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**NINE FINALISTS NAMED FOR HILL TROPHY  
AS DIVISION II FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

FLORENCE, Ala. -- A field of 43 initial nominees has been trimmed to nine national finalists in regional voting for the 2016 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year.

The finalists were selected by the NCAA Division II sports information directors in regional voting and will now be placed on the national ballot where all 171 of the division's SIDs will select the award's 31st winner. The top two players from three super regions advanced to the national ballot, and three advanced from Super Region 4 due to a tie in the voting.

The list of 2016 finalists is comprised of six quarterbacks, two running backs and one receiver.

Seven of the finalists helped lead their teams into the 2016 NCAA Division II playoffs and five are on team's competing in this weekend's quarterfinal matchups.

Advancing from Super Region 1 are senior receiver **Garry Brown** of California University (Pa.) and senior quarterback **Jeff Ziemba** of Shepherd University (W.V.).

Super Region 2 is represented by senior quarterback **Jacob Tucker** of the University of North Alabama and senior quarterback **Raleigh Yeldell** of Newberry College.

The top vote getters in Super Region 3 are senior quarterback **Trey Heid** of Augustana University (S.D.) and senior quarterback **Kyle Zimmerman** of Northwest Missouri State University.

Advancing from Super Region 4 are sophomore running back **Marty Carter** of Grand Valley State University (Mich.), senior quarterback **Justin Dvorak** of Colorado School of Mines and senior running back **Austin Ekeler** of Western State Colorado University.

**Brown** has shattered the program's receiving records while helping the Vulcans claim the PSAC Championship and advance to the Super Region One Championship. He ranks fourth overall in NCAA Division II with 23 total touchdowns and leads wide receivers at all NCAA levels in scoring at 12.5 points per game. Brown also leads active players in NCAA Division II with 41 receiving touchdowns, including a school-record 20 this season. The Columbus, Ohio, native was named PSAC West Offensive Athlete of the Year and earned first-team All-PSAC West laurels at both wide receiver and return specialist. Brown sits fourth in the country with over 185 all-purpose yards per game behind over 600 combined return yards, highlighted by both a kickoff and punt return for touchdown.

**Carter**, who was named the 2016 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Offensive Back of the Year, leads the nation in rushing with 1,807 yards and 19 touchdowns on 238 carries. His 1,807 rushing yards is the top regu-

lar season rushing mark in GVSU football history, while the 1,486 rushing yards in GLIAC action ranks seventh all-time in league history. The East Chicago, Ind., native is averaging 7.6 yards per carry, a mark that ranks second nationally and first among all running backs with 200 or more carries. Carter also led the GLIAC in all-purpose yards with 1,884 yards. Marty tallied seven runs of 53 yards or more, six of which went for touchdowns and he had 20 rushing plays of 20 yards or more in 12 games. Carter broke the 100-yard rushing mark nine times, including a GVSU single-season record four games of 200 yards or more. He set the Grand Valley State single-game rushing record with 298 yards vs. Northern Michigan and was named the GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week three times. Carter led the GLIAC and ranks fifth nationally in rushing Tds with 19, while ranking first in the GLIAC and 11th nationally in total points.

**Dvorak**, a Tomball, Texas native, was one of college football's top quarterbacks in 2016, leading NCAA Division II in passing yards and touchdowns as a senior. Dvorak led Mines to a share of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship and an appearance in the NCAA Second Round, the program's best showing since 2004. Dvorak threw for 4,584 yards and 53 touchdowns, rushing for eight more, as he led the nation's #1 total offense. He was named the RMAC Offensive Player of the Year after establishing the RMAC career records for passing yards, total offense, and passing touchdowns.

**Ekeler**, from Eaton, Colo., was the driving force for Western State Colorado University in 2016. While setting almost every career rushing record in Western history, the senior running back led all NCAA divisions in rushing yards through the first eight weeks of the season and was the NCAA's active career rushing leader through the first nine weeks (currently sits second). Despite only playing in one of the final eight quarters of the season, Ekeler was the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference's leader in rushing yards and rushing yards per game. He is currently second in Division II with 149.5 average rushing yards per game.

**Heid**, from Lakeville, Minn., was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight season in 2016. He led the NSIC and set an Augustana single season record with 3,582 passing yards in 2016 while throwing for a league-high and single season record 41 touchdowns. Heid accounted for 51 total touchdowns on the season as he led the Vikings with 721 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns this season. Heid led the NSIC and the entire country averaging 391.2 yards of total offense per game in 2016. He passed for 250-plus yards in all 11 games in 2016, while throwing two or more touchdown passes in all 11 contests. Heid threw for over 300 yards in six games and tossed four or more touchdowns in 7 of 11 games.

**Tucker** was named Gulf South Conference Offensive Player of the Year in his first season as a starter, while leading the Lions to a 9-1 record, a GSC Championship and the top seed in Super Region 2. The Linden, Tenn., native ranks among the GSC leaders in rushing, passing, total offense and scoring. He has thrown for 2,257 yards and 18 touchdowns and rushed for 719 yards and 14 TDs. Those numbers are even more impressive considering that he did not play in the fourth quarter of six games due to large UNA leads. Tucker will lead North Alabama against North Greenville Saturday in the quarterfinals of the Division II Playoffs.

