

## 2016 FRED MITCHELL AWARD PRESENTED TO UNC PEMBROKE'S MATT DAVIS

**Contacts: Rob Perry ([rperry@fredmitchellaward.com](mailto:rperry@fredmitchellaward.com))  
Fred Mitchell ([fmitchell@fredmitchellaward.com](mailto:fmitchell@fredmitchellaward.com))**



December 13, 2016 – University of North Carolina at Pembroke senior place-kicker Matt Davis (from Richlands, NC) is the recipient of the 2016 Fred Mitchell Award. The Award is provided to the nation's top place-kicker in FCS, Division II, Division III, NAIA and NJCAA for excellence on the football field and in the community. Over 750 place-kickers are eligible.

The Award is named for Fred Mitchell, the All-American place-kicker from Wittenberg University and sports columnist for the *Chicago Tribune* for 41 years. Mitchell said, "We are delighted to congratulate Matt as the third Division II kicker to receive the Fred Mitchell Award in the last four years, and the first-ever kicker from a school in North Carolina. With more than 750 place-kickers to choose from, we are extremely proud to recognize Matt among a top-notch group of nominees. Matt was at or near the top of the 750 eligible kickers in many statistical categories and scoring 119 points in a season with such a high success rate on field goals from 50+ yards is incredible. Matt's record-setting season and collegiate career at UNC Pembroke were extremely impressive. It was a genuine pleasure for me to be the first to inform Matt that he is the 2016 FMA winner, and I could sense his humility and gratitude to his family, teammates, coaches, long snapper and holder."

Davis' season statistics are provided below.

FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	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

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as the winner of the 2016 Fred Mitchell Award," Davis said. "First and foremost, I would like to thank my Lord, Jesus Christ. All of the success that I have experienced is because of His grace and mercy in my life. None of it would have been possible without Him. I would also like to thank Fred Mitchell and the award committee for their generous considerations and my family for the unconditional love and support."

Davis is very active in campus, civic and community service endeavors. He was hand-picked to be a member of UNC Pembroke's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, he volunteers to help the homeless in the community and he has been heavily involved in many Athletes in Action activities.

"Knowing the names on this long list of winners, it is truly special for Matt to be decorated this award," said UNC Pembroke head coach Shane Richardson. "His hard work, dedication, and the commitment to be the best at what he does served him well with his performance this year. His desire to win and be a great contributor towards his team's success was made apparent to his coaches and teammates alike throughout the season. Matt's character has been a big part of his success, and I could not be more proud of not only the player that he's grown into, but the person that he has become."

The Award's Selection Committee Chairman Rob Perry said, "There were many outstanding candidates for this Award. Matt holds numerous Division II and school records, and he even scored 13 of the Braves 19 points in a 19-18 win over Concord last month. We are looking forward to honoring Matt on February 20, 2017 during the National Football Foundation Chicago Metro Chapter Awards Ceremony." Details for the Awards Ceremony are at [www.nffchicagoawards.eventbrite.com](http://www.nffchicagoawards.eventbrite.com).

### 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).