

For Immediate Release • Contact: Mike Kern • December 1, 1999

Charles Tharp of Western Illinois Tabbed Gateway Newcomer of the Year; Illinois State's Dusty Burk is League's Top Freshman

ST. LOUIS — For the fourth straight year, a player from Western Illinois is Gateway Football Conference Newcomer of the Year. **Charles Tharp** of Western Illinois heads a list of 24 student-athletes named to the 1999 Gateway Football Conference All-Newcomer Team. In addition, Illinois State's QB **Dusty Burk**, who engineered the Redbirds for most of the season, earned league Freshman of the Year honor in the first year for that honor. Gateway coaches, sports information directors and a media panel selected the team.

Tharp, a junior, is a transfer from the University of Hawaii. He led the league in rushing and ranked in the top three in all-purpose yards and scoring. Burk took over the quarterback duties at ISU after starter Kevin Glenn was injured in the team's sixth game of the year. He's led the team to six victories, including ISU's first-ever playoff win (vs. *Colgate*) last week.

The top 11 vote-getters (plus ties) on offense and defense were named to the team, which appears below.

OFFENSE	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous Schools)
Dusty Burk	Illinois State	QB	6-1	195	Fr.	Tuscola (Ill.) High
Jeremy Dusho	Northern Iowa	FL	6-0	194	So.	Lorain (Ohio) Amherst Steele High / Bowling Green State
Scott Everhart	Southern Illinois	PK	6-1	165	Fr.	Tampa (Fla.) Hillsborough High
Walter James	Illinois State	RB	6-0	215	So.	Immokalee (Fla.) High
Tom Koutsos	Southern Illinois	RB	5-10	205	Fr.	Oswego (Ill.) Marmion Military Academy
Mike Megyesi	Indiana State	PK	6-1	195	Fr.	Merrillville (Ind.) High
Sherard Poteete	Southern Illinois	QB	6-1	225	Jr.	Webbers Falls (Okla.) Northeastern Oklahoma A&M
Jay Rodgers	Southwest Mo. St.	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	Austin (Texas) Westlake High / Univ. of Indiana
Chad Setterstrom	Northern Iowa	OT	6-3	283	Fr.	Northfield (Minn.) High
Bobby Starks	Western Illinois	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Chicago (Ill.) Whitney Young High / Univ. of Tennessee
Brian Stegall	Northern Iowa	PK	6-0	174	Fr.	Washington (Iowa) High
Charles Tharp	Western Illinois	RB	5-9	200	Jr.	East Palo Alto (Calif.) St. Francis High / Univ. of Hawaii
DEFENSE						
Luis Almanzar	Southwest Mo. St.	DT	6-4	285	Jr.	Jersey City (N.J.) Dickinson High / Univ. of Nebraska
Michael Brooks	Indiana State	CB	5-9	180	Fr.	Indianapolis (Ind.) Warren Central High
K.J. Friday	Western Illinois	DB	5-11	170	Sr.	Los Angeles (Calif.) Dorsey High / Univ. of New Mexico
David Gunn	Northern Iowa	CB	5-8	158	Jr.	Billings (Mont.) Skyview / N. D. State College of Science
Damian Gregory	Illinois State	DT	6-2	305	Sr.	Lansing (Mich.) Sexton High / Univ. of Indiana
Bryan Hawthorne	Youngstown State	DL	6-3	245	Jr.	Pasadena (Calif.) High / Chaffey Junior College
Tim Johnson	Youngstown State	LB	6-2	219	Jr.	Fairfield (Ala.) High / East Mississippi Junior College
Donte King	Southwest Mo. St.	CB	5-9	180	Jr.	Los Angeles (Calif.) Locke High
Matt Machling	Youngstown State	DL	6-4	270	Fr.	North Canton (Ohio) Hovver High
Jerome Peterson	Northern Iowa	CB	5-8	180	Sr.	Baton Rouge (La.) Port Allen High / Univ. of Nebraska
Mike Scifres	Western Illinois	P	6-2	215	Fr.	Norco (La.) Destrehan High
Hamilton Wells	Illinois State	LB	5-11	235	Jr.	Waterloo (Iowa) West High / Iowa Central Community College

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

1999	Charles Tharp, RB, WIU
1998	David Bowens, DL, WIU
1997	Aaron Stecker, RB, WIU
1996	Vince Bruno, LB, WIU
1995	Jason Cannon, WR, SMS
1994	Buck Phillips, CB, WIU

FRESHMEN OF THE YEAR

1999	Dusty Burk, QB, ILS
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