

Victory Sports Network Announces 2007 NAIA Football All-American Teams

Cavender and Koeppen Named Players of the Year, Troth Gets Coach's Honor, Frederick Media Honor

January 21, 2008

Grand Island, Neb – The Victory Sports Network has released the 2007 NAIA Football All-American Teams. This marks the sixth season for the awards. The biggest honors on this year's team were split among three different schools as VSN selected offensive, defensive and coach of the year awards. Chad Cavender was named VSN's Offensive NAIA Player of the Year while Owen Koeppen of Carroll College garnered VSN's Defensive NAIA Player of the Year. This year's team is presented by Engravers Edge of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



With help of coaches from across the NAIA, VSN has now completed their second year of incorporating NAIA Coaches into the selection process. Previously teams were selected by VSN only. Now a committee of NAIA Coaches votes on the teams compiled by VSN.

“With the NAIA and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) joining to create a smaller team of All-Americans, we decided it would be best if the coaches and VSN came together to collaborate on an All-American team,” said Jason Dannelly Owner/CEO of the Victory Sports Network.

This marks the second year that Chad Cavender has won the offensive player of the year award from VSN. The senior quarterback from Redding California led his squad to their second consecutive national title game in Savannah, Tennessee. Cavender threw 22 touchdown passes and just seven interceptions this season. He also completed 250 passes for 3409 yards. He also rushed for 206 yards and ran for an additional 8 touchdowns. In his career as a starter Cavender lost just one game; the 2007 National Title.

“Cavender did exactly what great quarterbacks are supposed to do,” said Dannelly. “He won all but one game as a starter and was a great leader for Sioux Falls. He may not have had the best numbers in the country but his intangibles are what make him so great.”

Owen Koeppen had a dominating season at linebacker for the Carroll College Saints. He was named the defensive MVP of the National Championship game and was also the Frontier Conference MVP. Koeppen totaled 119 tackles and with 13 tackles for a loss. Koeppen also had eight sacks, forced four fumbles and intercepted one pass. One of the forced fumbles came in the National Championship game. Koeppen helped to lead the Saints defense to the NAIA lead in scoring defense at just 5.4 points per game. The Saints gave up just nine touchdowns all season with only two rushing touchdowns.

“Koeppen is the linebacker that every coach in the NAIA wants to lead their defense,” said Dannelly. “He’s smart, athletic and understands how to manage a game. He is constantly around the ball or enabling his teammates to make great plays.”

VSN's NAIA Coach of the Year is Paul Troth of Missouri Valley. Troth has made it to the NAIA semifinals two years in a row and nearly defeated the University of Sioux Falls to advance the National Title. Troth's Vikings started the season slow with a 2-2 record and one of the wins coming in overtime. But as the season progressed the Vikings continued to improve week after week before upsetting previously undefeated Lindenwood in the final week of the season to secure a spot in the NAIA Championship Series. Both of Missouri Valley's wins in the postseason came on the road spoiling the

seasons for Friends University and Ohio Dominican University. The win against Ohio Dominican also spoiled a perfect season for the Panthers. Troth is 85-39 as a head coach at the collegiate level.

“Troth earned this award because of how his team dug down when the going got tough this season,” said Dannelly. “The Vikings were preseason #3 but started 2-2 and dropped out of the Top 25. A lot of programs would have quit. Troth’s team kept fighting until the very end and it enabled them to get to the postseason. That comes from players believing in what you are saying and doing as a coach. That’s the ultimate compliment any coach can receive.”

This season marks the first year the Victory Sports Network names a Media Person of the Year. This award is given to a media person that has helped spread the word of NAIA football and the Victory Sports Network across their region or nationally. The award is given only to a member of the working media as VSN will name a Sports Information Director of the Year later this spring.

Tom Frederick, the voice of the Sioux Falls Cougars, is this year’s VSN Football Media Person of the Year. Frederick is the long time play-by-play voice of the Cougars on 1230 AM KWSN and has been instrumental in bringing a high standard of broadcasting to the airwaves of NAIA college football.

“Tom’s play-by-play is one of the best calls in all of small college football,” said Dannelly. “His research is up to the minute and he is always looking to add more to his broadcast. He works very well with his color commentator Tim Hiatt and brings a high level of professionalism to the booth.”

