

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



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October 1, 2010 – The Fred Mitchell Award recognizes 32 place-kickers for their excellence on the football field and in the community during the month of September. “Place-kickers played a pivotal role in many games during the first month of the college football season. There were extraordinary performances, and we are delighted to honor these fine young men that were nominated by their schools, several of which are also nationally-ranked,” said Fred Mitchell. The Award’s Selection Committee Chairman Chris Kearney added, “We are delighted to recognize these place-kickers for their achievements. We also wish to honor the legendary Hall of Famer George Blanda, who passed away this week and who was a cherished member of the Selection Committee for the Fred Mitchell Award.”

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.

The breakdown of the 32 place-kickers is as follows:

- Collegiate Division – 11 FCS, 8 Division II, 10 Division III and 3 NAIA
- State – the place-kickers play at schools located in 22 different states, led by Pennsylvania schools with 6 place-kickers
- Year – 17 Seniors, 6 Juniors, 7 Sophomores, 2 Freshmen
- Included on the Preseason Watch List for the 2010 Fred Mitchell Award - 17

In alphabetical order, the Fred Mitchell Award honorees for September 2010 are listed below.

MATT ALKSNINIS

Curry College (Massachusetts) – Division III

Senior from Mansfield, MA...2nd on team in scoring with 21 points from 2 of 4 FG’s and 15 of 15 PAT’s....scored 10 points on 2 of 2 FG’s and 4 of 4 PAT’s in 35-7 win over MIT on September 25 to start the season 3-1....averaging 60 yards in 21 kickoffs....Special Olympics volunteer....Big Brother to child with autism....campus move-in day volunteer....organized Pan Mass Challenge to raise funds and awareness for pediatric cancer....Mansfield community clean-up volunteer

BLAISE ANCONA

Union College (New York) – Division III

Senior from Garden City, NY....tied for 1st on team in scoring with 12 points from 3 of 4 FG’s and 3 of 3 PAT’s....scored 10 points in 16-14 win over Rochester on September 25....first season as the team’s place-kicker....averaging 59 yards on 9 kickoffs....volunteers in the Schenectady school tutoring program to assist youth with their homework and showing the benefits of playing football....blood drive volunteer on campus....cleaned-up local cemetery....raised money and awareness at a breast cancer fundraiser....raised funding in Garden City to fight colon cancer

C.J. BAHR

Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania) – Division II

Senior from Boalsburg, PA....2nd on team in scoring with 24 points from 4 of 6 FG’s and 12 of 14 PAT’s....kicked game-tying 47-yard FG with 31 seconds left in regulation to force OT on September 18 against West Chester on September 18, followed by a 33-27 win....scored 9 points on 2 of 3 FG’s and 3 of 3 PAT’s against West Chester....averaging 58 yards in 20 kickoffs....tutors

underprivileged youth at the I Care House in New Castle...assists with YMCA youth soccer and football clinics in State College area ... served as volunteer at State Cup youth soccer competition ... developing marketing plan for State College Spikes minor-league baseball team ... served as intern with Spikes ... attended Sport Entertainment and Venues Tomorrow conference in South Carolina ... attended Sport Sales Workshop at Quicken Loans Arena and Progressive Field in Cleveland

GREGG BERKSHIRE

Ashland University (Ohio) – Division II

Junior from Ashland, OH...leads team in scoring with 30 points from 8 of 11 FG's and 6 of 6 PAT's...leads all Conference place-kickers in scoring with 7.5 points per game, FG's with 2.0 per game and FG % with 72.7%...4th in the country with 2.0 FG's per game...made career-long 48-yard FG against Hillsdale...eclipsed this record with a career-long 50-yard FG and scored 13 of Ashland's 19 points at Northern Michigan on September 25...averaging 59 yards in 20 kickoffs...filmed a television spot for Ashland County United Way to promote the United Drive program to collect canned goods from local residents...volunteered for United Drive collection campaign...spoke to Ashland Middle School students about the importance of goal setting and he also read them books

GARRETT BIEL

Trinity University (Texas) – Division III

Sophomore from Clayton, CA...leads team in scoring with 19 points from 4 of 4 FG's and 7 of 9 PAT's...48-yard FG against Rhodes tied for the 3rd longest in school history...45-yard FG against Millsaps tied for the 8th longest in school history...5th in Trinity history in career FG's made (21) and attempted (23) in just his second season...highest FG % in school history with 91.3%...assists families unable to properly care for their dogs by working with a San Antonio organization that distributes coupons, dog food, leashes, toys and more...helps youth place-kickers at his former high school

