

## 10 FINALISTS NAMED FOR 2016 FRED MITCHELL AWARD

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December 5, 2016 – Ten finalists have been named for the 2016 Fred Mitchell Award designated as Fred Mitchell Award All-Americans. The Fred Mitchell Award is provided to the Football Championship Subdivision, Division II, Division III, NAIA or NJCAA place-kicker that excels on the football field and in the community. The place-kicker chosen for this Award will be announced on December 13, and he will be honored on February 20, 2017 at the National Football Foundation Chicago Chapter Awards Ceremony at Halas Hall in suburban Chicago. Details about the Award and the Blue-Ribbon Selection Committee are provided at [www.fredmitchellaward.com](http://www.fredmitchellaward.com).

There were 28 place-kickers nominated for this Award. The breakdown of the 10 finalists is as follows:

- Collegiate Division – 3 FCS, 3 Division II, 4 Division III, 0 NAIA, 0 NJCAA
- State – the place-kickers play at schools located in 10 different states
- Year – 5 Seniors, 2 Juniors, 3 Sophomores, 0 Freshmen

In alphabetical order, the 10 finalists for the 2016 Fred Mitchell Award are listed below.

**COLE ANTLEY**

Ouachita Baptist University (Arkansas) – Division II

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
19	24	79%	1-1	10-12	4-6	4-4	0-1	49	46	47	103

Sophomore from Atlanta, GA ... set Great American Conference single-season record with 19 FG's...2016 All-GAC Second Team ... named GAC Special Teams Player of the Week after kicking game-tying 49-yard FG at the end of regulation and game-winning FG in 4OT win over Southern Arkansas University ... 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division II with 1.73 field goals per game ... 12<sup>th</sup> in Division II in FG % ... 3<sup>rd</sup> in the GAC and 27<sup>th</sup> in Division II in scoring with 9.4 points per game ... averaged 59 yards on 72 kickoffs ... participated in mentoring program with local elementary schools during scheduled recess times ... annual participant in Tiger Serve Day event that allows students to provide assistance to Arkadelphia and Clark County families in need ... annual participant in the Elrod Center delivery of Thanksgiving food baskets to area families in need.

**MILES BERGNER**

University of South Dakota – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
14	18	78%	0-0	4-4	5-6	4-5	1-3	50	41	41	83

Senior from Longmont, CO ... all-time leading scorer in school history with 276 points ... school record 56 FG's which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest among active FCS kickers ... first player ever to be First Team All-Conference as both punter and kicker ... ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation in FG's per game (1.27) ... made 24 of his last 29 FG's dating back to last season ... ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among punters in FCS averaging 47.5 yards per punt which is also a school record ... 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 in August ... volunteers time to instruct local high school place kickers.

**MATT DAVIS**

University of North Carolina at Pembroke – Division II

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
27	32	84%	1-1	8-9	9-11	3-4	6-7	58	38	39	119

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Senior from Richlands, NC ... holds Division II record for highest career FG % ... led Division II with 2.36 FG's per regular season game and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division II making 84% of his FG's ... set school record in 2016 for most points in a season at all positions ... two-time D2Football.com Special Teams Player of the Week ... three-time Eastern College Athletic Association Special Teams Player of the Week ... made a 50+ yard FG in six straight games ... scored 13 points in 19-18 win over Concord on November 12 ... scored 20 points in 50-28 win over Fayetteville State on September 9 ... scored at least 10 points in six regular season games ... averaged 63 yards on 70 kickoffs with 32 touchbacks ... member of the school's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee ... participated in Athletes in Action travel team in the summer ... student-leader for Athletes in Action Bible Study program ... volunteers to help homeless ... volunteers twice weekly at physical therapist's office.

