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Gateway Football Announces 1997 All-Conference Squad

ST. LOUIS — Two new Gateway players and a Gateway coach finishing his eighth Gateway season highlight the list of 1997 All-Gateway Football Conference honorees, announced by the league office today. RB Aaron Stecker of Western Illinois has been selected as the league's Offensive Player of the Year; DT Harry Deligianis of Youngstown has been named the Gateway Defensive Player of the Year, and Western Illinois' Randy Ball has earned the 'Bruce Craddock' Gateway Coach of the Year award. Voting was conducted by league head coaches, sports information directors and a media panel.

Stecker, a junior from Green Bay, Wis., established 13 school records and seven Gateway records this past year while amassing the fourth-highest single-season rushing total in NCAA I-AA history with 1,957 rushing yards. He led the nation with a school and Gateway-record 150 points this season. Although a junior, Stecker was competing for the first time in the Gateway Conference after transferring from the University of Wisconsin. Stecker had the league's five longest runs from scrimmage and the league's five best single-game rushing highs, including a Gateway and school-record 289 rushing yards against Southern Illinois. His 1,957 rushing yards and 24 rushing touchdowns shattered the league single-season records in those categories.

Deligianis, a senior, also competed in his first Gateway season, as his school, Youngstown State, joined the league for the start of the 1997 season. Deligianis was the top defensive player for the league's top defensive unit, as Youngstown State ranked No. 15 in the nation while leading the league in total defense. Deligianis tied for the Gateway leadership with 11 sacks for minus-57 yards, and he had 40 quarterback pressures, along with his 31 total tackles. Fourteen of his tackles were for minus yardage.

Ball, now in his eighth season at Western Illinois, will enter next season as the 'Dean' of the Gateway coaches. He led Western Illinois to a 10-1 overall record, 6-0 conference record and his first Gateway Conference title. The Leathernecks are currently ranked No. 2 in *The Sports Network* and *ESPN/USA Today* top-25 polls, and have qualified for their second-straight NCAA I-AA tournament. The 10 wins match a school record for victories in a season.

1997 all-Gateway Football Conference Team

(selected by coaches, sports information directors and media panel)

		FIRST TEAM					
QB —	Jeff Hecklinski	Western Illinois	6-3	205	Sr.	Palatine (Ill.) High	
RB —	Jake Andreadis	Youngstown State	5-10	185	Jr.	Cincinnati (Ohio) Anderson High	
	Aaron Stecker	Western Illinois	5-10	195	Jr.	Green Bay (Wis.) Ashaubenow High	
TE —	Brad St. Louis	Southwest Mo. State	6-4	235	So.	Belton (Mo.) High	
WR —	Mike Furrey	Northern Iowa	5-10	177	So.	Hilliard (Ohio) High	
	Marquis Mosely	Illinois State	6-1	195	Sr.	Bloomington (Ill.) High	
OL —	Matt Hogg	Youngstown State	6-4	215	Sr.	Slippery Rock (Pa.) High	
	Todd Kollar	Youngstown State	6-3	300	Sr.	North Lima (Ohio) South Range High	
	Brad Kubik	Southwest Mo. State	6-4	288	Sr.	Springfield (Mo.) Kickapoo High	
	Chip McPheeters	Western Illinois	6-1	315	Sr.	Aurora (Ill.) Waubonsie Valley High	
	Andy Pattee	Northern Iowa	6-4	271	Sr.	Humboldt (Iowa) High	
PK —	Travis Brawner	Southwest Mo. State	6-0	184	So.	Branson (Mo.) High	
DL —	Cyron Brown	Western Illinois	6-1	230	Sr.	Chicago (Ill.) Lane Tech	
	Harry Deligianis	Youngstown State	6-4	300	Sr.	Ashtabula (Ohio) High	
	Shannon Jackson	Indiana State	6-2	257	So.	Fort Wayne (Ind.) Harding High	
	Erik Nelson	Northern Iowa	6-3	280	Jr.	Iowa City (Iowa) High	
LB —	Corky Martin	Southwest Mo. State	5-10	205	Fr.	Claremore (Okla.) Sequoyah High	
	Tom Paolucci	Youngstown State	5-10	200	Sr.	Warren (Ohio) John F. Kennedy High	
	Matt Pedersen	Northern Iowa	6-3	220	So.	Hudson (Iowa) High	
DB —	Robert High	Indiana State	5-10	206	Sr.	Mattoon (Ill.) High	
	Frank Spraggins	Western Illinois	5-11	170	Sr.	East St. Louis (Ill.) Senior High	
	Tyree Talton	Northern Iowa	6-1	198	Jr.	Beloit (Wisc.) Turner High	
	Dwytie Smiley	Youngstown State	6-2	195	So.	Kent (Ohio) Kent Roosevelt High	
P —	John Amitrano	Southern Illinois	6-0	200	Jr.	Valley Stream (N.Y.) Nassau Community College	
RS —	Jamaine Blalock	Western Illinois	5-10	185	Sr.	Kenosha (Wis.) Bradford High	

