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Gateway Football Announces 1999 All-Conference Squad

Three Gateway finalists for top national honors highlight the 1999 Gateway Football all-conference team, announced today by the league office. WR Cornell Craig of Southern Illinois, LB Edgerton Hartwell of Western Illinois and coach Todd Berry of Illinois State earned the league's top offensive, defensive and coaching honors. Craig is a finalist for the Walter Payton Award; Hartwell is among the leading candidates for the Buck Buchanan Award; while Berry is among the finalists for the Eddie Robinson Award.

For the second-straight season, the top honors went to players from those three schools, as Craig is the second-straight Saluki to win the league's top offensive award. Craig, who holds virtually all of SIU's career receiving marks, led the nation in receiving this past year with 1,419 yards and 15 touchdowns. Both figures are Gateway single-season marks.

Hartwell, just a junior, is the first non-senior to win the top defensive award in the conference since 1993, when Northern Iowa LB Andre Allen won the first of back-to-back Defensive Player of the Year awards. He finished the year ranked among the league leaders in tackles (168), sacks (6) and tackles for loss (14). He is the second-straight WIU player to win the award, following LB James Milton.

Todd Berry is the 'Bruce Craddock' Gateway Coach of the Year for the second-straight year after leading the Redbirds to their first conference title, a perfect 6-0 record and a second-straight trip to the I-AA playoffs.

1999 all-Gateway Football Conference Team

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

FIRST TEAM

QB — Ryan Helming	Northern Iowa	6-2	216	Jr.	Springfield (Mo.) Kickapoo High	
RB — Adrian Brown	Youngstown State	6-0	235	Sr.	Canton (Ohio) McKinley High	
	Charles Tharp	Western Illinois	5-9	200	Jr.	East Palo Alto (Calif.) St. Francis High
TE — Brad St. Louis	Southwest Mo. State	6-4	242	Sr.	Belton (Mo.) High	
WR — Cornell Craig	Southern Illinois	6-1	167	Sr.	Louisville (Ky.) Central High	
	Mike Furrey	Northern Iowa	5-9	185	Sr.	Hilliard (Ohio) High
OL — Matt Beals	Northern Iowa	6-5	273	Sr.	Des Moines (Iowa) Saydel High	
	Casey Honkomp	Western Illinois	6-5	300	Sr.	Earlville (Iowa) Maquoketa Valley High
	Brad Meester	Northern Iowa	6-3	286	Sr.	Parkersburg (Iowa) Aplington-Parkersburg High
	Mike Rodbro	Illinois State	6-4	290	Jr.	Zion (Ill.) Zion Benton-Township High
	Ian Shirey	Youngstown State	6-2	280	Sr.	Slippery Rock (Pa.) High
PK — Travis Brawner	Southwest Mo. State	6-0	186	Sr.	Branson (Mo.) High	
DL — Damian Gregory	Illinois State	6-2	305	Sr.	Lansing (Mich.) Sexton High	
	Shannon Jackson	Indiana State	6-2	270	Sr.	Ft. Wayne (Ind.) Harding High
	Troy Lefevra	Indiana State	6-3	228	Sr.	Huntertown (Ind.) Carroll High
	Dave Watson	Western Illinois	6-4	245	Sr.	Bloomington (Minn.) Jefferson High
LB — Ian Dominelli	Youngstown State	6-0	215	Sr.	Santa Barbara (Calif.) Woodbridge High	
	Edgerton Hartwell	Western Illinois	6-2	235	Jr.	Las Vegas (Nev.) Cheyenne High
	Matt Pedersen	Northern Iowa	6-2	225	Sr.	Hudson (Iowa) High
DB — DeJuan Alfonzo	Indiana State	5-11	205	Sr.	Indianapolis (Ind.) Tech High	
	Dwyte Smiley	Youngstown State	6-2	210	Sr.	Kent (Ohio) Kent Roosevelt High
	Derrick Varnado	Western Illinois	5-11	195	Sr.	New Orleans (La.) Lawless High
	Sam Young	Illinois State	5-11	180	Jr.	Chicago (Ill.) Simeon High
P — Anthony Rozzo	Youngstown State	5-11	195	Sr.	McDonald (Ohio) High	
RS — Aveion Cason	Illinois State	5-10	200	Jr.	St. Petersburg (Fla.) Lakewood High	

