All-MIAA Football Team announced

Gorillas get five on first team, including MVP winners Philpot, McConnell

(OVERLAND PARK, Kan.) -- The Pittsburg State Gorillas, one of five teams sharing the 2003 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association championship, led the way with five first-team selections to the All-MIAA Football Team, as voted by the league’s coaches.

The other four conference champs -- Central Missouri State (9-2, 7-2 MIAA), Emporia State (9-2, 7-2 MIAA), Missouri Western (8-3, 7-2 MIAA) and Northwest Missouri State (8-3, 7-2 MIAA) each placed four players on the first team.

PSU (9-2, 7-2 MIAA) also had a near-sweep of the major postseason player awards. Junior QB Neal Philpot was a unanimous choice at quarterback, and also picked up the Most Valuable Offensive Player award.

Through the end of the regular season, he led the MIAA in pass efficiency (153.8 rating) and total offense (230.7 ypg). He reached four digits in rushing yards (1,068) and passing yards (1,470) for the second time in his career -- it's just the seventh such occurrence in NCAA Division II history.

Senior DL Aaron McConnell earned first-team honors

First Team Offense
†Kegan Coleman, CMSU RB 5-8 190 Jr. Lee’s Summit, Mo.
Tyler Paul, ESU RB 5-10 189 Sr. Chapman, Kan.
•††Jamaica Rector, NWMSU WR/KR 5-10 175 Jr. Celeste, Texas
Marc Green, SBU WR 6-2 205 Sr. Rockwall, Texas
Cole Drussa, UMR TE 6-2 221 Jr. Springfield, Mo.
*Tyrone Armstrong, PSU OL 6-4 322 Sr. Chetopa, Kan.
*Brett Mingee, MWSC OL 6-2 288 Sr. Smithville, Mo.
Andy Bandstra, ESU OL 6-1 250 Sr. Belton, Mo.
Kenneth Eboh, NWMSU OL 6-3 290 Sr. Des Moines, Iowa
Darryl Grace, CMSU OL 6-2 277 Jr. Captain Hook, Hawaii
Justin Gray, ESU K 5-8 182 Jr. Liberal, Kan.

First Team Defense
*Roderick Green, CMSU DL 6-2 234 Sr. Bremham, Texas
††Aaron McConnell, PSU DL 6-3 294 Sr. Midwest City, Okla.
Eric McDowell, MWSC LB 6-1 228 Sr. Savannah, Mo.
Mark Stephen, PSU LB 6-3 265 Sr. Wichita, Kan.
Wilson Curtis, MWSC LB 6-0 217 Sr. Kansas City, Mo.
John Edmonds, NWMSU LB 6-0 235 Sr. Maryville, Mo.
Jason Vanloo, CMSU LB 6-3 249 Jr. Jefferson City, Mo.
Tameem Yehyawi, TSU LB 6-1 229 Sr. Keokuk, Iowa
Brad Johnson, ESU DB 6-1 193 Sr. Minneapolis, Kan.
Pierre Thomas, MWSC DB 5-11 181 Sr. Lee’s Summit, Mo.
Darryl Ridley, NWMSU DB 5-9 180 Sr. Omaha, Neb.
Terek Wilson, PSU DB 6-0 192 Sr. Liberal, Kan.
Mark Kamphoefner, TSU P 6-0 200 So. Defiance, Mo.

Four linebackers were selected due to a tie in voting.

* = Unanimous selection
• = Unanimous selection as a wide receiver
† = Repeat first-team choice from 2002
†† = Repeat first-team choice from 2001 & 2002
††† = Repeat first-team choice from 2000, 2001 & 2002

for the fourth time in his career -- third time as a unanimous choice -- and also picked up the Most Valuable Defensive Player award. At the end of the regular season, he led conference in tackles for loss (1.82 per game) and was tied for the MIAA lead with four forced fumbles.

Senior OL Tyrone Armstrong joined Philpot and McConnell as unanimous PSU first-teamers. Other unanimous choices were Northwest junior WR Jamaica Rector, Western senior OL Brett Mingee and Central senior DL Roderick Green.

The top two scorers in the MIAA through the end of the regular season, RB Germaine Race (9.8 ppg) of PSU and RB Trent Hearn (9.6 ppg) of Washburn (5-6, 3-6 MIAA), shared the Freshman of the Year award. Hearn was third in the MIAA in rushing (111.6 ypg) while Race was seventh (83.0 ypg) -- and both earned second-team All-MIAA.

Emporia State head coach Dave Wiemers, who has led the Hornets to their first MIAA title and first berth in the NCAA Division II Playoffs, was selected by his peers as Wilson®/MIAA Coach of the Year.
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Second Team Offense

Tad Hatfield, ESU QB 6-3 201 Jr. Riverton, Kan.
Trent Hearn, WU RB 6-1 195 Fr. Lancaster, Texas
Marco Kirven, SBU RB 5-8 190 So. Fort Worth, Texas
Germaine Race, PSU RB 5-11 203 Fr. Warrensburg, Mo.
Clint Moss, UMR WR 5-8 165 Sr. Bourbon, Mo.
André Rector, NWMSU WR 5-11 182 So. Celeste, Texas
Louis Lamb, ESU TE 6-5 284 Sr. Miami, Fla.
Jay Fleeman, CMSU OL 6-5 310 Jr. Pleasant Hill, Mo.
Eric Martin, ESU OL 6-1 328 Sr. Hutchinson, Kan.
Aubrin Rhem, SBU OL 6-2 300 Jr. Patterson, Ga.
Eric Stewart, TSU OL 6-3 256 Sr. Moline, Ill.
Brandon Starks, CMSU K 5-10 179 Jr. Kansas City, Mo.

Three running backs, three wide receivers and six offensive linemen were selected due to ties in voting.