**Yeldell** led one of the nation's most prolific offenses in 2016 as the Wolves bounced back from an opening day defeat to win 10 consecutive games, claim the South Atlantic Conference championship, and earn the No. 2 seed in Super Region 2. The SAC Offensive Player of the Year and winner of five total Player of the Week awards led the nation in completion percentage at 70.3 percent, ranked fifth with 26.0 completions per game, had the sixth-most passing yards per game at 308.7, and accounted for 341.8 yards of total offense per game to rank eighth. Despite missing two games, the Edgefield, S.C., native became Newberry's first-ever 3,000-yard passer, set a new school record with 3,418 yards of total offense, accounted for 33 total touchdowns and captained an offense that established school records in total yards, passing yards, points, and touchdowns.

**Ziamba**, from Newark, Delaware, has led Shepherd to a 12-0 record and into the quarterfinals of the Division II Playoffs Saturday against California, Pa. He has completed 226-of-331 passes for 3,315 yards and 28 touchdowns and has been intercepted only five times. He ranks second nationally in pass efficiency rating (177.3), fourth in passing yards per pass attempt (10.02), ninth in passing yards per game (301.4), and 10th in passing yards (3,315). Ziamba helps Shepherd rank first in team passing efficiency (185.09), third in completion percentage (.692), and sixth in passing offense (339.0).

**Zimmerman** was the 2016 MIAA Offensive Player of the Year, leading the Bearcats to an undefeated regular season and the top seed in Super Region Three. A fifth-year senior and native of Overland Park, Kan., Zimmerman waited 55 games before he made his first career start this season after backing up a pair of first-team All-MIAA performers. This year, Zimmerman has thrown for 3,242 yards and 35 touchdowns, completing 250-of-364 attempts with just two interceptions. He has also run for 276 yards and seven touchdowns. He will lead the Bearcats against Harding Saturday in the quarterfinals of the Division II Playoffs.

National voting will conclude on December 10 and the winner of the 2016 award, which is presented by the National Harlon Hill Award Committee, will be announced on Friday, December 16.

The winner will be honored at a luncheon on the University of North Alabama campus on January 6, 2017.

The Hill Trophy is sponsored by the City of Florence, Ala., Opti-Net, Herff Jones and the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa.

\* \* \*

North Dakota State quarterback Jeff Bentrin won the initial Hill Trophy in 1986, followed by three-time winner - Texas A&I (now Texas A&M-Kingsville) running back Johnny Bailey - in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Another North Dakota State quarterback, Chris Simdorn, claimed the 1990 award, followed by Pittsburg State receiver Ronnie West in 1991, Pittsburg State running back Ronald Moore in 1992, New Haven running back Roger Graham in 1993, Valdosta State quarterback Chris Hatcher in 1994.

North Alabama linebacker Ronald McKinnon became the first and so far only defensive player to win the award in 1995, followed by Truman State running back Jarrett Anderson in 1996, Bloomsburg University running back Irvin Sigler in 1997, Emporia State running back Brian Shay in 1998 and Northern Colorado quarterback Corte McGuffey in 1999.

The award had its second two-time winner when Valdosta State quarterback Dusty Bonner claimed the Hill Trophy in 2000 and 2001.

Grand Valley State quarterback Curt Anes won the Hill Trophy in 2002, followed by North Alabama quarterback Will Hall in 2003, Colorado School of Mines quarterback Chad Frieauf in 2004 and East Stroudsburg's Jimmy Terwilliger in 2005. Four straight Hill Trophies were won by running backs, beginning with Chadron State's Danny Woodhead in 2006 and 2007. Abilene Christian's Bernard Scott won in 2008, followed by Wayne State (Mich.) running back Joique Bell in 2009.

Central Missouri quarterback Eric Czerniewski was the 2010 Hill winner, followed by Mars Hill running back Jonas Randolph in 2011, Shippensburg's Zach Zulli in 2012, Bloomsburg running back Franklyn Quiteh in 2013 and Ferris State quarterback Jason Vander Laan in 2014 and 2015.

## 2016 Harlon Hill Trophy Finalists

<b>SUPER REGIONAL 1</b>	<b>Ht</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Cl</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Garry Brown	WR	6-1	200	SR	California, Pa.	Columbus, Ohio
Jeff Ziemba	QB	6-3	212	SR	Shepherd	Newark, Del.
<b>SUPER REGIONAL 2</b>	<b>Ht</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Cl</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Jacob Tucker	QB	6-2	185	SR	North Alabama	Linden, Tenn.
Raleigh Yeldell	QB	6-0	175	SR	Newberry	Edgefield, S.C.
<b>SUPER REGIONAL 3</b>	<b>Ht</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Cl</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Trey Heid	QB	6-2	197	SR	Augustana (S.D.)	Lakeville, Minn.
Kyle Zimmerman	QB	6-1	200	SR	Northwest Missouri State	Overland Park, Kan.
<b>SUPER REGIONAL 4</b>	<b>Ht</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Cl</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Marty Carter	RB	6-0	202	SO	Grand Valley State	East Chicago, Ind.
Justin Dvorak	QB	6-0	200	SR	Colorado School of Mines	Tomball, Texas
Austin Ekeler	RB	5-9	198	SR	Western State	Eaton, Colo.

## Alphabetical Listing of 2016 Finalists

Garry Brown	WR	6-1	200	SR	California, Pa.	Columbus, Ohio
Marty Carter	RB	6-0	202	SO	Grand Valley State	East Chicago, Ind.
Justin Dvorak	QB	6-0	200	SR	Colorado-Mines	Tomball, Texas
Austin Ekeler	RB	5-9	198	SR	Western State	Eaton, Colo.
Trey Heid	QB	6-2	197	SR	Augustana (S.D.)	Lakeville, Minn.
Jacob Tucker	QB	6-2	185	SR	North Alabama	Linden, Tenn.
Raleigh Yeldell	QB	6-0	175	SR	Newberry	Edgefield, S.C.
Jeff Ziemba	QB	6-3	212	SR	Shepherd	Newark, Del.
Kyle Zimmerman	QB	6-1	200	SR	Northwest Missouri State	Overland Park, Kan.