STEPHEN BLOSE

Youngstown State University (Ohio) - FCS

Senior from Erie, PA...leads team in scoring with 25 points from 2 of 4 FG's and 19 of 19 PAT's...made key 37-yard FG in 4th quarter and scored 7 points in 31-28 win over 13th ranked Southern Illinois on September 25...set school record by making all 9 PAT's in 63-24 win over Central Connecticut on September 18...Youngstown State SAAC Member...Dean's Dozen Advisory Council volunteer for the school's College of Education...Ohio Council of Teachers and Mathematics Member...International Honor Society in Education...National Leadership Honor Society Member

CRAIG BURGESS

Indiana University of Pennsylvania – Division II

Senior from Medina, OH...leads team in scoring with 34 points from 9 of 11 FG's and 7 of 7 PAT's...scored 10 points in 16-6 win over Southern Connecticut on September 4...scored 11 points in 23-17 win over East Stroudsburg on September 11...holds Crimson Hawks record for career FG's made with 40...has made 115 of 116 PAT's at IUP and has a school record of 98 in a row following September games...averaging 62 yards in 10 kickoffs...spent eight weeks in summer 2010 at the Charlotte Sports Center youth camps to help develop athletic skills for children aged 4-13...bone marrow donation registration fair at IUP...campus and community clean-up projects...Hearts for the Hungry (providing food for starving children in Haiti)...tutored elementary students...coached kickers at Ohio State football camps and summer 2010 camps in Chicago

TYLER CANNON

Eastern New Mexico University – Division II

Junior from Los Lunas, NM...leads the team in scoring with 38 points from 6 of 8 FG's and 20 of 20 PAT's...ranked 10th in Division II with 1.5 FG's per game and 27th with 9.5 points per game...scored 14 points in 44-21 win over defending Lone Star Conference North Division Champion Texas A&M-Commerce on September 25...ranks 3rd in the Conference in scoring by place-kickers and 4th including all players...volunteer reader to elementary school students in Dr. Seuss Day at schools in Floyd, NM...youth football camp volunteer

T.J. CHIAROLANZA

Lycoming College (Pennsylvania) – Division III

Senior from Warminster, PA...leads team in scoring with 23 points from 5 of 5 FG's and 8 of 10 PAT's...named Middle Atlantic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following September 25 upset of 13th ranked Ithaca...Conference leader in scoring by place-kickers...made 23-yard FG with 7 seconds remaining and scored 8 points to beat Ithaca 26-24...averaging 54 yards on 15 kickoffs...assisting with planning for Salvation Army's Breakfast with Santa event on December 4...helped cleanup Brandon Park after the Susquehanna 500 race to support the Red Cross...volunteered at Penn State Tailgate at the sports dome in Muncy

GORDON CRAIG

Dickinson College (Pennsylvania) – Division III

Senior from Grove City, PA...leads team in scoring with 20 points on 4 of 6 FG's and 8 of 9 PAT's...scored 11 points on 2 of 2 FG's and 5 of 5 PAT's in 41-16 win over McDaniel on September 25...made 47-yard FG on September 18 against Franklin & Marshall...ranks 1st among Dickinson place-kickers with 186 career points...Boiling Springs Bengals youth football camp volunteer...Step Into Africa Program mission trip volunteer to assist disaster recovery efforts and to work with underprivileged children

CHRIS DINIZ

Sacramento State University (California) – FCS

Senior from Escalon, CA...leads the Hornets in scoring with 31 points from 7 of 7 FG's and 10 of 10 PAT's...four of seven FG's are 40+ yards and two are 50+ yards...one of just four place-kickers in FCS and FBS that has two 50+ yard FG's with FG's made at Stanford and Montana...one of three FCS place-kickers without a FG miss with at least 7 attempts...named Big Sky Conference Special Teams Player of the Week after scoring 13 points against 14th ranked Montana on September 25 including tying the school

record with 4 FG's in a game....school's all-time leader in FG % with 95%....averaging 62 yards in 22 kickoffs....volunteered to support local homeless people by preparing and delivering lunches

