

FRED MITCHELL AWARD CELEBRATES PLACE-KICKERS FOR EXCELLENCE ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND IN THE COMMUNITY IN THE 2016 SEPTEMBER PERFORMANCE WATCH LIST



Contact:

Rob Perry – rperry@fredmitchellaward.com

Fred Mitchell – fmitchell@fredmitchellaward.com

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 – The Fred Mitchell Award recognizes 16 place-kickers for their excellence on the football field during September and for continued community service off the field. It is a pleasure to recognize kickers that were nominated by their schools for terrific performances during the first month of the season.

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

The breakdown of the 16 place-kickers is as follows:

- Collegiate Division – 3 FCS, 5 Division II, 5 Division III, 1 NAIA, and 2 NJCAA
- State – the place-kickers play at schools located in 13 different states
- Year – 6 Seniors, 4 Juniors, 2 Sophomores, and 4 Freshman

In alphabetical order, the Fred Mitchell Award Watch List honorees for 2016 are listed below.

2016 Fred Mitchell Award September Performance Watch List

MILES BERGNER

University of South Dakota – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
4	4	100%	0-0	0-0	3-3	0-0	1-1	50	15	15	27

Senior from Longmont, Colo., ... has led the team in scoring in each of the last three seasons, including 69 points in 2015 from 14 of 22 FGs and 27 of 27 PATs ... scored 16 points in 40-10 win over Missouri State on October 24 ... scored 8 points including game-winning 33-yard FG in 24-21 win over North Dakota State on October 17 ... set school record by making 16 consecutive FGs to start the 2014 season and 18 in a row dating back to the season before ... averaged 63 yards on 347 kickoffs ... volunteered his last four summers to help coach his former high school football team including early morning workouts ... performed community service throughout training camp with his teammates, including visits to Jolley Elementary in Vermillion this August ... has volunteered time to instruct local high school place kickers

BLAINE BURSEY

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Mass.) – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
6	8	75%	1-1	2-2	3-4	0-1	0-0	29	14	16	32

Junior from Middleburg, Fla., ... Second on the 3-0 Engineers with 27 points ... Two-time Liberty League Special Teams Performer of the Week (Sept. 5th and Sept 19th) and D3football.com Team of the Week member on Sept 19th ... Converted all four PAT attempts and all three field goal opportunities, including the overtime game-winner to lift WPI past MIT, 37-34 on September 2nd. His 23-yarder snapped a 14-14 tie in the second while a 37-yarder extended WPI's lead to 34-24 in the fourth. He only needed 19 yards to send the Boynton Hillers back to Worcester with the 37-34 victory... Accounted for 10 of the Engineers 41 points Sept 16 against Worcester State ... He converted all four PATs and was successful from 35 and 36 yards in the second half. Bursesey also

averaged 60.8 yards per kickoff for a total of 486 yards and one touchback ... Volunteer for a leadership program called the Florida American Legion Boys State Prestigious program for about 500 rising seniors who are in the top of their class and learn how federal government works and then make their own mock government to run ... Volunteer with afternoon school at Burncoat Prep, including tutoring, mentoring and activities ... Team has also adopted a TEAM IMPACT child.

GRANT CLEMONS

Georgia Military College - NJCAA

FGM	FGA	FG %	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Long	PATM	PATA	PTS
5	7	71%	0-0	0-0	4	1	0-0	41	28	30	43

Freshman from Milledgeville, Geo., ... Grant handles all punting and kicking for the Bulldogs. He is currently #2 in the country for kick scoring. He is averaging 60 yards on 35 kickoffs. He is able to place the kickoff in a location for the Bulldogs that allow them to hold their opponents to a 9.7 yard return average. Since coming to GMC from Virginia, Grant has been a model team mate and cadet. Grant volunteers his time to work with the middle school and high school kickers and punters. He is also volunteered for the 2016 Fall Food Drive for local food pantries in Milledgeville/Baldwin County, Georgia.

BILLY DEANE

Shippensburg University (Penn.) – Division II

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
8	11	73%	0-0	2-2	4-5	2-4	0-0	43	12	12	36

Junior from Ashburn, VA ... leads the team in scoring with 36 points from 8 of 11 FGs and 12 of 12 PATs ... named PSAC Eastern Division Special Teams Player of the Week on Sept. 5 (3-of-4 FGs, 10 points at AIC) and on Sept. 12 (2-of-2 FGs, 8 points vs. Gannon) ... averaging 57.3 yards on 23 kickoffs ... T-2nd in D2 w/2 FGs/game average ... T-2nd in D2 for FG attempts ... assisted multiple years at SHIP Shape Day ... reads to elementary school children in SHIP community ... volunteers at track meets to chart results and with

timekeeping, including local 5K races ... helps out with activities at Community Church back home in Virginia ... provides assistance at local homeless shelter.