This season’s VSN All American team saw a vast number of schools from across the country gaining honors. Carroll College lead all NAIA teams with six players landing on the first and second teams, Sioux Falls followed with four; Ohio Dominican, Saint Francis (IN), Jamestown College had three All Americans

The Victory Sports Network's 2007 NAIA Football All American Teams

Presented by Engravers Edge

First Team Offensive

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
OL	Mike Galassi	Walsh University (OH)	6'5	302	SR	Strongsville, Ohio
OL	Truman Ashby	Benedictine College (KS)	6'3	290	SR	St. Louis, Missouri
OL	Dru Filkins	St. Ambrose (IA)	6'4	270	SR	Downers Grove, Illinois
OL	Jeremy Saunders	Quincy University (IL)	6'5	314	SR	Warren, Illinois
OL	Brian Smiley	Saint Francis (IN)	6'1	295	SR	Fort Wayne, Indiana
TE	Josiah Fenceroy	Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)	6'3	240	SR	Sioux City, Iowa
WR	Jared Stace	Ohio Dominican	5'9	190	SR	Columbus, Ohio
WR	Antuan Bloom	Morningside College (IA)	5'11	170	JR	Miami, Florida
WR	Jon Davis	Azusa Pacific (CA)	6'3	200	SR	Acampo, California
RB	Bernard Payton	Malone College (OH)	6'1	205	SR	Pomona, California
RB	Adrian Smith	Bethel College (TN)	6'0	210	SR	Ocala, Florida
RB	Ra'shad Morgan	Virginia-Wise	5'10	208	SR	Chesterfield, Virginia
QB	Chad Cavender	Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)	6'0	185	SR	Redding, California
ATH	Trey Erickson	Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)	6'0	220	SR	Yankton, South Dakota
K	Shane Longest	Saint Xavier University (IL)	5'11	180	SR	Wilmington, Illinois
KS	D'Artagnan Dai'Re	Doane College (NE)	5'8	161	JR	West Covina, California

First Team Defensive

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
DL	Letarius Lee	Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)	6'2	255	SR	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
DL	Phil Lenoue	Carroll College (MT)	6'1	235	SR	Spokane, Washington
DL	Wacey Coleman	Black Hills State (SD)	6'2	230	SO	Gillette, Wyoming
DL	Ryan Miles	Texas College	6'2	240	JR	Livingston, Texas
LB	Owen Koeppen	Carroll College (MT)	6'2	232	JR	Florence, Montana
LB	Reggie Singletary	Missouri Valley	6'0	243	SR	Kansas City, Missouri
LB	J.J. Perino	Montana Tech	6'1	245	SR	Helena, Montana
LB	Frits Remedor	Southern Nazarene (OK)	6'2	240	SR	Naples, Florida
DB	Brandon Kaufman	Bethel College (KS)	6'0	180	SR	Moundridge, Kansas
DB	Clay Hamblen	Georgetown College (KY)	5'11	184	SR	Danville, Indiana
DB	Chad Hustedt	Morningside College (IA)	6'2	185	SR	Galva, Iowa
DB	Marc Samson	Montana St. Univ. Northern	6'1	174	SR	Helena, Montana
PR	Jake Stoltz	Jamestown College	5'10	185	SR	Gilbert, Arizona
P	Zach Thiry	Carroll College (MT)	6'2	215	JR	Meridian, Idaho

Second Team Offensive

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
OL	Dale Ackland	Jamestown College (ND)	6'0	275	SR	Oakridge, Oregon
OL	Brandon Jacobitz	Hastings College (NE)	6'4	320	SR	Campbell, Nebraska
OL	Mike Siverly	McKendree College (IL)	6'4	315	SR	Casey, Illinois
OL	Cale Fischer	NW Oklahoma State (OK)	6'4	275	FR	Guymon, Oklahoma
OL	Bryson Pelc	Carroll College (MT)	6'1	270	SR	Helena, Montana
TE	Tyler Driscoll	Saint Ambrose (IA)	6'1	215	SR	DeWitt, Iowa
WR	Graylin Allison	Belhaven College (MS)	6'0	180	SR	Florence, Florida
WR	Casey Kelly	Montana Tech	5'9	172	SR	Butte, Montana
WR	Preston Nicholson	Culver-Stockton (MO)	6'2	200	SR	Tampa, Florida
RB	Thez Robinson	NW Oklahoma State	6'1	205	SR	Lyons, Georgia
RB	Nick Banks	Minot State (ND)	5'10	190	JR	San Diego, California
RB	JaMaine Lewis	Concordia Univ. (NE)	6'0	220	SR	St. Louis, Missouri
QB	Cris Reisert	Ohio Dominican	6'2	205	JR	Cincinnati, Ohio
ATH	Nick Milodragovich	Carroll College (MT)	5'11	180	SR	Great Falls, Montana
K	Derek Doerfler	Baker University (KS)	5'11	213	JR	Lee's Summit, Missouri
KS	Moses Cochran	Univ. of the Columbians	5'8	178	SR	Thomasville, Georgia

