

FRED MITCHELL AWARD RECOGNIZES PLACE-KICKERS FOR EXCELLENCE ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND IN THE COMMUNITY IN SEPTEMBER



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October 1, 2009 – The Fred Mitchell Award recognizes 13 Division II and Division III place-kickers for their excellence on the football field and in the community during the month of September. “The first month of the college football season was terrific for the schools, the teams and the fans. There were extraordinary performances by place-kickers in September, and we are pleased to honor these fine young men that were nominated by their schools,” said Fred Mitchell. The Award’s Selection Committee Chairman Chris Kearney added, “We are delighted to recognize these place-kickers for their achievements. The place-kickers for the #1 ranked teams in Division II and Division III are among those honored, emphasizing the importance of place-kickers to the nation’s elite teams.”

The recipient of the inaugural Fred Mitchell Award will be announced in mid-December based on performance on the field and in the community. Details are provided at www.fredmitchellaward.com.

In alphabetical order, the Fred Mitchell Award honorees for September 2009 are listed below.

ALEX BEARD

Quincy University (Illinois)

Senior from Jacksonville, ILleads the team in scoring with 31 points from 4 of 5 PAT's and 9 of 10 FG's....three-time recipient in September of the Mid-States Football Association Midwest League Special Teams Player of the Week....tied school record for most FG's in a game (3) in two games....ranks #1 in NAIA in FG's made this season....raised funds and awareness for former Hawks football player Dustin Keeven who was seriously injured in a car accident last year including with a recent event featuring Notre Dame's Rudy...interacts monthly with hearing impaired people in the community as part of QU's Deaf Club....elementary school pep rally volunteer

GARRETT BENNINGTON

Capital University (Ohio)

Sophomore from Cambridge, OH....Ohio Athletic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following the Crusaders 37-21 win at Wilmington on September 26 where Bennington made three first half FG's and was 4 of 4 on PAT's....leads the Conference and second in the country in FG's made per game....averages 60 yards per kickoff and is part of the special teams unit that has the Conference's second best kickoff coverage with opponents starting at the 26 yard line on average...Marc Lewison Run/Walk volunteer on September 6 to raise awareness and funding for Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) research for the Columbus Children's Research Institute

TYLER CANNON

Eastern New Mexico University

Sophomore from Los Lunas, NM....25 of 26 PAT's and 9 of 10 FG's....52 total points ranks second among all players and first among place-kickers in the Lone Star Conference....tied for fifth in Division II with 1.75 FG's per game...ranks 18th with 10.85 points

per game....8 of 8 on FG's up to 39 yards....scored 21 points against Southeastern Oklahoma on September 12 where Cannon tied a Division II record with six FG's....59 yard average on 43 kickoffs....youth football camp volunteer for past two years

JAY CARPENTER

Mount Union College (Ohio)

Senior from Fairmont, WV....ranks second on the #1 nationally ranked Purple Raiders with 25 points from 16 of 16 PAT's and 3 of 3 FG's....scored nine points in 45-17 win over Muskingum on September 25....scored 10 points in 52-10 win over St. John Fisher on September 5....co-organizer of Fall 2009 Soles for Souls effort to collect shoes from the local community for an international relief project....Fellowship for Christian Athletes co-leader....plays on Mount Union's basketball team

ZACK HARRIS

Wittenberg University (Ohio)

Senior from Plain City, OH....ranks second on the team with 23 points from 11 of 13 PAT's and 4 of 5 FG's....scored 8 points in 20-0 win over Ohio Wesleyan making both PAT's and both FG's....61 yard average on 16 kickoffs....Springfield YMCA volunteer including helping children learn kicking and punting techniques....Plain City Fire Department volunteer....involved with the Young Entrepreneurs Across America to help college students start businesses

NICK HOPE

Wayne State College (Nebraska)

Senior from Avoca, IA....went from being a walk-on to one of the most successful place-kickers in school history...rare straight-on left-footed kicker....became the Wildcats all-time leader in FG's made in September 5 win against Minnesota State-Moorhead....23 of 23 PAT's extending his record for the most PAT's in school

history....among Wayne State's top five all-time scorers....very active in Wayne State's CHAMPS Life Skills Program....Canned Food Drive volunteer to help provide over 4,000 canned goods to the Wayne Food Pantry

JON KOENIG

Bloomsburg University (Pennsylvania)

Senior from Pine Grove, PA....8 of 8 PAT's and 3 of 4

FG's....continued his streak of 73 consecutive PAT's dating back to

2007....tied career-long FG against California (PA) with a 42 yard

FG then set a new personal best against Mercyhurst with a 47 yard

FG then tied the school record-long FG against Kutztown with a 50

yard FG....4 of 4 in PAT's against Kutztown including a 40 yard

PAT due to penalties after a touchdown....155 career PAT's ranks

fourth in Conference history...volunteered with football team for the

Orangeville Cornhuskers youth football camp focusing on place-

kicking and punting....campus blood drive volunteer and donor recruiter

TYLER LOMNICKI

Elmhurst College (Illinois)

