



NEWS RELEASE

AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

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SIoux FALLS' GABRIEL WATSON AND ANGELO STATE'S MARKUS JONES HEADLINE THE 2018 AFCA DIVISION II COACHES' ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

WACO, TEXAS — Sioux Falls (S.D.) running back Gabriel Watson and Angelo State defensive lineman Markus Jones headline the 2018 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Teams announced today by the American Football Coaches Association.

The AFCA has selected an All-America team since 1945 and currently selects teams in all five of its divisions. What makes these teams so special is that they are the only ones chosen exclusively by the men who know the players the best — the coaches themselves.

Watson, a finalist for the 2018 Harlon Hill Award, finished the season with 1,957 rushing yards and 26 rushing touchdowns. He led Division II in rushing yards per game (177.9) and rushing touchdowns and was named Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Offensive Player of the Year while setting a school-record 11 straight games of 100 yards or more rushing. Jones, a two-time AFCA All-American, is the Division II leader in tackles for loss with 34, and sits No. 2 in sacks with 15. Also a finalist for the Harlon Hill Award, Jones set a new school record with 34.5 career sacks while totaling 77 tackles, 13 quarterback hurries, three forced fumbles and two blocked kicks in 2018.

2018 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America - First Team

Offense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
QB	Jayru Campbell	6-5	215	Jr.	Ferris St. (Mich.)	Tony Annese	Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)
RB	Jaleel McLaughlin	5-9	173	Fr.	Notre Dame (Ohio)	Mike Jacobs	Marshville, N.C. (Forest Hills)
RB	Gabriel Watson	6-1	221	Jr.	Sioux Falls (S.D.)	Jon Anderson	Piedmont, Calif. (Piedmont)
WR	Craig Rucker	5-7	165	Jr.	Mars Hill (N.C.)	Tim Clifton	Orlando, Fla. (Edgewater)
WR	Trey Brock	6-3	218	Sr.	Hillsdale (Mich.)	Keith Otterbein	Missouri City, Texas (Ridge Point)
TE	Erik Henneman	6-3	228	Jr.	Lindenwood (Mo.)	Jed Stugart	Gretna, La. (West Jefferson)
OL	Derrick Puni	6-6	320	R-Sr.	Central Missouri	Jim Svoboda	St. Charles, Mo. (Francis Howell Central)
OL	Bryce Bray	6-0	260	Sr.	Harding (Ark.)	Paul Simmons	Rogers, Ark. (Rogers)
OL	James Moore	6-5	300	Sr.	Central Washington	Ian Shoemaker	Tacoma, Wash. (Bethel)
OL	Travis Romsa	6-4	300	R-Sr.	Chadron St. (Neb.)	Jay Long	Burns, Wyo. (Burns)
OL	Donald Boone	6-5	310	Jr.	Chowan (N.C.)	Tim Place	Hertford, N.C. (Duluth)

Defense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
DL	*Markus Jones	6-3	260	Sr.	Angelo St. (Texas)	Will Wagner	Fort Worth, Texas (Crowley)
DL	Austen Eskew	6-4	248	Sr.	Northwest Missouri St.	Rich Wright	Lawson, Mo. (Lawson)
DL	Michael Wristen	6-4	245	Sr.	Colorado St.-Pueblo	John Wristen	Broomfield, Colo. (Broomfield)
DL	Chris Garrett	6-4	230	So.	Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.)	Shannon Carrier	Milwaukee, Wis. (Wisconsin Lutheran)
LB	J.T. Hassell	6-0	199	Sr.	Florida Tech	Steve Englehart	Titusville, Fla. (Astronaut)
LB	Austin Stephens	5-11	210	Jr.	Miles (Ala.)	Reginald Ruffin	Munford, Ala. (Munford)
LB	Tyler Morrissey	6-3	256	R-Sr.	West Chester (Pa.)	Bill Zwaan	Springfield, Pa. (Delco)
DB	Lamont McPhatter II	5-11	190	Jr.	California (Pa.)	Gary Dunn	New Castle, Pa. (New Castle)
DB	Joshua Simmons	6-3	205	Gr.	Limestone (S.C.)	Brian Turk	Moncks Corner, S.C. (Berkeley)
DB	Gunner Olszewski	5-10	180	Sr.	Bemidji St. (Minn.)	Brent Bolte	Alvin, Texas (Alvin)
DB	Brian Williams	6-1	190	R-Sr.	Davenport (Mich.)	Sparky McEwen	Detroit, Mich. (Oak Park)

Specialists

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
PK	Kristov Martinez	5-6	135	Sr.	Texas A&M-Commerce	Colby Carthel	Edinburg, Texas (Edinburg)
P	Josh Carlson	6-0	165	Fr.	Dixie St. (Utah)	Shay McClure	Gilbert, Ariz. (Gilbert)
AP	Lyrics Klugh	5-10	170	Sr.	Fairmont St. (W.Va.)	Jason Woodman	Lyman, S.C. (Byrnes)

