-0	206	Jr.	Westmoreland, Kan.
Larry Schembri, WU	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Flower Mound, Texas
Joey Ballard, MSSC	DB	5-9	185	Sr.	Muskogee, Okla.
Damien Purse, MSSC	DB	5-8	184	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo.
Matt Reid, MSSC	DB	6-2	195	Sr.	Chanute, Kan.
Brian Riley, CMSU	DB	6-0	205	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo.
Tony Sly, NWMSU	DB	5-10	210	Sr.	Fairfax, Mo.
Pierre Thomas, MWSC	DB	5-11	181	So.	Belton, Mo.
Justin Walter, TSU	DB	5-9	175	Jr.	Chillicothe, Mo.
Greg Zerr, CMSU	DB	6-0	185	Sr.	Hermann, Mo.
John Scott, ESU	DB	6-0	190	So.	Houston, Texas
Chad Smith, MWSC	DB	5-9	202	Sr.	Union Star, Mo.
Dan Stanley, MSSC	P	6-1	185	Fr.	Webb City, Mo.
Kenny Zordani, CMSU	P	6-23	230	So.	Denver, Colo.
Dustin Penn, UMR	P	6-1	170	Jr.	Union, Mo.

Most Valuable Offensive Player:

Jerris Evans, WR/KR, MWSC

Most Valuable Defensive Player:

Earl Henry, LB, PSU

Freshman of the Year:

Jamaica Rector, WR/KR, NWMSU

Coach of the Year:

Ray Richards, SBU