# HARLON HILL TROPHY



**GARRY BROWN**  
California (Pa.)



**MARTY CARTER**  
Grand Valley State



**JUSTIN DVORAK**  
Colorado School of Mines



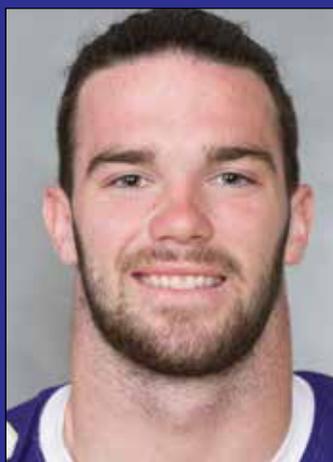
**AUSTIN EKELER**  
Western State



**TREY HEID**  
Augustana

**2016  
National  
Finalists**

**31st Winner  
Announced  
December 16**



**JACOB TUCKER**  
North Alabama



**RALEIGH YELDELL**  
Newberry



**JEFF ZIEMBA**  
Shepherd



**KYLE ZIMMERMAN**  
Northwest Missouri State

## **GARRY BROWN**

Wide Receiver  
California (PA)  
6-1, 200, Senior  
Columbus, Ohio

### **2016 Highlights:**

Selected PSAC West Offensive Athlete of the Year, only second wide receiver from the PSAC West in last 25 years to earn the honor ... Broke the all-time school records for receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns ... Set the single-season school record for receiving touchdowns ... Became first wide receiver in school history to be named to the All-PSAC West First-Team three times in a career ... Earned All-PSAC West First-Team honors at both wide receiver and return specialist as a senior ... Posted a third-consecutive 1,000-yard receiving season ... Has totaled the second-most points in single-season school history ... Leads wide receivers at all NCAA levels in scoring at 12.5 points/game

### **2016 Key Stats:**

Leads PSAC and Super Region One, while ranking fourth in NCAA Division II, with 23 total touchdowns (20 receiving, one rushing, one kick return, one punt return) ... Leads PSAC/SR1 and ranks third in D-II with a single-season school record 20 receiving touchdowns, which ranks seventh in PSAC history ... Leads PSAC/SR1 and sits second in D-II in scoring with 12.5 points/game ... Leads wide receivers at all NCAA levels in scoring at 12.5 points/game ... Paces PSAC/SR1 and is fourth in D-II with 138 total points ... Sits second in PSAC/SR1 and is fourth in D-II with 185.27 all-purpose yards/game ... Ranks second in PSAC/SR1 and is seventh in D-II with 122.5 receiving yards/game ... Leads PSAC, second in SR1 and sixth in D-II with 1,348 receiving yards ... Leads PSAC and fourth in SR1 and eighth in D-II with 7.4 receptions/game ... Ranks third in PSAC and fifth in SR1 with 12.2 yards/punt return ... Is one of only five players in SR1 to record both a kickoff and punt return for touchdown ... Sits second in PSAC, seventh in SR1, and 11th in D-II with 29.7 yards/kickoff returns ... Has tallied 219 yards on 18 punt returns with one touchdown ... Has posted at least 100 receiving yards in six of 11 games ... Ranks fourth in D-II this year in single-game receiving yards with 265 yards (12 catches, three touchdowns) at Mercyhurst ... Has registered multiple receiving touchdowns in nine games ... Has tallied 23 receptions (81 total) of at least 20 yards and has scored 12 total touchdowns of at least 20 yards ... Has posted 50 receptions (81 total) that have resulted in either a first down or touchdown ... Has posted at least 99 all-purpose yards in all 11 games with four games of over 200 yards ... Has scored at least one touchdown in 10 of 11 games with four games of three total touchdowns

### **Career:**

Set the all-time school record for receptions (212), receiving yards (3,634) and receiving touchdowns (41) in 2016, his third year as a starter ... Ranks sixth in PSAC history with 3,634 receiving yards and eighth with 41 receiving touchdowns ... Leads active players in D-II and sits fifth in all NCAA divisions with 41 receiving touchdowns ... Ranks

second among active players in D-II and 12th in all NCAA divisions with 3,634 receiving yards ... Sits fourth among active players in D-II and 14th in all NCAA divisions with 88.6 receiving yards per game ... Ranks second in school history with 4,785 all-purpose yards ... Earned D2Football.com All-America Honorable Mention in 2015 and was Don Hansen First-Team All-American in 2014 ... Named PSAC West Offensive Athlete of the Year as a senior (only wide receiver in school history to earn the honor) ... Voted to All-PSAC West First-Team in three-straight years ... Is only wide receiver in program history with multiple 1,000-yard seasons (has three 1,000-yard campaigns) ... Boasts four of the top-10 single-game receiving totals in school history, including school record of 282 yards at Mercyhurst in 2014

### **Team:**

California (11-0) captured PSAC Championship for first time since 2008 ... Vulcans earned No. 1 seed in SR1 and made first NCAA Playoff appearance since 2011 ... Cal U posted its first undefeated regular season since 2007 ... Vulcans have advanced to SR1 Championship for first time since 2009 ... Cal U has been ranked in AFCA Top 25 poll for eight-consecutive weeks after being unranked in the preseason poll ... The Vulcans reached as high as No. 6 in AFCA poll, marking its highest ranking since 2012 ... Cal U leads D-II and ranks third in all NCAA divisions in scoring offense at 51.14 points/game

## **MARTY CARTER**

Running Back  
Grand Valley State  
6-0, 202, Sophomore  
East Chicago, Ind.