ERIC DOBRATZ

Shepherd University (West Virginia) – Division II

Junior from Woodbridge, VA....tied for 2nd on the team with 24 points from 2 of 4 FG's and 18 of 18 PAT's....West Virginia Conference Special Teams Player of the Week after making game-winning 32-yard FG in 19-16 win over Fairmont State on September 18....averaging 58 yards in 25 kickoffs....entered the 2010 season ranked 6th on the school's all-time scoring list among kickers with 99 points....volunteers at events to raise funds and awareness for Autism....volunteered in his hometown to clean-up the community after an Independence Day celebration

STEVEN FETZER

Illinois State University – FCS

Senior from Mahomet, IL....2nd on team in scoring with 32 points from 7 of 10 FG's and 11 of 13 PAT's....6 of 7 on FG's less than 50 yards....kicked 39-yard FG in second OT to beat Missouri State 44-41 on September 25....made career-long 51-yard FG and scored 12 points in the 25th ranked Redbirds win over Missouri State which led to being named the Missouri Valley Conference Special Teams Player of the Week....scored 11 points in 55-54 OT win over Central Missouri on September 2....volunteer for the local campus Habitat for Humanity chapter....participates in State Farm's Just Read program at local elementary schools

TOM FOOS

Defiance College (Ohio) – Division III

Senior from Helena, OH....2nd on the Yellow Jackets in scoring with 14 points from 3 of 3 FG's and 5 of 5 PAT's....ranks 2nd in the Conference with 3 FG's....two-time Conference Special Teams Player of the Week...scored 7 points in September 4 game against Muskingum....averaging 57 yards in 13 kickoffs....participated in the College's annual community service day which included clean-up work at numerous nearby playgrounds and parks

JACOB GAHART

Ripon College (Wisconsin) – Division III

Sophomore from Elkhorn, WI....2nd on the team in scoring with 37 points from 6 of 7 FG's and 19 of 19 PAT's....made game-winning 25-yard FG in OT to beat Carroll University 27-24 on September 25....named Midwest Conference Performer of the Week following September 25 game....averaging 55 yards on 28 kickoffs....career development department volunteer at Ripon College....assisted with research to establish an improved test for freshmen during Summer orientation

C.J. GRADOVILLE

Morningside College (Iowa) - NAIA

Senior from Council Bluffs, IA....leads 5th ranked Mustangs in scoring with 41 points from 8 of 12 FG's and 17 of 19 PAT's....5 of 6 FG's less than 40 yards with a 47-yard FG against Doane....school's all-time leader with 337 points, 40 FG's and 211 PAT's...scored 11 points in 23-12 win over Nebraska Wesleyan on September 11....averaging 62 yards on 30 kickoffs....volunteer camper companion at Camp Quality Heartland, a camp in Omaha for children with cancer and their siblings....Humane Society volunteer....participated in World Mission trip to the Dominican Republic....youth kicking clinics at high schools and with the Billy Cundiff Kicking Camp in Des Moines

ANDREW KOCUREK

Southwest Baptist University (Missouri) – Division II

Freshman from Aledo, TX....4th on the Bearcats in scoring with 30 points from 2 of 4 FG's and 24 of 26 PAT's....made career-long 47-yard FG against William Jewell on September 18, which was the school's longest FG since 2003...averaging 55 yards in 34 kickoffs....participates in the Big Cat Little Cat program where the school's football players visit local elementary schools each Friday to visit the kids and assist teachers in their daily lessons....visits local nursing homes to volunteer time with the elderly

AUBURN JIMENEZ

Macelester College (Minnesota) – Division III

Freshman from East Los Angeles, CA....3rd on team in scoring with 22 points from 2 of 4 FG's and 16 of 17 PAT's....made 43-yard FG with 3 seconds remaining to beat Crown 44-41 on September 25....43-yard FG was the longest at Macelester since Matt Kesler's 49-yard FG in 1997....scored 6 points in 24-20 win over Cornell on September 11....averaging 50 yards on 23 kickoffs....volunteered and raised money for the Alhambra American Little League....assisted the elderly at the Montebello Convalescent Home

JOSH LEWIS

McNeese State University (Louisiana) - FCS

Sophomore from Denham Springs, LA....leads the Cowboys in scoring with 14 points from 3 of 4 FG's and 5 of 6 PAT's....named Southland Conference Special Teams Player of the Week after scoring 12 points on 3 of 3 FG's and 3 of 3 PAT's in 30-27 season opening win over Lamar....helps young place-kickers with their technique....volunteers to help the underprivileged in his hometown....Fellowship of Christian Athletes volunteer....volunteer assistant coach for his sister's soccer team