WYATT FORD

Ferris State University (Mich.) – Division II

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
6	7	86%	0-0	3-3	2-3	1-1	0-0	46	15	15	33

Junior from Montague, Mich., ... Helped lead Bulldogs to a second-straight GLIAC Championship & NCAA Playoff appearance in 2015 Converted a game-winning field goal with seven seconds remaining on the road in this year’s victory at Michigan Tech (9/10) ... Converted three-of-three field goals in win over Michigan Tech, including two in the final eight minutes of the game ... Has been nearly perfect to date this year for the nationally-ranked Bulldogs with a six-of-seven showing on field goals and a 15-of-15 performance in extra points First-year as the team’s primary placekicker ... Three-year letter-winner Active in various team community service projects ... Part of program’s reading to children effort ... Joined football team in helping freshmen students move into residence halls.

WILL GINGERY

Wittenberg University (Ohio) – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
6	6	100%	0-0	2-2	2-2	1-1	1-1	50	7	7	25

Senior from Bexley, Ohio ... has gone six for six as place kicker for the Tigers with his longest field goal registering at 50 yards, two yards away from the Wittenberg all-time record ... also has gone a perfect seven for seven on extra points in 2016 ... Second Team All-NCAC (Specialists/Kicking) All-North Region (D3football.com) ... Division III Team of the Week (9/21/16) ... received the Community Service Scholarship for the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity for logging over 175 hours of community service in 2015 ... hours came from tutoring middle school students at Hayward Middle School once a week with plans to continue in 2016, post football season...volunteered as the head 8th Grade Basketball Coach

for Catholic Central Middle School in 2015 ... volunteered with "ManPower" twice a week after ... served as an after school program that can be an outlet for elementary school kids with troubling home lives ... volunteer student assistant for Wittenberg Men's Basketball team.

MATTHEW HAITE

Stonehill College (Mass.) – Division II

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
5	6	83.3%	0-0	0-0	4-4	1-2	0-0	47	11	11	26

Freshman from Kingston, Mass., ... leads the team in scoring with 26 points from 5 of 6 FG's, all over 30-yards, and 11 for 11 on PAT's, lone FG miss was a blocked 40-yard attempt in week one vs. Bloomsburg ... Drilled a season-best 47-yard field goal in 45-34 win at Saint Anselm on September 24 in the annual "Battle for the Ol' Bronze Hawk" , finishing with nine points in the win ... 47-yard FG is the longest by a Skyhawks placekicker since 2003 ... Named Northeast-10 Special Teams Player of the Week after week one when he delivered a 30 and 36 yard field goal as well as a pair of extra points to score eight points for the Skyhawks ... Also scored eight points with a pair of 33-yard field goals and two extra points against LIU Post on September 17 ... Is also averaging 61.9 yards per attempt on 23 kickoffs with four touchbacks ... Volunteers his time with Boston Higahsi School for Autistic Children in Randolph, Mass. ... Coaches youth basketball with Silver Lake Youth Basketball ... Coaches flag football through the NFL flag football program at Kingston (Mass.) Flag Football League ... Volunteered at Kinston Intermediate School and Angelo Elementary School in Brockton.

NATHAN KNUFFMAN

Western Illinois University - FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
3	5	60%	0-0	2-2	0-1	1-2	0-0	43	13	13	22

Senior from Coatsburg, Ill., ... matched career-long of 43 yard field goal in the season-opener at Eastern Illinois ... matched career-high of two field goals made against

Northern Arizona (27, 24) ... currently had 199 career points ... ranks fifth all-time in field goals (28), extra points (115) and scoring (199) ... also handles the starting punting duties and ranks 5th nationally with the team averaging 41.3 net punting ... 10 of his 19 punts have landed inside the 20-yard line with three going for 50-plus yards.

DRAKE McCARTER

Northwest Mississippi CC – NJCAA

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
6	8	75%	0-0	3-4	3-4	0-0	0-0	38	16	17	34

Freshman from Saltillo, Miss., ... leads the team in scoring with 34 points from 6 of 8 FG' s and 16 of 17 PAT's ... scored 10 points in 40-17 win over #19 Hinds in season-opener on September 1 ... scored 9 points in 27-13 win over #10 Itawamba on September 15 ... averaging 61.2 yards on 27 kickoffs with six touchbacks ... reads to 1st-2nd graders at Saltillo Elementary School twice a month ... volunteered in the community and helped with church events at Macedonia Baptist Church.