### **2016 Highlights:**

Grand Valley State sophomore running back Marty Carter was named the GLIAC Offensive Back of the Year and First-Team All-GLIAC after leading the nation in regular season rushing with 1,807 yards and 19 touchdowns on 238 carries. His rushing total is also the top regular-season rushing mark in GVSU football history, while the 1,486 rushing yards in GLIAC action ranks seventh all-time in league history. Marty averaged 7.6 yards per carry, a mark that ranked second nationally and first among all running backs with 200 or more carries...Carter led the GLIAC and ranked fifth in rushing TDs with 19...Ranked 10th total TDs (20) and 11th in total points with 120...Carter also led the GLIAC in all-purpose yards with 1,884. Marty tallied seven runs of 53 yards or more, six of which went for touchdowns and he has 20 rushing plays of 20 yards or more in 12 games. Carter broke the 100-yard rushing mark in nine games, including a GVSU single-season record four games of 200 yards or more.

- Ranks 9th in career rushing yards with 2,696 yards and 26 TDs in 26 career games and 13 starts...Broke the 100-yard rushing mark 11 times, including a GVSU career-best five games of 200 yards or more in his career. Rushed for 217 yards and one TD on 33 carries vs. Texas A&M-Commerce (11/26)...217 rushing yards ranks second all-time in Laker annals for a playoff game...Tallied five runs over 20 yards or more vs. the Lions...Toted the ball 20 times for 165 yards and a TD run that covered 60 yards at Wayne State (11/12)...Rushed for 200 yards and two TDs on 34 carries at Saginaw Valley State (11/5) and was named the GLIAC Player of the Week for the second time this season..Toted the ball 15 times for 110 yards and one TD vs. Findlay (10/29)...Rushed for 205 yards and three TDs on 26 carries at Hillsdale (10/22)...Toted the ball 13 times for 104 yards and two TDs vs. Truman State (10/15)...Rushed for 127 yards and one TD on 28 carries, while tossing a 32-yard TD pass to Urston Smith vs. Ferris State (10/8)...Toted the ball 16 times for 82 yards and two TDs at Ohio Dominican (10/1)...Rushed for 98 yards on 15 carries in three quarters of action at Walsh (9/24)...Carter rushed for 144 yards and two TDs on nine carries vs. Lake Erie (9/10) in the first half and was named the GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week. His 79 yard TD run was the longest for a TD since Brent Lesniak went 80 yards for a TD in 2001 vs. Ashland. Mike Ratay had an 87 yard run at Northwood in 2013, but did not score...Carter touched the ball 10 times in the game for 146 all-purpose yards, averaging 16.0 yards per rush and 14.6 yards per touch. He went 79 yards for a TD on the first play of the game and then added a 30-yard touchdown run and a 2-yard TD reception in the first quarter.

Carter tallied a record-setting performance with 298 yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries in a 50-24 victory over Northern Michigan (9/17) in which he was named the

D2Football.com National Offensive Player of the Week and the GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week for the second consecutive week....Carter's rushing total was a GVSU single-game record and tied for the 10th-best, single-game total in GLIAC history...Former Laker Chris Robinson previously held the GV record with 261 yards on 33 carries at Findlay in 2014.

## **JUSTIN DVORAK**

Quarterback

Colorado School of Mines

6-0, 200, Redshirt Senior

Tomball, Texas

### **2016 Highlights:**

Led Colorado School of Mines to the RMAC co-championship and the NCAA Second Round for only the second time in program history and first time since 2004 ... RMAC Offensive Player of the Year ... First-Team All-RMAC ... RMAC Preseason Co-Offensive Player of the Year ... Preseason All-RMAC ... Hero Sports Preseason First-Team All-American ... FootballGameplan.com Preseason First-Team All-American ... Sporting News Preseason First-Team All-America ... Lindy's Preseason Second-Team All-America ... RMAC Offensive Player of the Week (9/5, 10/17) ... NFFCC Player of the Week (9/5) ... Set Mines and RMAC career records for passing yards, touchdowns, QBR, and total offense ... Finished second all-time in NCAA Division II with 134 career passing touchdowns.

### **Key 2016 Stats**

4,584 passing yards (leads NCAA D-II)

352.6 passing yards per game (leads NCAA D-II)

53 passing touchdowns (RMAC record, 3rd-most ever in a D-II season, leads NCAA D-II)

61 total touchdowns (leads NCAA D-II)

366 points responsible for (leads NCAA D-II)

380.2 total offense yards per game (2nd NCAA D-II)

172.4 QBR (6th NCAA D-II)

67.0% completion rate (10th NCAA D-II)

26.38 completions/game (3rd NCAA D-II)

Has thrown 4+ touchdowns in 10 of 11 games, 5+ 5 times

Has rushed 89 times for 358 yards and 8 touchdowns

Threw only 10 interceptions in 512 attempts

Sacked only 16 times in 512 attempts

Mines called more run plays than pass plays in 5 of the last 6 games to end the season.

Mines has nation's #1 total offense, #2 passing offense (led during regular season) and #3 scoring offense.