*-2017 AFCA All-American

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2018 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America - Second Team

Offense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
QB	Layton Rabb	6-5	225	Sr.	Midwestern St. (Texas)	Bill Maskill	Llano, Texas (Llano)
RB	*Marcus Jones	5-11	225	Sr.	Gannon (Pa.)	Brad Rzyczycki	Painesville, Ohio (Riverside)
RB	Devontae Jackson	5-7	176	Sr.	West Georgia	David Dean	Marietta, Ga. (Wheeler)
WR	Chad Hovasse	6-1	215	R-Sr.	Adams St. (Colo.)	Josh Blankenship	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Mesa Ridge)
WR	Shane Zylstra	6-5	220	Jr.	Minnesota St.	Todd Hoffner	Spicer, Minn. (New London-Spicer)
TE	Jalen Jackson	6-0	215	So.	Lock Haven (Pa.)	Dave Taynor	Williamsport, Pa. (Williamsport)
OL	Craig McCorkle	6-5	290	Jr.	California (Pa.)	Gary Dunn	Cincinnati, Ohio (Winton Woods)
OL	Devon Johnson	6-7	310	Sr.	Ferris St. (Mich.)	Tony Annese	Aurora, Ill. (Waubonsie Valley)
OL	Steve Gaviglia	6-3	285	R-Sr.	Slippery Rock (Pa.)	Shawn Lutz	Cranberry Township, Pa. (Seneca Valley)
OL	Matt Juneau	6-5	290	Sr.	Minnesota-Duluth	Curt Wiese	Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Champlin Park)
OL	Justin Gooseberry	6-4	250	Sr.	Ouachita Baptist (Ark.)	Todd Knight	Little Rock, Ark. (LR Episcopal)

Defense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
DL	*Davondrick Lison	6-2	235	R-Sr.	Southern Arkansas	Bill Keopple	Arkansas City, Ark. (McGehee)
DL	T.J. Winslow	6-4	250	Sr.	Harding (Ark.)	Paul Simmons	Houston, Texas (Kingwood)
DL	Cardell Rawlings	6-2	240	R-Sr.	Wingate (N.C.)	Joe Reich	Smithfield, N.C. (Cleveland)
DL	James Prater Jr.	6-0	244	Sr.	Ashland (Ohio)	Lee Owens	Columbus, Ohio (St. Francis DeSales)
LB	Dominic Cizauskas	6-2	260	Jr.	Glenville St. (W.Va.)	Eric Smith	Mukwonago, Wis. (Mukwonago)
LB	Aaron Berry	6-2	225	Sr.	Azusa Pacific (Calif.)	Victor Santa Cruz	Perris, Calif. (Perris)
LB	Cody Leonard	6-1	225	Sr.	Quincy (Ill.)	Gary Bass	Carrollton, Ill. (Carrollton)
DB	Traviontae Brown	6-0	170	Jr.	Benedict (S.C.)	Mike White	Albany, Ga. (Westover Comprehensive)
DB	Corey Ballentine	6-0	204	Sr.	Washburn (Kan.)	Craig Schurig	Topeka, Kan. (Shawnee Heights)
DB	O'Shay Harris	6-1	190	Jr.	Central Oklahoma	Nick Bobeck	Ardmore, Okla. (Lone Grove)
DB	Jarey Elder	5-11	170	Jr.	West Chester (Pa.)	Bill Zwaan	Allentown, Pa. (Parkland)

Specialists

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
PK	#Cole Antley	6-0	190	Sr.	Ouachita Baptist (Ark.)	Todd Knight	Atlanta, Ga. (East Cowetta)
P	Isaac Parks	6-0	210	R-So.	North Carolina-Pembroke	Shane Richardson	Greensboro, N.C. (Southern Guilford)
AP	*Deonte Harris	5-6	170	Sr.	Assumption (Mass.)	Andy McKenzie	Middle River, Md. (Archbishop Curley)

*-2017 AFCA All-American #-2016 AFCA All-American

Team Background: The five teams now chosen for each AFCA division evolved from a single 11-player squad in 1945. From 1945 until 1967, only one team was chosen. From 1967 through 1971, two teams – University Division and College Division – were selected. In 1972, the College Division was split into College I and College II. In 1979, the University Division was split into two teams – FBS and FCS. In 1996, the College I and College II teams were renamed Division II and Division III, respectively. In 2006, the AFCA started selecting an NAIA-only team.

