

2009 FRED MITCHELL AWARD TEN FINALISTS NAMED



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December 14, 2009 – Ten finalists have been named for the 2009 Fred Mitchell Award, which is provided to the Division II or Division III place-kicker that excels on the football field and in the community. The place-kicker chosen for this Award will be named by December 21. Details about the Award and the Blue-Ribbon Selection Committee are provided at www.fredmitchellaward.com. In alphabetical order, the finalists for the 2009 Fred Mitchell Award are listed below.

C.J. BAHR

Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania)

Junior from Boalsburg, PA....led team in scoring with 54 points from 27 of 28 PAT's (one PAT blocked on October 17) and 9 of 14 FG's including career-long 48-yard FG against Mercyhurst on October 3....2009 First Team All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-Western Division selection ... kicked what proved to be game-winning PAT in 17-16 win over Mercyhurst....made a 47-yard FG in season opener against Bowie State ... missed a potential career-best 49-yard attempt on October 10 against Indiana (PA)....averaged 56 yards in 46 kickoffs ... ranks 2nd in school history with 112 PATs (116 attempts), 3rd in career FG's with 25 (40 attempts) and 7th in career scoring with 187 points ... set school record with 50 PATs (53 attempts) as a freshman in 2007 ... 35 of 35 PAT's in 2008 ... had school-record string of 65 consecutive PAT's snapped by block on October 17 at Gannon ... the PAT string extended back to Week 10 of 2007 season and included 8 for 8 showing in 2007 season finale at Edinboro....has been Rock's starting kicker in all 33 games since the start of the 2007 season....son of former Penn State and NFL kicker Chris Bahr and nephew of former PSU/NFL kicker Matt Bahr....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 2009 State Cup youth soccer competition ... developing marketing plan for State College Spikes minor-league baseball team ... served as intern with Spikes in summer of 2009 ... attended Sport Entertainment and Venues Tomorrow conference in South Carolina in November 2009 ... attended 2009 Sport Sales Workshop at Quicken Loans Arena and Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio

ALEX BEARD

Quincy University (Illinois)

Senior from Jacksonville, IL....led team in scoring with 66 points from 15 of 16 PAT's (miss went directly over the right post) and 17 of 22 FG's....10 of 10 on FG's from 40 yards and less....set school record with 17 FG's in the season....led MSFA in 2009 FG's made and accuracy....made career-long 46-yard FG in 30-29 win over St. Francis on November 7....set school record with 5 FG's in game against St. Francis breaking his own record of 3 FG's in a game, which Beard has done twice....made game-winning 35-yard FG with 39 seconds left to

beat St. Francis....four-time MSFA Midwest League Special Teams Player of the Week recipient in 2009....received NAIA Special Teams Player of the Week once in 2009....NAIA rankings – 2nd in FG's per game, 2nd in FG's made and 11th in FG accuracy...averaged 55 yards in 45 kickoffs....member of the Traveling Theatre which visits area grade schools to share life lessons with youth...raised funds and awareness for former Hawks football player Dustin Keeven who was seriously injured in a car accident last year...youth football coach....visits local grade schools to participate in academic and non-academic activities as part of the Big Hawk/Little Hawk program....interacts monthly with hearing impaired people in the community as part of QU's Deaf Club....helps low income families as part of Jacksonville's NEED Program....three year volunteer in both the Walk for the Cure (breast cancer) and Buddy Walk (autism)

CRAIG BURGESS

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Junior from Medina, OH....led team in scoring with 59 points from 32 of 32 PAT's and 9 of 11 FG's....made 5 of 6 FG's from 40+ yards, including a long of 43 yards and a game-winning 41-yarder with five seconds left to give IUP a 34-32 victory over Kutztown...named first team Daktronics All-Super Region 1 placekicker...holds school record for career FG's made with 31 in 41 attempts and set another school mark earlier this season when he had a streak of 11 consecutive made FG's...tied school record with four FG's versus Gannon in 2008...has made 108 of 109 extra points over the past three seasons and has a school-record streak of 91 in a row heading into his senior season in 2010...ranks 3rd in school history in points by place-kickers with 201 and is 10th in scoring overall...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

JAY CARPENTER

Mount Union College (Ohio)

Senior from Fairmont, WV....ranks second on the #1 nationally ranked Purple Raiders in scoring with 92 points from 74 of 79 PAT's and 6 of 7 FG's with the playoffs in progress....Second Team All-Conference....made 15 of 17 PAT's in last two playoff games, a 55-0 win over Washington & Jefferson on November 21 and a 62-14 win over Montclair State on November 28....Academic All-Conference....co-organizer of Fall 2009 Soles for Souls effort, which collected 3,000 pairs of shoes from the local community for an international relief project....speaks to local elementary school students as part of the football team's Raider Buddy Program....Fellowship for Christian Athletes co-leader....plays on Mount Union's basketball team

GORDON CRAIG

Dickinson College (Pennsylvania)

Junior from Grove City, PA....second on the Red Devils with 64 points (a school record for a place-kicker) from 37 of 39 PAT's and 9 of 10 FG's....All-Centennial Conference First Team....set school records for most PAT's in a season (37) and career (94)...tied school record for most FG's in a game (4 against Johns Hopkins)...ranks 1st among Dickinson place-kickers in single-season points (64) and 2nd in career points (166)...made a 41-yard FG with 7 seconds remaining to beat Muhlenberg 17-16 on October 31....named Centennial Conference Special Teams Player of the Week on November 2 thanks to the game-winning FG, two punts inside the