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SECOND TEAM

QB —	Sherard Poteete	Southern Illinois	6-1	225	Jr.	Webbers Falls (Okla.) Northeastern Okla. A&M
RB —	Adam Bengé	Northern Iowa	5-11	195	So.	Ankeny (Iowa) High
	Jason Ringena	Southwest Mo. State	5-11	205	So.	Iowa City (Iowa) High
TE —	Scott Preusker	Illinois State	6-5	255	Sr.	Grayslake (Ill.) Wheeling High
WR —	Eddie Berlin	Northern Iowa	6-0	194	Jr.	Urbandale (Iowa) High
	Rickey Garrett	Illinois State	6-3	215	Sr.	Centralia (Ill.) High
OL —	Dan Hama	Illinois State	6-5	290	Jr.	Brunswick (Ohio) High
	Jim Lawhorn	Southern Illinois	6-1	272	Sr.	Carmel (Ind.) High
	Eric Martin	Indiana State	6-2	260	Jr.	Omaha (Neb.) Creighton Prep High
	Jason Stealy	Southwest Mo. State	6-3	290	Sr.	Marshall (Mich.) High
	Ted Wulf	Illinois State	6-2	285	So.	Bloomington (Ill.) Central Catholic
PK —	Jake Strader	Illinois State	5-11	185	Jr.	Danville (Ill.) High
DL —	Devon Finn	Illinois State	6-7	280	Sr.	Wheaton (Ill.) Wheaton-Warrenville South High
	Frank Kaydo	Youngstown State	6-3	285	Sr.	Ausfintown (Ohio) Fitch High
	Jack Mitchell	Northern Iowa	6-4	251	Sr.	Redondo Beach (Calif.) Redondo Union High
	Tavita Tovia	Southern Illinois	6-0	262	Jr.	Honolulu (Hawaii) Farrington High
LB —	Tim Johnson	Youngstown State	6-2	219	Jr.	Fairfield (Ala.) East Mississippi Junior College
	Corky Martin	Southwest Mo. State	5-10	218	Jr.	Claremore (Okla.) Sequoyah High
	Galen Scott	Illinois State	5-9	210	Jr.	Orlando (Fla.) Evans High
DB —	Ryan Doak	Northern Iowa	6-3	190	Jr.	Lincoln (Neb.) Southeast High
	Jeff Killeen	Southwest Mo. State	6-0	188	Sr.	Omaha (Neb.) Millard South High
	Jerome Peterson	Northern Iowa	5-8	180	Sr.	Baton Rouge (La.) Port Allen High
	Ryan Szokola	Illinois State	6-2	195	Jr.	Trenton (Mich.) High
P —	Jake Strader	Illinois State	5-11	185	Jr.	Danville (Ill.) High
RS —	DeJuan Alfonzo	Indiana State	5-11	205	Sr.	Indianapolis (Ind.) Tech High

Honorable Mention

*Illinois State: LB Scott Cook, RB Walter James, RB Willie Watts • Indiana State: LB Mike Bandy, DB Michael Brooks, RB Matt Nelson
Northern Iowa: DB David Gunn, DL Matt Peterson, LB Brandon Rutledge • Southern Illinois: PK Scott Everhart, OL Brandon Frick,
RB Tom Koutsos • Southwest Missouri State: DL Luis Almanzar, P Travis Brawner, OL Eric Owens, QB Jay Rodgers
Western Illinois: RS Ashlee Frazier, TE J.R. Niklos, OL Rich Seubert • Youngstown State: WR Elliott Giles, QB Jeff Ryan, LB Kawonza Swan*

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: WR Cornell Craig, Southern Illinois

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: LB Edgerton Hartwell, Western Illinois

'BRUCE CRADDOCK' GATEWAY COACH OF THE YEAR: Todd Berry, Illinois State

PREVIOUS GATEWAY SPECIALTY AWARD WINNERS

OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR	DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR	'BRUCE CRADDOCK' COACHES OF THE YEAR
1998 Karlton Carpenter, RB, So. Illinois	1998 James Milton, LB, Western Illinois	1998 Todd Berry, Illinois State
1997 Aaron Stecker, RB, Western Illinois	1997 Harry Deligianis, DT, Youngstown State	1997 Randy Ball, Western Illinois
1996 Dedric Ward, WR, Northern Iowa	1996 Mike Miano, DL, Southwest Mo. State	1996 Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1995 Dedric Ward, WR, Northern Iowa	1995 Tim Carver, LB, Eastern Illinois	1995 Bob Spoo, Eastern Illinois
1994 Rob St. Sauver, QB, Western Illinois	1994 Andre Allen, LB, Northern Iowa	1994 Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1993 Kurt Warner, QB, Northern Iowa	1993 Andre Allen, LB, Northern Iowa	1993 Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1992 Toby Davis, RB, Illinois State	1992 William Freeney, LB, Northern Iowa	1992 Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1991 Derrick Franklin, RB, Indiana State	1991 William Freeney, LB, Northern Iowa	1991 Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1990 DeAndre Smith, QB, Southwest Mo.	1990 Tim Lance, DB, Eastern Illinois	1990 Jesse Branch, Southwest Mo. State
1989 DeAndre Smith, QB, Southwest Mo.	1989 John Jurkovic, DT, Eastern Illinois	1989 Jesse Branch, Southwest Mo. State
1988 Paul Singer, QB, Western Illinois	1988 John Jurkovic, DT, Eastern Illinois	1988 Bruce Craddock, Western Illinois
1987 Carl Boyd, RB, Northern Iowa	1987 Matt Soraghan, LB, Southwest Mo. State	1987 Darrell Mudra, Northern Iowa
1986 Sean Payton, QB, Eastern Illinois	1986 Brian Gant, LB, Illinois State	1986 Bruce Craddock, Western Illinois
1985 Mike Smith, QB, Northern Iowa	1985 James Houston, LB, Illinois State	1986 Al Molde, Eastern Illinois
	Mark Farley, LB, Northern Iowa	1985 Darrell Mudra, Northern Iowa