2 Mines receivers rank in national top-15 in receiving TDs: Brody Oliver (#1, 25) and Ty Young (#13, 13)

In 5 games vs. Top-25 opponents, threw for 1,801 yards and 19 touchdowns (avg. 360.2 yards/3.8 TD)

### **Career**

1,068-of-1,616 passing, 13,466 yards, 134 passing TD, 29 INT, 25 rushing TDs, 2 receiving TDs, 1,142 rushing yards RMAC recordholder in career passing touchdowns (134), passing yards (13,466) and total offense (14,608).

Mines career recordholder in virtually every passing category including yards (13,466), passing TDs (134), total TDs (161), completion percentage (66.1%), and completions (1,068).

2015: Harlon Hill Trophy nominee ... Don Hansen's Football Gazette Honorable Mention All-America ... Don Hansen's Football Gazette Second-Team All-Region ... First-Team All-NFFCC ... First-Team All-RMAC ... Mines SAAC Athlete of the Month in December ... RMAC Offensive Player of the Week (9/7, 9/14) ... NFFCC Player of the Week (9/7) ... D2football.com National Player of the Week (9/7) ... NFFCC Academic All-Colorado Honorable Mention ... RMAC Pre-

season Offensive Player of the Year ... Led NCAA D-II in passing yards per game (369.3) ... Mines had nation's #1 passing offense and #2 total offense ... His 270 points responsible for (45 TDs) led the nation ... Threw for 38 TDs, ran for 7 ... #2 in NCAA D-II in TD passes, rating, total passing yards, and total offense ... Set the Mines record and tied the RMAC record with 8 TDs against South Dakota Mines ... Threw for a career-high 555 yards in that game.

2014: Harlon Hill trophy nominee ... NCAA Division II passing yardage leader (4,287 yards, 389.3 yards of total offense per game) ... Second in D-II in touchdowns (36), passing yards per game (357.3), and completions per game (30.83) ... Daktronics All-Super Region Four ... Don Hansen's All-Super Region Four Third Team ... Second-Team All-NFFCC ... First-Team All-RMAC ... USA College Football Division II National Player of the Week (Sept. 29)... Beyond Sports Network Division II National Player of the Week (Sept. 29)... Named the RMAC Offensive Player of the Week on two occasions (Sept. 29, Oct. 6)... Named the NFFCC Player of the Week (Oct. 7) ... Started all 12 games at quarterback ... Completed 370 passes (64.9%) for 4,287 yards, 36 touchdowns, and 10 interceptions ... Averaged 7.5 yards per attempt ... Threw four or more touchdowns in six games, including five against New Mexico Highlands ... Threw for a career-best 500 yards on 35-of-45 passing against Black Hills State ... Ended up with five 400+ yard passing games, including 409 on 42 completions in the NCAA Tournament against Ohio Dominican and 476 on a career-high 43 completions at Highlands.

2013: Named the RMAC Offensive Player of the Week (Oct. 28)... Named the Mines Student-Athlete of the Week (Oct. 28)... Appeared in nine games with three starts... All three starts came at quarterback... Finished 84-for-130 (64.6 completion percentage) for 902 yards and seven touchdowns through the air... Posted a 136.1 passer efficiency rating... Threw three interceptions... Also caught 16 passes for 103 yards (6.4 yards per reception) at wideout... Finished 30-of-49 for 356 yards and a touchdown through the air while adding 62 yards on 15 carries and two more touchdowns for 418 yards of total offense in win over Colorado Mesa... Caught five or more passes in each of the first three games... Caught five passes for 56 yards and two touchdowns in win over Black Hills State... Carried 46 times for 164 yards (3.6 yards per carry) and two touchdowns.

### **Team:**

2016: 10-3, RMAC co-champions, made NCAA Second Round (first time since 2004)

2015: 8-3

2014: 10-2, RMAC co-champions, selected to NCAA Championship

2013: 8-3

### **Academic:**

2015 NFFCC Academic All-Colorado Honorable Mention Petroleum Engineering major with a 3.2 GPA

## AUSTIN EKELER

Running Back

Western State Colorado University

5-9, 195, Senior

Eaton, Colo.

### 2016 Highlights:

Austin Ekeler was the driving force for Western State Colorado University football in 2016. Along with setting nearly every career rushing record in Western history, the senior running back led all NCAA divisions in rushing yards through the first eight weeks of the season and was the NCAA's active career rushing leader through the first nine weeks (currently sits second). Despite only playing in one of the final eight quarters of the season, Ekeler was the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference's leader in rushing yards and rushing yards per game. He is currently second in Division II with 149.5 average rushing yards per game.

In 2016, Ekeler ran for 316 yards, including a career long 88-yard run, and scored five touchdowns to help Western defeat then ranked No. 23 Colorado School of Mines 45-31. In the 10 games Ekeler appeared, he accounted for nearly 40 percent of Western's points (108-of-278). He also helped the Mountaineers to the most program wins in 18 years (7), recorded over 100 all-purpose yards in eight games, and over 200 in four games. Most of his yardage came after being hit at or behind the line of scrimmage, and recorded 92 of his 174 all-purpose yards after first contact against Black Hills State University.

\* First Team Academic All-Americans to also be a finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy. Kyle Zimmerman, Adam Shaheen and Tyke Kozeal are First Team AAAs and Harlon Hill candidates).

### 2016 Key Stats:

Rushing Yards: 1,495 (1-RMAC; 5-DII)...

Rushing Yards Per Game: 149.5 (1-RMAC; 2-DII)...