20 yard line and for making a touchdown-saving tackle during Muhlenberg's punt return...two-time Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following game-winning FG's against Franklin & Marshall (September 19) and Muhlenberg (October 31)...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

ZACK HARRIS

Wittenberg University (Ohio)

Senior from Plain City, OH...leading team with 79 points from 55 of 58 PAT's and 8 of 12 FG's with playoffs in progress...invited to play in the December 5 Division III Football Senior Classic but unable to play since Wittenberg is in the playoffs...perfect 25 of 25 PAT's in October...made the game-winning 31-yard FG at #10 Wabash on October 17...kicked a career-best 45-yard FG against Denison on October 31...58 yard average on 67 kickoffs...4 of 5 PAT's (one PAT blocked), no FG attempts and 63 yard kickoff average (6 kickoffs) in November 28 Division III playoff win over Trine, 34-17...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 the most successful place-kicker in school history...rare straight-on left-footed kicker...named the 2009 Northern Sun Conference South Division First-Team place-kicker for the second straight season...born with just part of his left arm...43 of 46 PAT's and 11 of 17 FG's...was a Preseason All-American by Lindy's Football 2009 College Preview Magazine...became the Wildcats all-time leader in FG's made in September 5 win against Minnesota State-Moorhead...finished career as Wayne State's all-time leading scorer with 245 points, making 36 of 51 FG's (71%) and 137 of 146 PAT's (94%)...made school record 53 straight PAT's from October 11, 2008 to October 17, 2009...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...member of the SIFE Club at Wayne State (Students in Free Enterprise)

GARRETT LINDHOLM

Tarleton State University (Texas)

Senior from Pflugerville, TX...led team in scoring with 88 points from 43 of 45 PAT's (one blocked, one missed) and 15 of 18 FG's (one blocked, one bad snap, one missed)... perfect inside the 40, 5-8 from 40-49-yards, and 2-2 from 50 and beyond, was 10 of last 11 FG's attempted...kicked a game winning 55-yard FG with 4 seconds left to beat Midwestern State on October 3, after he made a 36-yard FG to tie the game with 16 seconds left, Lindholm scored 12 points in the game...made a 64-yard FG with 3 seconds left to send November 14 playoff game into overtime (eventually won 57-56 in triple overtime by Tarleton over Texas A&M- Kingsville and Lindholm scored 11 points in the game)...the 64-yard FG set a Division II record for the longest FG in postseason, longest FG in Division II history without a tee and second longest overall in Division II, it was also highlighted on ESPN and USA Today...2009 Daktronics Second-Team All- American...Daktronics All-Super Region Four First Team Selection...two

time All-Conference First Team Selection....four time Lone Star Conference Special Teams Player of the Week....two time D2 National Special Teams Player of the Week....2008 Tarleton State University Special Teams Player of the Year....holds multiple Lone Star Conference and School place-kicking records....averaged 63 yards on 77 kickoffs including 22 touchbacks which allowed Tarleton to be the number one team in the conference in net kickoff coverage....delivers meals-on-wheels to the local elderly....visited the Ronald McDonald House to prepare meals for ill children and their families....member of two college ministries called Refuge and College Life....three years of involvement in Tarleton Round Up (volunteer for community assistance for elderly)....two year volunteer assistant for Ben Agajanian Kicking Camps

GARRETT ROLSMA

Central Washington University

Senior from University Place, WA....led team in scoring with 100 points from 40 of 42 PAT's and 20 of 25 FG's....17 of 17 PAT's and 12 of 13 FG's during October when the Wildcats were ranked #2 in the country, the school's highest ranking since joining Division II in 1999 and ranked #1 in November before 21-20 playoff loss to #2 Northwest Missouri State on November 28....scored 8 or more points and made FG's of 40+ yards in all October games....kicked game-winning 44-yard FG with 32 seconds remaining to beat Western Oregon 23-21 in the October 17 Battle in Seattle matchup at Qwest Field....had two-year streak of 99 straight PAT's from November 2007 to November 2009....school's all-time scoring leader with 330 points....set school and Great Northwest Athletic Conference record with 20 FG's in a season....scored 9 points in November 21 playoff win over #12 Tarleton State, 27-6....CWU's first-ever ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American (College Division) First Team in 2009....averaged 60 yards on 73 kickoffs...."Paint Tacoma" volunteer to paint houses for underprivileged families in his hometown with his father....participates in regular blood drives including via the football team's annual Blood Drive....assisted with the Yakima River Cleanup Project....Exercise Science Club 5K Fun Run volunteer

JEFF SCHEBLER

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Senior from Davenport, IA....unanimous First Team All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 2009 for the fourth straight year....101 points (2nd on the #2 nationally ranked Warhawks) from 71 of 73 PAT's and 10 of 11 FG's with the playoffs in progress....446 career points is the most of any place-kicker in NCAA history at any level....scored 10 points in November 21 Division III playoff win over Lakeland to become the NCAA's all-time point leader among place-kickers....scored 9 points in November 28 Division III playoff win over Illinois Wesleyan from 6 of 6 PAT's and 1 of 1 FG's (46-yard FG) and averaged 58 yards on 7 kickoffs....scored 40 points in October from 25 of 25 PAT's and 5 of 6 FG's including a 45-yard FG against UW-Stout on October 17 when Schebler broke the Division III scoring record for place-kickers....averaged 60 yards on 85 kickoffs....holds the school career records for PAT's made (225), PAT's attempted (236), FG's made (71) and FG's attempted (88)....set virtually all single season place-kicking records for the Warhawks....Fellowship of Christian Athletes leadership team...visits the Hadley School for the Blind in Janesville....Kohl's Kicking Camp counselor and mentor