### WYATT FORD

**12/3 playoff game to add**

Ferris State University (Michigan) – Division II

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
15	19	79%	0-0	10-12	4-6	1-1	0-0	46	61	64	106

Junior from Montague, MI ... helped lead the Bulldogs to a third-straight NCAA Playoff appearance this season ... CoSIDA Academic All-District Team honoree ... GLIAC All-Academic Team ... leads the team in scoring ... scored 40 points in October with six FG's and 22 PAT's ... ranks among conference and national leaders in FG's per game ... made three FG's and scored 11 points at then-#2 ranked Grand Valley State on October 8 ... closed the month of October with 21 points in the last three games ... drilled two FG's and accounted for eight points in a 20-17 win at Findlay on October 1 ... converted game-winning FG with seven seconds remaining in 30-28 win at Michigan Tech on September 10 ... made all three FG's in win over Michigan Tech including two FG's in the final eight minutes of the game ... first-year as the team's primary kicker in third year on the football team ... active in various team community service projects ... volunteers to read at local schools ... joined football team in helping freshmen students move into residence halls.

### WILL GINGERY

Wittenberg University (Ohio) – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
23	29	79%	3-3	7-7	8-11	3-6	2-2	50	41	42	110

Senior from Bexley, OH ... 50-yard FG is just two yards shy of Wittenberg's school record ... led team in scoring with 110 points ... Second Team All-NCAC (Specialists/Kicking) All-North Region (D3football.com) ... named to Division III Team of the Week on September 21 ... averaged 60 yards on 76 kickoffs with 27 touchbacks ... received the Community Service Scholarship for the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity for logging 175+ community service hours last year ... hours came from tutoring middle school students at Hayward Middle School weekly with plans to continue after the 2016 football season ... volunteered as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade head basketball coach for Catholic Central Middle School in 2015 ... ManPower program volunteer twice per week ... after school program volunteer for elementary school children with challenging home lives ... volunteer student assistant for Wittenberg's men's basketball team

### NICK MADONIA

Tennessee Tech – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
13	16	81%	0-0	5-6	3-3	4-6	1-1	57	33	35	72

Sophomore from Arrington, TN ... led team in scoring with 72 points ... 57-yard FG at Tennessee State tied for the longest FG of the season in the Ohio Valley Conference and the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest FG of the season in FCS ... scored 9 points in 33-30 win over Eastern Kentucky on October 1 ... scored 13 points in 55-19 win over Murray State on November 19 ... two-time Ohio Valley Conference Co-Specialist of the Week ... named the HERO Sports FCS Defensive/Special Teams Hero of the Week in mid-November.

### DAVID MARVIN

Wofford College (South Carolina) – FCS

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
15	19	79%	0-0	2-2	6-6	2-5	5-6	57	37	37	82

Junior from Charlotte, NC ... set school record with 15 FG's in a season ... has made five of the school's 10 longest-ever FG's in three seasons ... made two 57-yard FG's this season which is the longest in school history and tied for the longest in Southern Conference history ... record-setting 57-yard FG's were against Western Carolina on October 8 and Furman on November 5 ... lone miss from 50+ yards was a 62-yard attempt that was wide left ... named All-Southern Conference First Team kicker by coaches and media ... three-time Southern Conference Special Teams Player of the Week ... named STATS FCS National Special Teams Player of the Week on November 7 ... has made 44 straight PAT's dating back to last season ... 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Southern Conference in FG's made and FG % ... leads the Conference in PAT % ... serves as Co-President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee ... football team liaison with Team Impact which hosts children battling cancer at numerous football games and practices ... participated in Miracle League baseball program ... mentors elementary school children once per week.

**DREW PEARSON**

University of Wisconsin-Stout – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
16	19	84%	0-0	5-5	2-4	7-7	2-3	52	27	27	75

Sophomore from Wausau, WI ... First Team All-WIAC ... WIAC Special Teams Co-Player of the Year ... set school record for most FG's made in a season ... made 14 consecutive FG's from September 10 to November 12 ... only kicker in school history to convert two FG's from 50+ yards in a season ... made Stout's first 50+ yard FG since 2007 ... led the team in scoring with 75 points which is the most points by a Stout player since 2000 ... led the WIAC and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division III in FG's made ... one of two Conference kickers to make all PAT's this season ... three-time WIAC Special Teams Player of the Week ... UW-Stout/DigiCopy Athlete of the Week ... D3Football.com Team of the Week ... campus Residence Hall move-in day volunteer ... Football Friends 4 Life program volunteer ... Arbor Place volunteer ... Mountain Terrace Senior Living Facility volunteer ... Wausau Manor Nursing Home volunteer ... Sunshine Home of Wausau volunteer ... Feed My Starving Children program volunteer ... C3 Center Choices program volunteer ... Salvation Army bill ringer ... Stevens Point Hope Center volunteer ... works with his high school football team to assist kickers and punters on the football field and in the weight room during the summer.