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SECOND TEAM

QB —	Shane Fortney	Northern Iowa	6-3	225	Sr.	Mukilteo (Wash.) Mariner High
RB —	Maurice Daniels	Southwest Mo. State	5-11	205	Jr.	Kansas City (Mo.) Raytown South High
	Terry Hollimon	Northern Iowa	5-8	205	Sr.	Bothell (Wash.) Cascade High
TE —	Chad Ames	Indiana State	6-4	247	So.	Freedom (Pa.) High
WR —	Alonzo Clayton	Northern Iowa	6-2	185	Sr.	Fort Dodge (Iowa) High
	Cornell Craig	Southern Illinois	6-1	167	So.	Louisville (Ky.) Central High
OL —	Chris Clapp	Northern Iowa	6-4	270	Sr.	Cedar Falls (Iowa) High
	Jason Grott	Western Illinois	6-2	285	Sr.	Big Lake (Minn.) Monticello High
	Brad Meester	Northern Iowa	6-4	287	So.	Parkersburg (Iowa) Aplington-Parkersburg High
	Corey Olson	Western Illinois	6-2	275	Sr.	Brooklyn Park (Minn.) Park Center High
	Jason Whittle	Southwest Mo. State	6-6	292	Sr.	Camdenton (Mo.) High
PK —	Keith Jones	Western Illinois	6-3	195	Sr.	Collinsville (Ill.) High
DL —	Corey Brunsvold	Southwest Mo. State	6-3	220	Sr.	Topeka (Kan.) Shawnee Heights High
	Larry Fitzpatrick	Illinois State	6-4	275	Sr.	Detroit (Mich.) Willow Run High
	Travis Niekamp	Illinois State	6-5	265	Sr.	Steven's Point (Wis.) Area High
	Dave Watson	Western Illinois	6-5	245	Jr.	Bloomington (Minn.) Jefferson High
LB —	Tim Angsten	Illinois State	6-2	235	So.	Tinley Park (Ill.) Chicago St. Rita High
	James Milton	Western Illinois	6-1	230	Jr.	Miami (Fla.) Hialeah Lakes
	Percy Scott	Illinois State	6-3	205	Sr.	Robbins (Ill.) Oak Lawn-Richards High
DB —	DeJuan Alfonzo	Indiana State	5-11	188	So.	Indianapolis (Ind.) Lane Tech
	Kyle Bibbs	Indiana State	5-8	181	Sr.	Indianapolis (Ind.) Chatard High
	Kernard Killingsworth	Illinois State	6-2	195	So.	Chicago (Ill.) Leo High
	Freddie Taylor	Southern Illinois	5-8	177	Sr.	Inkster (Mich.) Detroit Central High
P —	Jake Strader	Illinois State	6-0	190	Fr.	Danville (Ill.) High
RS —	Marquis Mosely	Illinois State	6-1	195	Sr.	Bloomington (Ill.) High

Honorable Mention

QB Kevin Glenn (Illinois State); QB Jeremy Hoog (Southwest Missouri State); QB Demond Tidwell (Youngstown State); RB Adrian Brown (Youngstown State); RB Ed Josephs (Western Illinois); SE Eddie Berlin (Northern Iowa); WR Jamaine Blalock (Western Illinois); WR Jason Cannon (Southwest Missouri State); WR Jim Farrell (Western Illinois); WR Rick Garrett (Illinois State); WR Thedo Griffin (Western Illinois); WR Anthony Williams (Indiana State); OL Matt Beals (Northern Iowa); OL Jason Krivis (Southern Illinois); OL Walter Skeate (Southern Illinois); DE David Hunter (Indiana State); DL Mitch Minick (Southwest Missouri State); DL Tavita Tovia (Southern Illinois); LB Joe Dunn (Indiana State); LB Travis Schipper (Northern Iowa); LB Galen Scott (Illinois State); LB Mike Stanec (Youngstown State); P Jeff Baker (Western Illinois); P Travis Brawner (Southwest Missouri State); RS Ty Talton (Northern Iowa)

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: RB Aaron Stecker, Western Illinois

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: DT Harry Deligianis, Youngstown State

'BRUCE CRADDOCK' GATEWAY COACH OF THE YEAR: Randy Ball, Western Illinois

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