Yards Per Carry: 6.44 (2-RMAC; 17-DII)...

Rushing Touchdowns Scored: 15 (2-RMAC; T-19 DII)...

Touchdowns Scored: 18 (3-RMAC; T-19 DII)...

Points Scored: 108 (4-RMAC; T-18 DII)...

Avg. Points Per Game: 10.8 (3-RMAC; T-10 DII)...

Receiving Yards: 236...

Receiving Yards Per Game: 23.60...

Receiving Yards Per Catch: 13.11...

All-Purpose Yards: 1,751 (2-RMAC; 17-DII)...

All-Purpose Yards Per Game: 175.10 (1-RMAC; 7-DII)...

### Career:

2016 All-RMAC First Team Selection...

2015 Don Hansen Football Gazette All-America Second Team...

2015 Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region IV First Team...

2015 NFFCC First Team...

2015 Associated Press Little All-America Third Team...

2015 D2CCA All-America Second Team...

2015 D2CCA All-Super Region IV First Team...

2015 All-RMAC First Team Selection...

Six-time RMAC Offensive Player of the Week (Twice in 2016)...

Two-time D2Football.com Offensive Player of the Week

(10/28/2015; 9/29/16)...

Six-time Western Student-Athlete of the Week...

HERO Sports D2 Stud of the Week (10/30/15)...

2014 Daktronics All-Region Second Team...

2014 BSN All-America Fourth Team...

2014 All-RMAC First Team Selection...

2014 Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region Third Team...

2013 Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region First Team...

2013 Don Hansen Football Gazette All-Region Freshman of the Year...

2013 All-RMAC First Team Selection...

CONFERENCE RECORDS...

Game Rushing Yards: 344 at Western New Mexico 10/24/15 (3rd)...

Season Rushing Yards: 1,637 - 2015 (8th)...

Career Rushing Yards: 5,857 (3rd)...

Season Rushing Touchdowns: 19 - 2015 (T-10th)...

SCHOOL CAREER RECORDS...

Career Rushing Yards: 5,857 (1st)...

Career Rushing Attempts: 932 (1st)...

Career Rushing Touchdowns: 55 (1st)...

Career Scoring: 378 (1st)...

SCHOOL GAME RECORDS...

Game Rushing Yards: 344 (1st)...

Game Rushing Attempts: 44 (2nd), 41 (4th), 37 (T-5th), 33 (T-10th)...

Longest Run: 88 (4th), 83 (7th), 82 (8th), 80 (T-10th)...

Longest Reception: 85 (T-6th)

Game Rushing Touchdowns: 5 (T-1st), 4 (T-3rd)...

SCHOOL SEASON RECORDS...

Season Rushing Yards: 1,676 (1st), 1,637 (2nd), 1,495 (4th)...

Season Rushing Yards Per Game: 163.7 (1st), 152.4 (3rd), 149.5 (4th), 116.6 (7th)...

Season Rushing Yards Per Attempt: 7.2 (8th)

Season Rushing Attempts: 298 (2nd), 232 (6th), 227 (7th)...

Season Rushing TDs: 19 (1st), 15 (T-3rd), 14 (6th)...

Season Scoring: 126 (1st), 108 (T-2nd), 96 (4th)

Season All-Purpose Yards: 2,093 (1st), 2,039 (2nd), 1,751 (3rd)...

Season All-Purpose Yards Per Game: 203.9 (1st), 190.3 (2nd), 175.1 (3rd), 134.3 (T-7th)...

### Academic:

2016 CoSIDA Academic All-America First Team...

2016 CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team...

2016 RMAC Football Offensive Academic Player of the Year...

2016 RMAC All-Academic First Team...

2015 NFFCC Academic All-Colorado First Team...

2015 CoSIDA Academic All-America Second Team...

2015 CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team...

2015 RMAC All-Academic First Team...

2014 CoSIDA Academic All-America First Team...

2014 CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team...

2014 RMAC Football Academic Player of the Year...

2014 RMAC All-Academic First Team...

2014 NFFCC All-Colorado First Team...

## **TREY HEID**

Quarterback  
Augustana University (SD)  
6-2, 199, Senior  
Lakeville, Minn.

### **2016 Highlights:**

Named NSIC Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight season ... became sixth player in NSIC history to earn Offensive Player of the Year honors twice in a career ... led the NSIC and set an Augustana single season record with 3,582 passing yards ... led the NSIC and ranked second in the country with 41 passing touchdowns which is also a single season Augustana record ... accounted for 51 total touchdowns ... led the team in rushing with 721 yards and 10 rushing touchdowns ... led the country averaging 391.2 yards of total offense per game ... passed for 250-plus yards in all 11 games while throwing two or more touchdown passes in all 11 games ... threw for over 300 yards in 6 of 11 games and tossed four or more touchdown passes in 7 of 11 games.

### **2016 Key Stats:**

Named NSIC Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight season ... became sixth player in NSIC history to earn Offensive Player of the Year honors twice in a career ... led the NSIC and set an Augustana single season record with 3,582 passing yards ... led the NSIC and ranked second in the country with 41 passing touchdowns which is also a single season Augustana record ... accounted for 51 total touchdowns ... led the team in rushing with 721 yards and 10 rushing touchdowns ... led the country averaging 391.2 yards of total offense per game ... passed for 250-plus yards in all 11 games while throwing two or more touchdown passes in all 11 games ... threw for over 300 yards in 6 of 11 games and tossed four or more touchdown passes in 7 of 11 games ... threw four touchdown passes in three consecutive games from Sept. 10 to Sept. 24 ... completed 30 of 48 passes for 466 yards and a career-high tying six touchdowns at Upper Iowa on Oct. 22 ... accounted for eight total touchdowns at Concordia-St. Paul on Nov. 5, rushing for 34 yards and three scores while throwing for 393 yards and five touchdowns ... closed-out the season completing 16 of 31 passes for 264 yards and four touchdowns while rushing for another touchdown at SMSU on Nov. 12.