**KRAMER RATH**

Nebraska Wesleyan University – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
13	17	77%	0-0	4-5	7-9	2-3	0-0	49	28	28	67

Senior from Lincoln, NE ... Second Team All-IIAC ... led the team in scoring with 67 points ... tied for 8<sup>th</sup> in Division III and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Conference with 13 FG's in the regular season ... IIAC Special Teams Player of Week ... has the 2<sup>nd</sup> most career FG's in school history ... 152 career points is 4<sup>th</sup> highest in school history ... made 10 straight FG's dating back to last season until missing a FG in week four ... three-time All-Conference selection as kicker ... Lincoln Literacy Tutor and member of fundraising team ... Southeast Community College Early Service Learning volunteer ... volunteers for Meals on Wheels during holidays ... Special Olympics volunteer for four years ... Peoples City Mission volunteer ... counselor at the Nebraska Human Resources Institute ... selected to participate as Heartland Escort Chairman in Aksarben Foundation's Ball and various related activities.

**TYLER STOLEN**

Buena Vista University (Iowa) – Division III

FGM	FGA	FG%	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LONG	PATM	PATA	PTS
14	16	88%	0-0	9-10	2-2	2-3	1-1	53	27	27	69

Senior from Sioux City, IA ... four-year starter for Buena Vista ... made a career-high 14 FG's this season including 11 straight to end the season ... finished his career making 38 of 53 FG's and 103 of 112 PAT's ... 14 FG's tied for 4<sup>th</sup> in Division III during the regular season ... made career-long 53-yard FG to end the first half against Simpson College which was the longest regular season FG in Division III and two yards shy of the school record ... two-time First Team All-Iowa Conference kicker and one-time Honorable Mention ... was first player in IIAC history to earn First Team accolades as both kicker and punter in the same season when he did this as a freshman ... took part throughout his career in the annual Halloween event where football players escorted children through campus to trick-or-treat.

**ABOUT THE FRED MITCHELL AWARD**

A blue-ribbon Selection Committee (listed at [www.fredmitchellaward.com](http://www.fredmitchellaward.com)) evaluates place-kickers that are nominated by their schools. Members of the Pro and/or College Football Hall of Fame on the Selection Committee include Tom Beck, Kevin Butler, Paul Hornung, Marv Levy, Steve McMichael, Don Pierson and Gale Sayers. Former football players and others that are active in their communities are also on the Selection Committee including Carl Allegretti, Sergio Castillo, Matt Cotiguala, Sean Gothier, Teddy Greenstein, Randy Helt, Michael Husted, Dan Jiggetts, Chris Kearney, Rick Kolaczewski, Connie Kowal, Greg Loberg, Tom Lynch, Jeff Michalczyk, Mark Murphy, Patrick Murray, Tom Obarski, Rob Perry, Michael Ritchey, Jeff Schebler, Caroline Schrenker, Bob Thomas, Wolfe Tone, Todd Wilkins, Gary Zauner and Rob Zvonar. There are 15 former college or NFL place-kickers on the Selection Committee, including Schebler (the inaugural Fred Mitchell Award recipient in 2009 and the highest-scoring place-kicker in NCAA history at any level), Lynch (two-time recipient of the Award and the kicker on the 2011 NAIA National Champion Saint Xavier University Cougars), Murray (whose 25 FG's in 2012 were just one shy of the all-time FCS record set by Nevada's Tony Zendejas), Castillo (the first Division II kicker to win the Award and who made 62 of 79 career field goals and 251 of 255 extra points), Obarski (with a terrific career at Concordia – St. Paul including 44 career field goals) and Cotiguala (St. Ambrose University's record-setting kicker and the first NAIA recipient of the Fred Mitchell Award since 2011).