ABDUL MAHDI

Saint Xavier University (Ill.) – NAIA

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
3	5	60%	0-0	0-1	1-1	2-3	0-0	45	18	18	27

Junior from Chicago, Ill., ... third on the team in scoring with 27 points from 3 of 5 FG' s and a perfect 18 of 18 PAT's ... scored 7 points with a 40-yard FG and four PATs in a 46-3 win over Ave Maria University (Fla.) on September 10 ... was named the Mid-States Football Association Midwest League Special Teams Player of the Week on September 12 ... averaging 56.6 yards on 26 kickoffs ... volunteered to help paint his high school alma mater in Chicago, Bogan High School ... spent a day volunteering to clean up Marquette Park, the largest park on the Southwest side of Chicago at 323 acres ... along with some of his teammates helped raise monetary donations for Misericordia by offering candy on their annual Candy Days drive at 95th and Cicero in Chicago this past April

DREW PEARSON

University of Wisconsin - Stout – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
5	7	69%	0-0	2-2	0-2	2-2	1-1	52	10	10	25

Sophomore from Wausau, Wisconsinafter kicking field goals of 44-, 52- and 42-yards against Mayville State, named UW-Stout/DigiCopy Athlete of the Week, WIAC special team player of the week, and D3football.com Team of the Week, also added two PATs to tally 11 points in 23-13 win, his 52-yarder was first 50-plus yard field goal by a Stout player since 2007...was 6-6 in PATs in season-opening 45-30 win over Simpson College, added 26 yard field goal for nine points...currently leads team in scoring with 25 points in month of September...volunteer at for campus Residence Hall move-in day....

KRAMER RATH

Nebraska Wesleyan University (Neb.) – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
6	6	100%	0-0	3-3	3-3	0-0	0-0	33	7	7	25

Senior from Lincoln, NE ... leads the team in scoring with 30 points from 7 of 8 FG's and 9 of 9 PAT's ... currently lead NCAA III in made field goals with 7 ... made 2 field goals in each of NWU' s first three games....has touchbacks on 8 of 20 kickoffs ... made 10 consecutive FGs dating back to 2015 until a miss in week 4 ... moved up to 4th on NWU career FG charts ... a Lincoln Literacy Tutor/member of development and fundraising team ... a southeast community college Early Service Learning volunteer ... volunteers with Meals on Wheels during holidays ... Special Olympics volunteer for 4 years ... involved with Peoples City Mission ... a JR counselor at the Nebraska Human Resources Institute ... selected to participate in a Heartland Escort Chairman in Aksarben Foundation's Ball and various activities.

ISAAC ROBINSON

Frostburg State University (Maryland) – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
2	4	50%	0-0	1-2	0-0	1-2	0-0	44	4	7	10

Senior from Elkton, Md., ... 25th Anniversary AFCA Good Works Teams nominee ... Tied for third in the NJAC in field goals (2) and tied for sixth in field goal percentage (50%) ... 2015 First Team All-NJAC and ECAC South All-Star as a kicker ... 2015 Academic All-NJAC ... As a junior, led the NJAC and finished ninth in the nation in FG' s per game (1.20) and led the NJAC and finished 10th in the country in FG percentage (.750) ... Paced the NJAC and led the Bobcats with 12 field goals ... Finished the season with 63 points, 23-of-26 PAT's ... Scored 13 points in 37-19 win over William Paterson and kicked a 50-yard FG against rival Salisbury ... Averaged 55 yards on 51 kickoffs....Beautify Frostburg volunteer including painting, mulching and gravel the park....Frostburg clean-up volunteer three times per year ... Relay for MS volunteer ... Special Olympics ... Storybook Forest volunteer ... elementary reading program where he reads to students every Friday before home games ... helps to feed four families for Thanksgiving ... raises and donates money for breast cancer research and amputee foundation.

TYLER VARGAS

Western New Mexico University – Division II

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
2	4	50%	0-0	1-1	1-3	0-0	0-0	34	14	16	20

Freshman from Ramona, California ...has made a huge impact in his first season with the Mustangs ... Handles all placekicking and punting duties ... 5 for 5 in their win against Oklahoma Panhandle State University on extra points and 8 for 8 against University of Texas of the Permian Basin ... Averaging 59 yards on kick-offs ... Civic involvement includes: mentoring/coaching recess at local elementary schools, volunteer Director of PONY baseball program, community spring cleaning initiatives, coaching/mentoring young kickers, and volunteers with local Pop Warner camps over the summer.

WILLIAM WILL

University of Dayton (Ohio) – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
5	8	62.5%	0-0	4-5	0-0	1-3	0-0	45	9	9	24

Senior from Mokena, Ill., ... Will's five field goals this season give him 46 for his career, tying him with All-American Mike Duvic for the Dayton career record ... Will leads Dayton in scoring ... He is also second in FG's per game in the Pioneer Football League (1.25)...Dayton leads the PFL in kickoff coverage, and Will's five touchback are tied for the best in the PFL.

CARSON WISE**Carson-Newman University (Tenn.) – Division II**

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
4	7	57%	1-1	2-3	2-2	1-1	0-0	41	21	22	33

Sophomore from Blacksburg, Va., ... Wise leads Carson-Newman in scoring with 33 points. He has moved into sixth place all-time in C-N history for career field goals made (17) and points by a kicker (136). Wise has been selected to attend the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace's (UNOSP) International Sport and Social Impact Summit from June 6-18 in Bradenton, Fla. Wise is one of 11 current and former student-athletes who were selected to attend the summit, the NCAA leadership development department announced.