### **Career:**

Two-time NSIC Offensive Player of the Year ... named All-NSIC First Team in 2015 and 2016 ... earned All-NSIC Second Team honors as a sophomore in 2014 ... 2015 Harlon Hill Candidate ... named to D2football.com All-America Honorable Mention team in 2015 ... named to Don Hansen Football Gazette All-America Honorable Mention team in 2015 ... finished his career first all-time in NSIC history in total offense (13,019 yards), second in passing touchdowns (104) and third in passing yards (11,300) in 43 career conference games ... ended his career as Augustana's all-time leader in total offense (13,235 yards), passing yards (11,476) and passing touchdowns (105) ... at the conclusion of the regular season he ranked second amongst all active NCAA players (Division I, II or III) in career total offense and touchdown passes while ranking fifth in passing yards.

### **Team:**

Augustana finished 8-3 in the NSIC in 2016, including 5-2 in South Division play. Augustana set single season records for total offense (5,617 yards), passing yards (3,786) and touchdowns (65) in 2016. Augustana has set single season records in total offense, passing yards and touchdowns in three straight seasons with Heid at quarterback.

## **JACOB TUCKER**

Quarterback  
University of North Alabama  
6-0, 195, Senior  
Linden, Tenn.

### **2016 Highlights:**

2016 Gulf South Conference Offensive Player of the Year. First-team All-GSC quarterback. Led the Lions to a 9-1 record with a Gulf South Conference Championship and top seed in Super Region 2. UNA has advanced to the quarterfinals of the Division II Playoffs. A dual threat quarterback who ranks second in the GSC in total offense, he is undefeated as a starter against Division II competition, with the only loss coming to the No. 2 ranked FCS team, Jacksonville State. In his first season as a starter at UNA, Tucker has rushed for 719 yards and 14 touchdowns and thrown for 2,257 yards and 18 TDs, despite not playing in the fourth quarter of six games due to large leads by the Lions. He ranks as the fourth leading rusher in the GSC (71.9), third in scoring (8.4) and second in total offense (297.6). Two-time Gulf South Conference Offensive Player of the Week during the 2016 season.

### **2016 Key Stats:**

He ranks as the fourth leading rusher in the GSC (71.9) with 719 yards and 14 touchdowns on 150 carries. Ranks third in the GSC in scoring (8.4) with 14 touchdowns and 84 points...Ranks second in the GSC in total offense (297.6) with 2,257 yards passing, 719 rushing for 2,976 total yards...Completed 152 of 239 passes for 2,257 yards and 18 touchdowns...Did not play in the majority of the second half of six games as UNA held large leads - UNA defeated its seven GSC opponents by an average score of 42-11....

### **Career:**

Four-year letterman who has been a part of four consecutive Gulf South Conference Championship teams and four straight NCAA Division II Playoff teams. Completed 207 of 337 career passes for 3,051 yards and 25 touchdowns. Rushed for 1,698 yards and 31 TDs. Three career 100-yard rushing games.

### **Team:**

Team has won four consecutive Gulf South Conference Championship teams and four straight NCAA Division II Playoff teams. Combined 37-9 record during his four years and have been ranked in the last 42 consecutive national polls.

### **Academic:**

Academic All-GSC in 2015

## **RALEIGH YELDELL**

Quarterback  
Newberry College  
6-0, 175, Senior  
Edgefield, S.C.

### **2016 Highlights:**

Named South Atlantic Conference Offensive Player of the Year...First-team all-SAC quarterback...Four-time SAC Player of the Week...One Eastern College Athletic Conference Player of the Week award...Became Newberry single-season leader in total offense, passing yards, completions, and attempts...Eighth in SAC history in single-season total offense...Leads Division II in completion percentage (.703)...Ranks in the top 21 nationally in eight other categories...Led SAC in pass yards, pass yards per game, completions, attempts, completion percentage, touchdowns, total offense, total offense per game, rushing yards by a QB, rushing yards per game by a QB, and rushing yards per carry by a QB...Spread ball around to several receivers, with three ranked inside the top six in the SAC in receiving yardage (two named first team all-SAC, one second team)...Newberry outgained every regular-season opponent in both total offense and passing yards this season.

### **2016 Key Stats:**

260-for-370 (70.3 pct) for 3,087 yards and 27 TD this season...Averaged 308.7 yards per game to rank sixth nationally...Ranks eighth with 341.8 yards of total offense per game...Threw 11 interceptions, a ratio of 2.45 touchdowns per pick...Fifth nationally with 26.0 completions per game...Has thrown for 250+ yards in all but two games...Threw at least one touchdown in every game and four touchdowns in a game three times, including finding four different receivers for scores vs. Carson-Newman, the first time in school history a QB threw for at least four touchdowns without a receiver having multiple scores...447 yards in a loss vs. Florida Tech were the third-most in school history, and 428 vs. Lenoir-Rhyne were fifth-most...Has five of the top 25 passing games in school history this season...Rushed 93 times for 331 yards, leading SAC quarterbacks in both categories, and six scores...Ran for 141 yards and three touchdowns, including game-winner with 1:04 to play that was named D2 Play of the Week by HERO Sports, in 29-28 win at North Greenville...Newberry led by 14+ points for 44.4 percent of its game with Yeldell at QB compared to trailing by 14+ points for 0.7 percent.

