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Gateway Football Announces 2000 All-Conference Squad

For the first time in seven years, the same school has captured the league's top three individual honors. RB Charles Tharp, LB Edgerton Hartwell and coach Don Patterson -- all of whom are finalists for I-AA national awards -- have captured the Offensive, Defensive and Bruce Craddock Coach of the Year honors, respectively, for league champion Western Illinois.

Hartwell becomes the fourth league player to win back-to-back Defensive Player of the Year honors, as the senior joins Northern Iowa's Andre Allen (1993-94); Northern Iowa's William Freeney (1991-92) and Eastern Illinois' John Jurkovic (1988-89) as two-time Gateway Defensive Players of the Year. Hartwell's 169 tackles led the Gateway this season, while that total ranks sixth-best all-time for a single season in the Gateway. He is among 12 finalists for the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the nation's top I-AA defender.

Tharp, meanwhile, led the Gateway in rushing for a second-straight season as he topped the league in rushing yards (1,523), yards per carry (6.4), rushing touchdowns (17), scoring (110 points) and all-purpose yards (1,588). Tharp is a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, given to the nation's top I-AA offensive player.

Don Patterson is the 'Bruce Craddock' Gateway Coach of the Year in just his second year at the WIU helm. Patterson and his staff led the Leathernecks to a conference title (9-2, 5-1) after being picked fifth in the league's preseason poll.

2000 all-Gateway Football Conference Team

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

FIRST TEAM

QB — Ryan Helming	Northern Iowa	6-2	224	Sr.	Springfield (Mo.) Kickapoo High
RB — Tom Koutsos	Southern Illinois	5-10	218	So.	Oswego (Ill.) Marmion Military Academy
Charles Tharp	Western Illinois	5-9	195	Sr.	East Palo Alto (Calif.) St. Francis High
TE — J.R. Niklos	Western Illinois	6-3	225	Sr.	Worthington (Ohio) Thomas-Worthington High
WR — Eddie Berlin	Northern Iowa	6-0	188	Sr.	Urbandale (Iowa) High
Jeff Hewitt	Southwest Mo. State	5-11	194	Sr.	Jacksonville (Fla.) Bishop Kenny High
OL — Aaron Buss	Northern Iowa	6-5	281	Sr.	Parkersburg (Iowa) Aplington-Parkersburg High
Pat Crummey	Youngstown State	6-4	284	Jr.	Van Wert (Ohio) High
Dan Hama	Illinois State	6-5	290	Sr.	Brunswick (Ohio) High
Brad Harms	Northern Iowa	6-3	288	Sr.	Grundy Center (Iowa) High
Rich Seubert	Western Illinois	6-5	295	Sr.	Stratford (Wis.) Marshfield Columbus High
PK — Jake Strader	Illinois State	5-11	195	Sr.	Danville (Ill.) High
DL— Luis Almanzar	Southwest Mo. State	6-4	285	Sr.	Jersey City (N.J.) Dickinson High
Devon Finn	Illinois State	6-7	280	Sr.	Wheaton (Ill.) Warrenville South
Matt Mechling	Youngstown State	6-4	270	So.	North Canton (Ohio) Hoover High
Tavita Tovio	Southern Illinois	6-0	285	Sr.	Honolulu (Hawaii) Farrington High
LB — Edgerton Hartwell	Western Illinois	6-2	245	Sr.	Las Vegas (Nevada) Cheyenne High
Tim Johnson	Youngstown State	6-2	219	Sr.	Fairfield (Ala.) East Mississippi Junior College
Galen Scott	Illinois State	5-9	210	Sr.	Orlando (Fla.) Evans High
DB — Ryan Doak	Northern Iowa	6-3	195	Sr.	Lincoln (Neb.) Southeast High
Will Peterson	Western Illinois	6-1	195	Jr.	Uniontown (Pa.) Laurel Highlands High
Ryan Szokola	Illinois State	6-2	195	Sr.	Trenton (Mich.) High
Sam Young	Illinois State	5-11	180	Sr.	Chicago (Ill.) Simeon High
P — Mike Scifres	Western Illinois	6-2	225	So.	Norco (La.) Destrehan High
RS— David Gunn	Northern Iowa	5-8	164	Sr.	Billings (Mont.) Skyview High

