

Eleven Bears Earn All-SAC Honors

Written by Staff Reports

Wednesday, 20 November 2013 16:29

The Lenoir-Rhyne Football Team, fresh off its third straight league championship, had 11 players garner 2013 All-South Atlantic Conference honors, officials announced today.

Of the 11 players, eight Bears picked up first-team all-conference accolades including senior defensive back Michael Green (Kingsland, Ga.). Green was named the SAC Defensive Player Of The Year.

Green, a three-time all-league honoree, leads the conference in interceptions with seven to go along with 64 tackles. Green returned two of those picks for scores this year and is currently the school's all-time leader in interception return yards (374) and punt return yards (853).

Senior defensive back Myer Nolan (Atlanta, Ga.), junior linebacker Tanner Botts (Lawrenceville, Ga.) and junior defensive lineman Blake Baker (Bethlehem, N.C.) were all named to the All-SAC First Team Defense as well.

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Nolan is second on the team in takedowns with 78 while Botts is first on the squad in tackles for the second straight year with 104 in addition to three forced fumbles. Both Nolan and Botts were named to the all-league first team for the second straight year.

Baker is first in the South Atlantic Conference in quarterback sacks with 10.5 in addition to 39 tackles including 16.5 for a loss.

On offense, junior halfback Jarrod Spears (Bunnlevel, N.C.), senior offensive lineman Zack Bunn (Lucama, N.C.) and sophomore offensive lineman Joe Ray (Atlanta, Ga.) were all named to the all-conference first team.

Spears, a 2012 First-Team All-SAC honoree as well, is second on the squad in rushing yards with 711 to go along with a 9.6 yards-per-carry average and six touchdowns. Spears has nine total scores and leads the team in all-purpose yards (1,446).

Both Bunn and Ray spearhead an offensive line that helped Lenoir-Rhyne rank No. 1 in NCAA Division II in rushing yards at 376.9 per game. Ray was also named the 2013 Jacobs Blocking Trophy winner, given annually to the top offensive lineman in the South Atlantic Conference. An L-R player has now won the award for four straight seasons.

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Senior placekicker Zach Neumann (Mechanicsville, Md.) was named to the All-SAC First Team as well. Neumann leads the team in points scored with 82 and has connected on 46-of-49 point-after-attempts and 12-of-15 field goals. Neumann earned all-league honors for the second straight season.

The following Lenoir-Rhyne players were named to the 2013 All-South Atlantic Conference Second Team: junior fullback Isaiah Whitaker (Salisbury, N.C.), senior defensive lineman Jimmy Long (Gainesville, Va.) and junior defensive back O'neil Blake (Kissimmee, Fla.).

Whitaker is third on the team in rushing with 704 yards and has scored eight touchdowns while garnering all-league laurels for the third straight season.

Long has 55 tackles, 6.5 sacks and eight quarterback hurries this year while Blake has 50 takedowns, seven pass break-ups and two interceptions in 2013.

Mike Houston was named the 2013 SAC Coach Of The Year for the third straight season while

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linebacker Rodney Singleton (Hawthorne, Fla.) was named the league defensive freshman of the year. Singleton has 49 tackles, 3.5 quarterback sacks and an interception this season.

Lenoir-Rhyne (10-1) has won 10 straight games and earned the top seed in Super Region II. L-R will host the winner of Carson-Newman (9-2) and Newberry (9-2) on Saturday, November 30, at Noon in an NCAA Division II Second Round Playoff game.

2013 All-South Atlantic Conference

Football Teams

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterback - Bo Cordell, Tusculum

Running Back - Shaikel Davis, Mars Hill

Running Back - Brandon Baker, Carson-Newman

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Running Back - Jarrod Spears, Lenoir-Rhyne

Wide Receiver - Dimitri Holmes, Mars Hill

Wide Receiver - Corey Washington, Newberry

Wide Receiver - Justin Houston, Tusculum

Offensive Line - Denzell Goode, Mars Hill

Offensive Line - Alex Taylor, Carson-Newman

Offensive Line - Joe Ray, Lenoir-Rhyne

Offensive Line - Jamal Ellis, Newberry

Offensive Line - Zack Bunn, Lenoir-Rhyne

Tight End - Wesley Powell, Tusculum

Long Snapper - Austin Crook, Newberry

Punter - Kyle Clark, Newberry

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Placekicker - Curt Duncan, Carson-Newman AND **Zach Neumann, Lenoir-Rhyne**