### **Career:**

Eighth in SAC history with school-record 3,418 yards of total offense in 2016...Among all active Division II players, ranks third in career completion percentage (.664) and is 10th in total offense (7,032) among players with at least 4,000 yards passing and 1,000 yards rushing...Newberry single-season leader in passing yards, completions, and attempts, and ranks second in passing touchdowns...Is third in career passing touchdowns (47) and completions (481), fourth in yardage (5,499), and fifth in attempts (724)...Only QB in school history with 3,000 passing yards in a season...Only player in school history to pass for 5,000 yards and rush for 1,500 in a career...Ranks second in school history in 250+ yard passing games...Third in school history in total

offense.

### **Team:**

No. 2 seed in Super Region 2...10-2 overall, 7-0 SAC...16th team in SAC history to win conference title with perfect league record...Second outright conference title and third overall in school history...School-record 10-game win streak and 10-game SAC win streak...School records with 436 total points scored and 36.3 points per game...Average margin of victory is 19.7 points with six wins by at least 20 points...Wolves led the SAC and rank in the top 31 nationally in the following categories: first downs (303 - 8th), third down conversion percent (.479 - 18th), passing offense (294.7 - 22nd), passing efficiency (153.91 - 22nd), total offense (455.2 - 31st), and scoring offense (36.3 - 31st)...Team set school record with 729 yards of total offense vs. Lenoir-Rhyne, including 428 pass yards and 23 rush yards from Yeldell.

## **JEFF ZIEMBA**

Quarterback  
Shepherd University  
6-3, 212, Senior  
Newark, Delaware

### **2016 Highlights:**

- \* Named a first team All-MEC choice
- \* Passed for 300 yards or more seven times
- \* Completed over 55 percent of his passes in every game
- \* Completed 70 percent or more of his passes on five occasions
- \* Named MEC Offensive Player of the Week for Oct. 8
- \* Ziemba became the Shepherd all-time leader in:  
Passing Yards 10,110  
Pass Attempts 1,118  
Pass Completions 727  
Passing Touchdowns (83)  
Total Offense 9,663

### **2016 Key Stats:**

Ziemba has completed 226-of-331 passes for 3,315 yards and 28 touchdowns. He has thrown only five interceptions on the season. Ziemba has completed 68.28 percent of his passes. He ranks second nationally in pass efficiency rating (177.3), fourth in passing yards per pass attempt (10.02), ninth in passing yards per game (301.4), and 10th in passing yards (3,315). Ziemba helps Shepherd rank first in team passing efficiency (185.09), third in completion percentage (.692), and sixth in passing offense (339.0).

### **Career:**

- \* Has a 37-4 record as a starter
- \* 2016 First Team All-MEC choice
- \* 2015 Harlon Hill Award Finalist
- \* 2015 First Team All-MEC choice
- \* 2015 MEC Offensive Player of the Year
- \* 2015 Don Hansen's Football Gazette NCAA II Super Region
- \* One Co-Offensive Player of the Year
- \* 2014 Second Team All-MEC choice
- \* Two-time MEC Offensive Player of the Week

### **Team:**

- \* 2016 MEC Champions
- \* 2015 National Runner-up
- \* 2015 Super Region One Champions
- \* 2015 MEC Champions
- \* 2013 MEC Champions

## **KYLE ZIMMERMAN**

Quarterback  
Northwest Missouri State  
6-1, 200, Senior  
Overland Park, Kan.

### **2016 Highlights:**

2016 MIAA Offensive Player of the Year ... 2016 First Team All-MIAA ... set school single game records with six passing touchdowns and seven total touchdowns against Pittsburg State (10/29/16) ... ranks No. 5 in NCAA with a 174.1 pass efficiency rating ... ranks No. 5 in NCAA with a 68.7 completion percentage ... has only thrown two interceptions on the season, the second lowest mark in NCAA DII ... attempted 306 passes between interceptions, spanning from 2014 until week 10 of 2016 ... ranks fifth nationally leads the MIAA with 35 passing touchdowns ... scored 252 total points, the fifth highest total in the nation ... surpassed 300+ yards passing three times in 2016 and had completion percentages above 60 percent in 11-of-12 games ... accounted for multiple touchdowns in 11-of-12 games ... team ranks No. 2 nationally in scoring offense at 48.6 ppg and is No. 2 in red zone offense at 95.36 percent.

### **2016 Key Stats:**

PASS: 250-of-364 for 3,242 yards and 35 touchdowns. Completion percentage of 68.7 percent. QB efficiency rating of 174.1. Thrown just two interceptions.  
RUSH: 69 carries for 276 yards and seven touchdowns.

### **Career:**

2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 MIAA Champions ... 2013 and 2015 NCAA Division II National Champions ... 2016 First Team All-MIAA ... 2016 MIAA Offensive Player of the Year ... MIAA Offensive Player of the Week (Oct. 31).

### **Team:**

2016 MIAA Champions, going 11-0 for the third time in four years ... Northwest single game record with six passing touchdowns and seven total touchdowns against Pittsburg State on Oct. 29, 2016.

### **Academic:**

2016 CoSIDA Academic First Team All-District. 2016, 2015 and 2014 MIAA Academic Honor Roll. 2016 MIAA Scholar Athlete