TOM LYNCH

Saint Xavier University (Illinois) - NAIA

Junior from Frankfort, IL....2nd on team in scoring with 44 points from 3 of 3 FG's and 35 of 35 PAT's....FG's have been from 38 to 47 yards....named MSFA Midwest League Special Teams Player of the Week on September 6....scored 9 points in the 4th ranked Cougars 45-14 win over Quincy University on September 25 to start the season 5-0....averaging 58 yards in 30 kickoffs....entered the 2010 season ranked 3rd in career points for a Cougars place-kicker after just one season....participated in the school's annual Service

Day where students do community service projects....summer day camp volunteer at South Bridge Church....place-kicker tutor to kicker at his high school alma mater

JOSH MONTGOMERY

University of North Alabama – Division II

Sophomore from Russellville, AL....leads the #3 ranked Lions in scoring with 37 points from 6 of 7 FG's and 19 of 19 PAT's....scored 12 points in 48-6 win over Southern Arkansas on September 18

MATT MYERS

Northern Arizona University - FCS

Junior from Corona, CA....2nd on the team in scoring with 32 points from 7 of 7 FG's and 11 of 11 PAT's....scored 12 points including a 51-yard FG on September 2....scored 12 points in the Lumberjacks 32-7 win over Idaho State on September 25....one of three place-kickers in FCS with 100% success on FG's this season when at least 7 FG's have been attempted....6th in the country in points per game and 5th in the country in FG's made per game....participated in Red Ribbon Week volunteer events....community drug-free campaign speaker at local elementary schools

DAVIS RODRIGUEZ

Lafayette College (Pennsylvania) – FCS

Senior from St. Petersburg, FL....leads the Leopards in scoring with 23 points from 5 of 6 FG's and 8 of 8 PAT's....scored 15 points from 4 of 4 FG's and 3 of 3 PAT's against Princeton on September 25....averaging 62 yards on 13 kickoffs....volunteers at Muscular Dystrophy Association camps for one week each summer....Saint Vincent Depaul soup kitchen volunteer each Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day to feed the homeless....volunteers at an orphanage each summer in Costa Rica....participates in Lauren's First and Goal Football Camp which raises funds for pediatric brain tumor research and for impacted families

GARETH ROWLANDS

Tusculum College (Tennessee) – Division II

Senior from Bellech, Wales....leads team in scoring with 35 points from 7 of 9 FG's and 14 of 14 PAT's....scored 6 points in 39-36 win over Urbana on September 18 to go 4-0 with a top 25 ranking....named South Atlantic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week for his 12 point effort in Tusculum's 54-30 win at Western Carolina from the FCS....averaging 63 yards on 27 kickoffs....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

TAYLOR RUSSOLINO

Millsaps College (Mississippi) – Division III

Senior from Metarie, LA.... 2nd on the Majors in scoring with 19 points on 2 of 2 FG's and 13 of 14 PAT's....holds school records for career PAT's made (136), PAT's attempted (146) and career FG's made (27)....averaging 61 yards on 21 kickoffs....volunteers weekly for the Mississippi School for the Blind and Deaf....assists the New Summit Middle School students that have special needs....Stewpot Community Services volunteer helping to serve 120 meals daily to needy in the Community Kitchen and delivering 50 meals daily to shut-ins in the Jackson, MS area

KEMAR SCARLETT

Morgan State University (Maryland) – FCS

Senior from Temple Hills, MD....leads the Bears and the Conference in scoring with 32 points on 10 of 12 FG's and 2 of 2 PAT's....set the school record for most FG's in a game with 4....MEAC Special Teams Player of the Week two times in September including after 20-3 win at Howard on September 25....averaging 61 yards in 16 kickoffs...Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Team