Second Team Defensive

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
DL	Shawn Lewis	Urbana University (OH)	6'4	245	JR	Aberdeen, Maryland
DL	Brandon Smith	Ottawa University (KS)	6'1	240	SR	Shawnee, Kansas
DL	Cody Van Sloten	Northwestern (IA)	6'4	235	JR	Doon, Iowa
DL	Tim Farrell	Saint Francis (IN)	6'1	236	JR	Fort Wayne, Indiana
LB	Jeremy Robinson	Olivet Nazarene (IL)	6'0	240	SR	Crown Point, Indiana
LB	Patrick O'Neal	Union (KY)	6'1	215	SR	Lula, Georgia
LB	Sean Kenney	Saint Xavier University (IL)	5'10	225	SR	Palos Hills, Illinois
LB	Brandon Day	Carroll College (MT)	6'1	210	JR	Helena, Montana
DB	Gary Thomas	Jamestown College (ND)	5'10	200	SR	Sparks, Nevada
DB	Paul Carter	Saint Francis (IN)	6'0	198	SR	Indianapolis, Indiana
DB	Tanner Tetrault	Black Hills State (SD)	6'2	210	SR	St. Onge, South Dakota
DB	Joe Slabaugh	Ohio Dominican	6'1	201	JR	Akron, Ohio
PR	Johnathon Johnson	Edward Waters (FL)	6'1	207	JR	Miami, Florida
P	Andrew Lutton	Azusa Pacific (CA)	6'1	175	SO	Seattle, Washington

VSN Honorable Mention All-American

Offensive Line - Chad Tormey-Friends, Josh Ekovich-Saint Francis (IN), Thomas Leinenbach-U-Cumberlands, Jon Conklin-Sterling College, Chase Hansen-Bethel College, Shawn Flanagan-Eastern Oregon, Zach Morrison-Shorter College, Rob Mosby-Morningside College, Matt Pierce-Ohio Dominican, Brady Schwebach-Univ. of Sioux Falls, Bart Archdekin-Minot State, Jeremy Inferera-U.M. Western, Kris Vasquez-Missouri Valley, Henry Potter-UVA Wise, Jacob Bruster-Friends, T.J. Wendt-Univ. of Sioux Falls

Tight End - Buck Reed-Bethel College (TN), Cotton Green-NW Oklahoma State, LaRoi Johnson-Malone College, Kevin Laudermilk-Sterling College

Wide Receiver - Zach Bolger-Jamestown College, Beau Kildow-Morningside College, Zach Edwards-NW Oklahoma State, Justin Sayre-Ohio Dominican, Michael Hayward-St. Ambrose, Brian Piper-Georgetown College (KY), Antonio Brown-Bethel College (TN), McKay Dunn-Southern Virginia, Kyle Callahan-Union College (KY)

Quarterback - Joey Waters-Union College (TN), Ronnie Jankovich-Bethel College (TN), Jim DuPage-St. Ambrose, Matt Schneider-MidAmerica Nazarene, Randy Hippeard-UVA Wise

Runningback - Ricky Walker-Cumberlands, Corey Warner-Montana Tech, Robert Holmes-Missouri Valley, George Smith-McKendree, Terrance Bell-Bethel (TN), Daniel Carter-Saint Francis (IN), Patrick Ealy-MidAmerica Nazarene, Trey Hightower-Friends, Hakeem Abdullah-Lindenwood, Greg Fountain-Campbellsville University

Defensive Line - Nick Yanko-Ohio Dominican, Josh Glahn-MSU-Northern, Lucas Burr-Olivet Nazarene, Casey Roel-Azusa Pacific, Karter Kleeman-Dickinson State, Sean Fisher-Southern Nazarene, Matt Yarbrough-Shorter College, Vince Filipp-St. Ambrose, Anthony Scolamieri-Southern Oregon, Joe Berrow-Georgetown College (KY), Darren Quaile-Univ. of Sioux Falls, Lantz Mathers-NW Oklahoma State, Larry Wentzel-Missouri Valley, Courtney White-Georgetown College (KY), Mike Paffhausen-Carroll College, Brian Schaefering-Lindenwood University

Linebacker - Carl Thomas-Saint Francis (IN), Justin Ficklin-Bacone, Marquette Floyd-Missouri Valley, Justin Conley-Hastings College, Jacob Zsuppon-Quincy University, Nate Jansen-Northwestern College, Ryan Gloer-Shorter College, Gabe Guthrie-Georgetown College (KY), Austin Stack-Southern Oregon, Tanis Ready-Friends University, Chad Schira-U.M. Western, Brett Nickolite-Morningside College

Defensive Back - Jason Hoath-Lambuth University, Phil Schroer-Nebraska Wesleyan, Lawrence Davis-McKendree University, Brock VanCleave-Southern Nazarene University, Aubrey Smith-Missouri Valley College, Brian Abshire-U-Cumberlands, Nick Milodragovich-Carroll College, Treveor Holleman-Univ. of Sioux Falls, Zach Richardson-Carroll College, Nick Marshall-Minot State, Roshe Hepburn-Graceland University, Jeff Braun-Montana Tech

Punter - Michael Wilson-Belhaven College, Don Saisbury-MSU-Northern, Mitch Croy-Ohio Dominican

Kicker - Marcus Miller-Carroll College, Halley Ferrell-Lindenwood University, Matt Lindgren-University of Sioux Falls

Return Specialist - Jeff Neujahr-Concordia University, Justin Gerald-Central Methodist, Joshua Warren-Belhaven College

Athlete -Allen Ervin-Lambuth University, Rob Lash-Walsh University, Tyler Degenhardt-Sterling College