From 1965-81, a 22-player (11 offensive, 11 defensive) team was chosen. In 1982, a punter and placekicker were added to the team. In 1997, a return specialist was added, giving us the current 25-player team. The return specialist position was replaced by an all-purpose player in 2006. In 2016, the AFCA added a second team All-America.

Selection Process: The AFCA's Division II All-America Selection Committee is made up of three head coaches from each of the AFCA's seven districts, one of whom serves as a district chairman, along with another head coach who serves as the chairman of the selection committee. The coaches in each district are responsible for ranking the top players in their respective districts prior to a conference call between the district chairmen and the committee chairman on which the teams are chosen.

The Award: Members of the AFCA Coaches' All-America First Team will receive a plaque commemorating their selection to the team, while members of the Second Team will receive a certificate.

Consecutive Years: Texas A&M-Kingsville had at least one player named to the AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team for 18 straight seasons, from 1986 to 2003, the longest streak by any team in Division II. Northwest Missouri State is second, having had 16 straight selections from 1996 to 2011. Pittsburg State has the third longest streak at nine straight selections from 1988 to 1996. Texas A&M-Commerce has the longest active streak with six straight selections from 2013 to today.

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Top Teams: Texas A&M-Kingsville has been represented a total of 34 times by 30 players on the AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team, to lead all schools. Trailing Texas A&M-Kingsville is Texas A&M-Commerce (23/21), Northwest Missouri State (22/17), Ferris State (21/17), Pittsburg State (20/16), Indiana (Pa.) (19/17), Ashland (16/15), Carson-Newman (16/15), Grand Valley State (16/15), Mississippi College (15/14), New Haven (14/14), American International (14/13), Valdosta State (14/12), Angelo State (13/11), Colorado Mesa (13/11), Catawba (13/10), Indianapolis (12/12), Saginaw Valley State (12/12), Slippery Rock (12/10), West Chester (11/11), West Georgia (11/11), Central Missouri (11/10), Central Washington (11/10), Sioux Falls (11/10), California (Pa.) (11/9), Eastern New Mexico (11/9), Glenville State (11/9), LIU-Post (11/9), Mars Hill (11/9), Minnesota State (11/8), Chadron State (10/10), West Texas A&M (10/10), Winston-Salem State (10/10), St. Cloud State (10/9) and Central State (10/8).

Back-to-Back: Angelo State defensive lineman Markus Jones, Gannon running back Marcus Jones, Southern Arkansas defensive lineman Davondrick Lison and Assumption all-purpose player Deonte Harris are the four players who earned AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America honors for the second consecutive season in 2018. Ouachita Baptist kicker Cole Antley earned his second AFCA All-America honor after being named to the team in 2016.

Three-peat: Catawba linebacker Kyle Kitchens became the fourth player in Division II history to be named to three straight AFCA All-America Teams. Kitchens was a first-team selection in 2015 and 2017, and a second-team selection in 2016. He joins Brandon Williams, a defensive lineman from Missouri Southern State (2010-12), running back Jonas Randolph from Mars Hill (2009-11) and Tywan Mitchell, a wide receiver from Minnesota State (1996-98).

Yearly Leader: Texas A&M-Commerce (2017-OL Jared Machorro, QB Luis Perez and DB Yusef Sterling-Lowe) became the first school to have more than two players named to the AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team in one year.

Repeat After Me: Texas A&M-Kingsville's Johnny Bailey is the only Division II player to earn AFCA All-America honors in four consecutive years. Bailey was a four-year pick at running back in 1986-87-88-89.

Two Players, Two Schools: Punter Mark Bounds and placekicker Greg Zuerlein are the only players to earn AFCA All-America honors at two different schools. Bounds was named to the AFCA College Division I team in 1990 while playing for West Texas A&M. He transferred to Texas Tech after West Texas dropped football and earned I-A All-America honors as a Red Raider in 1991. Zuerlein was named to the Division II Coaches' All-America Team in 2009 while playing for Nebraska-Omaha. He transferred to Missouri Western State after Nebraska-Omaha dropped its football program and earned Division II honors in 2011 as a Griffon.

Class Distinction: This year's Division II Coaches' All-America Team is made up of 31 seniors, 13 juniors, three sophomores, two freshman and one graduate student.

It's Been A While: All-purpose player Lyrics Klugh from Fairmont State has earned AFCA Coaches' All-America Team honors for his school for the first time since 1988.

First Time's A Charm: Notre Dame running back Jaleel McLaughlin, Chowan offensive lineman Donald Boone, Miles linebacker Austin Stephens, Limestone defensive back Joshua Simmons, Davenport defensive back Brian Williams, Lock Haven tight end Jalen Jackson, Benedict defensive back Traviontae Brown and North Carolina-Pembroke punter Isaac Parks earned honors for their schools for the first time in AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team history.

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