STEPHEN STANSELL

Austin Peay State University (Tennessee) – FCS

Sophomore from Athens, TN....leads the Governors in scoring with 34 points on 8 of 9 FG's and 10 of 10 PAT's....tied for 7th in the FCS in FG's with 2 per game and tied for 24th in points per game....first in the Ohio Valley Conference in scoring among place-kickers and 2nd overall....leads Conference in FG's made and FG %....made 50-yard FG against Tennessee State on September 18 en route to 26-23 win while also tying the school record by making four FG's in the game....earned Conference Specialist of the Week and College Football Performance Awards Place-Kicker Co-Performer of the Week....made 51-yard FG at Wisconsin to score Austin Peay's only points....only place-kicker in school history to make FG's of 50 yards or more in consecutive games....averaging 58 yards in 23 kickoffs....volunteers in the Young Life program that serves youth in the Clarksville area

JON STORCK

Waynesburg University (Pennsylvania) – Division III

Sophomore from Smyrna, DE.... 2nd on the team in scoring with 21 points on 2 of 2 FG's and 15 of 15 PAT's....scored 10 points in 34-6 win over Thiel on September 18 and named to D3football.com's Team of the Week after the win....averaging 57 yards in 21 kickoffs

IAIN VANCE

Georgia State University – FCS

Senior from Duluth, GA....leads the team in scoring with 28 points on 5 of 5 FG's and 13 of 13 PAT's....made the game-winning 30-yard FG with one second left to beat Campbell 24-21....one of just four Seniors on Georgia State's first-ever football team....volunteered for Kaboom Play Day by working with local elementary school students to teach them the value of a healthy, active lifestyle....visited patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta....participated in cleanup project at historic Oakland Cemetery

JASON VITARIS

Appalachian State University (North Carolina) – FCS

Senior from Seneca, SC...2nd on the #1 ranked Mountaineers in scoring with 34 points from 4 of 5 FG's and 22 of 22 PAT's...only missed FG was from 49 yards...scored 14 points from 3 of 3 FG's and 5 of 5 PAT's in 44-16 win over North Carolina Central on September 18...March of Dimes volunteer...participates in reading programs at local elementary schools...Special Olympics volunteer...assists school's sports information and radio network offices

BRADEN WIEKING

University of Sioux Falls (South Dakota) – NAIA

Sophomore from Sioux Falls, SD...leads the #1 ranked Cougars in scoring with 46 points from 8 of 10 FG's and 22 of 22 PAT's...has made 122 consecutive PAT's which is an NAIA record...scored 10 points in the 34-10 win over 22nd ranked Hastings on September 25...scored 13 points in 37-7 win over Midland Lutheran on September 11 including a career-long 44-yard FG...named NAIA Player of the Week and Great Plains Athletic Conference Player of the Week after win over Midland Lutheran...averaging 60 yards on 35 kickoffs...Sioux Falls Fellowship of Christian Athletes volunteer and Group Huddle Leader on campus...Habitat for Humanity volunteer...Vacation Bible Study volunteer

ADAM WILLETS

Campbell University (North Carolina) – FCS

Junior from Gibsonville, NC...20 points from 4 of 7 FG's and 8 of 9 PAT's...averaging 58 yards in 17 kickoffs...made three of the longest FG's in the Pioneer Football League in September...converted career-best and school record 47-yard FG and scored 8 points in 20-16 win over Virginia-Wise on September 4...scored 7 points in September 12 game against Old Dominion...91 career points is a school record...Relay for Life volunteer for three years...participates in Stop Hunger Now program...promoted community service project by visiting three local elementary schools to promote the Bring a Kid to a Basketball Game program

About the Fred Mitchell Award

The annual Fred Mitchell Outstanding Place-Kicker Award (also known as the Fred Mitchell Award, www.fredmitchellaward.com) is provided to the nation's top collegiate place-kicker among more than 600 FCS, Division II, III and NAIA 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 are recognized monthly during the college football season, and the winner (who is not required to be on the Watch List) is announced in mid-December. The school of the Award winner receives scholarship funds and the Fred Mitchell Award trophy will be presented on February 21, 2010 at the National Football Foundation Chicago Metro Chapter Awards Ceremony at Halas Hall.

A blue-ribbon Selection Committee (listed at www.fredmitchellaward.com) evaluates place-kickers that are nominated by their schools. There are eight members of the Pro and/or College Football Hall of Fame on the Selection Committee including Tom Beck, 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, Jeff Schebler, Jay Sebben, Bob Thomas, Todd Wilkins, Gary Zauner and Rob Zvonar. There are eight former college or NFL place-kickers on the Selection Committee, including Schebler, the 2009 Fred Mitchell Award recipient and the highest-scoring place-kicker in NCAA history at any level.