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SECOND TEAM

QB — Jeff Ryan	Youngstown State	6-1	185	Jr.	Boardman (Ohio) High
RB — Jason Ringena	Southwest Mo. State	5-11	200	Jr.	Iowa City (Iowa) High
	Willie Watts	Illinois State	5-10	200	Jr. Dunnellon (Fla.) High
TE — Justin Nofal	Northern Iowa	6-3	253	Sr.	Overland Park (Kan.) Blue Valley Northwest High
WR — Jake Soliday	Northern Iowa	6-1	192	Jr.	Mansfield (Ohio) High
	Bobby Starks	Western Illinois	6-0	185	Sr. Chicago (Ill.) Whitney Young High
OL — Jake Harriger	Southwest Mo. State	6-4	297	Jr.	Broken Arrow (Okla.) High
	Eric Martin	Indiana State	6-2	265	Sr. Omaha (Neb.) Creighton Prep High
	Andy King	Illinois State	6-4	310	Jr. Lincoln (Ill.) High
	Eric Owens	Southwest Mo. State	6-5	285	Jr. Creston (Iowa) High
	Chad Setterstrom	Northern Iowa	6-3	281	So. Northfield (Minn.) High
PK — Mackenzie Hoambrecker, UNI		6-2	195	So.	Davenport (Iowa) West High
DL — Bryan Archibald	Southern Illinois	6-2	239	Jr.	Bartlett (Ill.) Streamwood High
	David Bull	Illinois State	6-3	290	Jr. Port Byron (Ill.) Riverdale High
	Robert Hamre	Northern Iowa	6-4	268	So. Bloomfield (Iowa) Davis County High
	Mario Turner	Southwest Mo. State	6-3	245	Jr. Belleville (Ill.) East High
LB — Corky Martin	Southwest Mo. State	5-10	225	Sr.	Claremore (Okla.) Sequoyah High
	Lee Russell	Western Illinois	6-0	210	Fr. Davenport (Iowa) Assumption High
	Teddy Sims	Southern Illinois	6-0	240	Sr. Belle Glade (Fla.) University of Florida transfer
DB — Ed Blizzard	Youngstown State	5-10	175	Sr.	Rawlings (Md.) Ft. Hill High
	David Gunn	Northern Iowa	5-8	164	Sr. Billings (Mont.) Skyview High
	Bruce Hightower	Youngstown State	5-11	215	Jr. Belle Glade (Fla.) Glades Central High
	Reggie Waddell	Western Illinois	6-0	185	Sr. Houston (Texas) Willowridge High
P — Jake Strader	Illinois State	5-11	195	Sr.	Danville (Ill.) High
RS — Ryan Szokola	Illinois State	6-2	195	Sr.	Trenton (Mich.) High

Honorable Mention

Illinois State: QB Kevin Glenn, WR Vito Golson, RB Walter James • **Indiana State:** RS Keith Herron, LB Dietrich Lapsley, DB Terrance Miles

Northern Iowa: DB Brent Browner, RB Michael Gerrell, TE Ryan Hannam, DE Matt Mitchell, LB Adam Vogt

Southern Illinois: DL Brian Broussard, DL LaMarcus Spillers, LB Dante Stovall • **Southwest Missouri State:** OL James Broyles, DB Donte King, PK Brian Long, DB Brent Withers • **Western Illinois:** QB Sam Clemons, LB Junior Robinson, DB Damon Williams

Youngstown State: P Troy Lefever, OL Dave Tesniarz, DL Montrail Thomas

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: RB Charles Tharp, Western Illinois

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

'BRUCE CRADDOCK' GATEWAY COACH OF THE YEAR: Don Patterson, Western Illinois

GATEWAY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE SPECIALTY AWARD WINNERS

OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

2000	Charles Tharp, RB, Western Illinois
1999	Cornell Craig, WR, So. Illinois
1998	Karlton Carpenter, RB, So. Illinois
1997	Aaron Stecker, RB, Western Illinois
1996	Dedric Ward, WR, Northern Iowa
1995	Dedric Ward, WR, Northern Iowa
1994	Rob St. Sauver, QB, Western Illinois
1993	Kurt Warner, QB, Northern Iowa
1992	Toby Davis, RB, Illinois State
1991	Derrick Franklin, RB, Indiana State
1990	DeAndre Smith, QB, Southwest Mo.
1989	DeAndre Smith, QB, Southwest Mo.
1988	Paul Singer, QB, Western Illinois
1987	Carl Boyd, RB, Northern Iowa
1986	Sean Payton, QB, Eastern Illinois
1985	Mike Smith, QB, Northern Iowa

DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

2000	Edgerton Hartwell, LB, Western Illinois
1999	Edgerton Hartwell, LB, Western Illinois
1998	James Milton, LB, Western Illinois
1997	Harry Deligianis, DT, Youngstown State
1996	Mike Miano, DL, Southwest Mo. State
1995	Tim Carver, LB, Eastern Illinois
1994	Andre Allen, LB, Northern Iowa
1993	Andre Allen, LB, Northern Iowa
1992	William Freeney, LB, Northern Iowa
1991	William Freeney, LB, Northern Iowa
1990	Tim Lance, DB, Eastern Illinois
1989	John Jurkovic, DT, Eastern Illinois
1988	John Jurkovic, DT, Eastern Illinois
1987	Matt Soraghan, LB, Southwest Mo. State
1986	Brian Gant, LB, Illinois State
1985	James Houston, LB, Illinois State Mark Farley, LB, Northern Iowa

'BRUCE CRADDOCK' COACHES OF THE YEAR

2000	Don Patterson, Western Illinois
1999	Todd Berry, Illinois State
1998	Todd Berry, Illinois State
1997	Randy Ball, Western Illinois
1996	Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1995	Bob Spoo, Eastern Illinois
1994	Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1993	Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1992	Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1991	Terry Allen, Northern Iowa
1990	Jesse Branch, Southwest Mo. State
1989	Jesse Branch, Southwest Mo. State
1988	Bruce Craddock, Western Illinois
1987	Darrell Mudra, Northern Iowa Bruce Craddock, Western Illinois
1986	Al Molde, Eastern Illinois
1985	Darrell Mudra, Northern Iowa