Senior from Elmhurst, IL....tied for Blue Jays team lead with 18

points from 9 for 9 PAT's and 3 for 6 FG's....scored five points in

17-9 win over Olivet College on September 12 and seven points in

31-6 win over the University of Chicago....volunteers at local senior

center...raises funds for charities in various 5K runs and the half

marathon to raise awareness and funding for breast cancer research

TYLER McNAMARA

Bentley University (Massachusetts)

Senior from Medway, MA....32 points ranks fifth in the Conference

from 11 of 12 PAT's and 7 of 9 FG's.... tied school record for most

FG's in a game (3) in two games....made 33 yard FG to break a 20-

20 tie leading to 30-20 win over defending Conference champion

American International....187 career points ranks sixth in school history....assisted high school place-kickers with technique and by providing advice....Nantucket sports camp volunteer

ANDREW ROGOWSKI

Ithaca College (New York)

Sophomore from East Amherst, NY....leads Bombers in scoring with 32 points from 17 of 17 PAT's and 5 of 7 FG's....Division III Special Teams Player of the Week after September 19 win over Widener when he was 5 of 5 on PAT's and 2 of 2 on FG's including a career-long 39 yard that was topped by a 43 yard FG on the last play of the first half after two "icing" timeouts by Widener....volunteers time to visit residents of the Bath Veterans Hospital....participated in the football team's Give Back Day where local youth football teams visit the players to learn techniques, strategy and sportsmanship...volunteered for fundraiser for the Greater Ithaca Activity Center

GARETH ROWLANDS

Tusculum College (Tennessee)

Junior from Wales, Great Britain....12 of 12 PAT's and 5 of 5 FG's....tied a school record with a 52 yard FG at Elizabeth City State on September 12....five made FG's were from 41, 42, 46, 48 and 52 yards....leads South Atlantic Conference place-kickers in scoring with 27 points....made his 69th PAT which ties the Pioneers all-time record....120 career points ranks second all-time among place-kickers in school history....Adopt-a-Highway Program roadside clean-up....meets with local elementary school students weekly to help mentor the students in the Lunch Buddies Program....Bible School volunteer....Upward Bound Leader....Tusculum College Sports Information Office volunteer

JEFF SCHEBLER

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Senior from Davenport, IA....ranks second on the #2 nationally ranked Warhawks with 24 points from 18 of 19 PAT's and 2 of 2 FG's....61 yard average on 15 kickoffs....holds the school career records for PAT's made (180), PAT's attempted (190), FG's made (63) and FG's attempted (79)....369 points ranks first in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference history breaking the record formerly held by UWW's Chad Wurth...holds Division III all-time career records for most career FG's made, most FG's attempted and highest FG percentage...Fellowship of Christian Athletes leadership team...visits the Hadley School for the Blind in Janesville....Kohl's Kicking Camp counselor and mentor

JUSTIN TRUMBLE

Grand Valley State University (Michigan)

Senior from Macomb, MI....ranks second on the #1 nationally ranked Lakers with 33 points from 18 of 21 PAT's and 5 of 5 FG's....61 yard average on 25 kickoffs....scored five points in 17-10 win over Ferris State on September 19....active in Mentor One program which mentors youth from West Michigan....Habitat for Humanity....Grace Camp volunteer for upkeep of building and grounds

About the Fred Mitchell Award

Starting with the 2009 college football season, the annual Fred Mitchell Outstanding Place-Kicker Award (also known as the Fred Mitchell Award, www.fredmitchellaward.com in development) will be provided to the nation's top collegiate place-kicker among the approximately 150 Division II and 240 Division III football teams. The Award is named for Fred Mitchell, the record-setting place-kicker, Wittenberg University Athletic Hall of Famer, author, philanthropist and *Chicago Tribune* sports columnist. The recipient of the Fred Mitchell Award will be chosen based on excellence on the football field and in the community. The Award's Watch List is

released in August, top performers will be recognized monthly during the college football season, and the winner (who is not required to be on the Watch List) will be announced in mid-December. The school of the Award winner will receive scholarship funds and the Fred Mitchell Award trophy will be presented on February 22, 2010 at the National Football Foundation Chicago Metro Chapter Awards Ceremony at Halas Hall. Further details about the Awards Ceremony are at www.nffchicagoawards.eventbrite.com.

A blue-ribbon Selection Committee (listed at www.fredmitchellaward.com) will evaluate place-kickers that are nominated by Division II and III schools. There are nine members of the Pro and/or College Football Hall of Fame on the Selection Committee including Tom Beck, George Blanda, Kevin Butler, Lou Holtz, Paul Hornung, Marv Levy, Steve McMichael, Don Pierson and Gale Sayers. Several former football players that are active in their communities are also on the Selection Committee including Carl Allegretti, Sean Gothier, Dan Jiggetts, Jeff Michalczyk, Mark Murphy, Rob Perry, Bob Thomas, Todd Wilkins, Gary Zauner and Rob Zvonar. There are eight former college or NFL place-kickers on the Selection Committee.