Second Team Defense

Eric Acree, SBU DL 6-3 260 Sr. Seminole, Okla.
Falcon Greel, ESU DL 6-5 303 Sr. Hamburg, Germany
Mike Nanninga, NWMSU DL 6-1 240 Sr. Maryville, Mo.
Josh Lattimer, PSU LB 6-0 224 So. Fort Scott, Kan.
Josh Williams, ESU LB 6-1 205 Jr. Concordia, Kan.
Ryan Burpo, MSSU LB 5-11 185 Sr. Oronogo, Mo.
Colin Johnson, CMSU LB 5-9 173 Sr. Oklahoma City, Okla.
Jason Brown, CMSU P 6-0 225 Jr. Bois D’Arc, Mo.

Honorable Mention Offense

Josh Lamberson, NWMSU RB 6-1 190 Sr. Wilber, Neb.
Derrick Pitts, MWSC RB 5-11 209 Sr. St. Louis, Mo.
Josh Sanders, ESU RB 6-1 226 Sr. Dolton, Ill.
Jerard Leverson, TSU RB 5-9 184 Sr. Dolton, Ill.
Keenan Miller, UMR RB 6-0 215 Sr. St. Louis, Mo.
Lee Thompson, CMSU RB 5-8 202 Jr. Liberty, Mo.
Jermaine Carpenter, PSU WR 5-7 151 Jr. Waco, Texas
Brett Fischer, UMR WR 6-0 175 Jr. Ellisville, Mo.
Jamison Heiskell, CMSU WR 5-9 165 Jr. Dallas, Texas
Andy Majors, PSU WR 6-2 189 So. Overland Park, Kan.
Adam Otte, NWMSU WR 5-9 180 Sr. Maryville, Mo.
James Perry, TSU WR 5-9 173 Fr. St. Louis, Mo.
Uros Stusic, UMR WR 5-11 200 Sr. Lincoln Park, N.J.
Ted Maxwell, CMSU TE 6-4 251 So. Kansas City, Mo.
Bill Noll, MWSC TE 6-3 212 So. Oskaloosa, Kan.
L.V. Hill, SBU TE 6-5 275 Jr. Ware County, Ga.

Tommy Brown, SBU OL 6-1 300 Sr. Savannah, Ga.
Raymond Fonoti, NWMSU OL 6-3 315 Sr. Honolulu, Hawaii
Greg Klipsch, TSU OL 6-1 296 Sr. St. Louis, Mo.
Jason Stumbo, MSSU OL 6-2 280 So. Broken Arrow, Okla.
Chad Weeks, PSU OL 6-3 323 Sr. Claremore, Okla.
Tyrone Barnett, WU OL 6-1 290 Jr. Belle Glade, Fla.
Jake Johnson, SBU OL 6-2 300 Sr. Douglasville, Ga.
Joe Tomashek, UMR OL 5-11 270 Jr. Burbank, Ill.
Chase Ward, CMSU OL 6-2 305 Jr. Corsicana, Texas
Steve Mattson, SBU DL 5-10 180 Sr. Kansas City, Mo.
Mike Odupitan, WU DL 6-1 200 So. Lake Worth, Fla.
Pierre Thomas, MWSC DL 5-11 181 Jr. Lee’s Summit, Mo.
DeMarcus Mathes, MSSU DL 5-10 180 Jr. Dallas, Texas
Morris White, NWMSU DL 5-8 170 Jr. St. Louis, Mo.

Honorable Mention Defense

Seth Austin, MSSU DL 6-4 240 Sr. Camdenton, Mo.
Michael Cobbins, MWSC DL 6-1 240 Fr. Kansas City, Mo.
Travis Froogle, MWSC DL 6-2 245 Fr. Platte City, Mo.
Ted Guisinger, TSU DL 6-1 260 Jr. Clive, Iowa
Eric Taylor, WU DL 6-0 240 Sr. Richardson, Texas
Justin Kohlmeier, ESU DL 6-2 240 Sr. Cottonwood Falls, Kan.
Ryan Meredith, PSU DL 6-2 233 Fr. Batesville, Okla.
Jason Dawson, MWSC LB 5-9 194 Jr. Gladstone, Mo.
Grant Gould, WU LB 6-4 205 So. Topeka, Kan.
Chad Miller, PSU LB 6-3 226 Jr. Dewey, Okla.
Andy Creger, NWMSU LB 6-3 230 Sr. Des Moines, Iowa
Cal Gast, ESU LB 5-11 200 Jr. Kansas City, Mo.
Avian Jordan, UMR LB 6-3 205 Jr. Florissant, Mo.
Jimmie Taylor, PSU LB 6-1 207 Jr. Miami, Fla.
Reggie Williams, SBU LB 5-10 240 Sr. Dallas, Texas
Derek Kent, TSU DB 5-9 192 Sr. Lucas, Iowa
Josh Oldfather, ESU DB 5-9 181 Sr. Dodge City, Kan.
Desmond Polk, MWSC DB 5-7 160 Sr. Lee’s Summit, Mo.
Fletcher Terrell, WU DB 5-11 176 Jr. Minneapolis, Minn.
Donald Williams, SBU DB 6-1 210 Jr. Thomas, Ga.
Marcus Yokeley, TSU DB 6-0 190 So. Marshall, Mo.
Robert Spinks, MSSU DB 6-0 185 Jr. Hacienda Heights, Calif.

Most Valuable Offensive Player:
Neal Philpot, QB, PSU
Most Valuable Defensive Player:
Aaron McConnell, DL, PSU
Co-Freshmen of the Year:
Trent Hearn, RB, WU & Germaine Race, RB, PSU
Wilson®/Coach of the Year:
Dave Wiemers, ESU