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive Line - Blake Baker, Lenoir-Rhyne

Defensive Line - Troy Harris, Mars Hill

Defensive Line - Letavious Williams, Newberry

Defensive Line - Javaris Neal, Carson-Newman

Linebacker - Sammy Siasia, Mars Hill

Linebacker - Tanner Botts, Lenoir-Rhyne

Linebacker - Jaycob Coleman, Carson-Newman

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Linebacker - Edmond Robinson, Newberry

Defensive Back - Michael Green, Lenoir-Rhyne

Defensive Back - L.J. McCray, Catawba

Defensive Back - Myer Nolan, Lenoir-Rhyne

Defensive Back - David Davis, Newberry

Return Specialist - L.J. McCray, Catawba

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterback - Robbie Nallenweg, Wingate AND W.T. Murden, Newberry

Running Back - Isaiah Whitaker, Lenoir-Rhyne

Running Back - Kelvin Jeter, Brevard

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Running Back - Tyron Douglas, Carson-Newman

Wide Receiver - Nate Charest, Catawba

Wide Receiver - Jordan Berry, Wingate

Wide Receiver - Deon Hicks, Tusculum

Offensive Line - Lucas Mathis, Carson-Newman

Offensive Line - Will Poteat, Wingate

Offensive Line - David Davis, Tusculum

Offensive Line - Nick Allison, Mars Hill

Offensive Line - Landon Martin, Newberry AND Taylor Fender, Catawba

Tight End - Brandon Ellington, Wingate

Long Snapper - Alex Taylor, Carson-Newman

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Punter - Austin Anthony, Wingate

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive Line - Jimmy Long, Lenoir-Rhyne

Defensive Line - Nick Napolitano, Wingate

Defensive Line - Jonathan Jean, Catawba

Defensive Line - Josh Davis, Tusculum

Linebacker - Brian Alexander, Tusculum

Linebacker - Michael Gruber, Brevard

Linebacker - Jason Taylor, Catawba

Linebacker - B.J. Mazyck, Newberry

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Defensive Back - Eien Jacob, Carson-Newman

Defensive Back - O'neil Blake, Lenoir-Rhyne

Defensive Back - Jacob McCleery, Brevard

Defensive Back - Jon Jimenez, Wingate

Return Specialist - Jason Livingston, Newberry

Offensive Freshman Of The Year - Trent Miller, Mars Hill

Defensive Freshman Of The Year - Rodney Singleton, Lenoir-Rhyne

Offensive Player Of The Year - Bo Cordell, Tusculum

Defensive Player Of The Year - Michael Green, Lenoir-Rhyne

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Jacobs Blocking Trophy - Joe Ray, Lenoir-Rhyne

Coach Of The Year - Mike Houston, Lenoir-Rhyne

SAC STATISTICAL CHAMPIONS

Rushing Yards per Game - Shaikel Davis, Mars Hill (125.4)

Passing Yards per Game - Bo Cordell, Tusculum (356.4)

Total Offense per Game - Bo Cordell, Tusculum (365.1)

Receptions per Game - Justin Houston, Tusculum (11.0)

Receiving Yards per Game - Dimitri Holmes, Mars Hill (144.6)

All-Purpose Yards per Game - Justin Houston, Tusculum (191.4)

Pass Efficiency Rating - W.T. Murden, Newberry (151.8)

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Punt Return Average - Jason Livingston, Newberry (12.2)

Kick Return Average - Tim Nalesnik, Wingate (27.3)

Punting Average - Kyle Clark, Newberry (39.0)

Scoring Average (TDs) - De'Andre Thomas, Carson-Newman (8.73)

Scoring Average (Kicking) - Curt Duncan, Carson-Newman (8.55)

Field Goals per Game - Curt Duncan, Carson-Newman (1.27)

Field Goal Percentage - Patrick Smith, Wingate/Victor Yurco, Mars Hill (.860)

Tackles per Game - Sammy Siasia, Mars Hill (14.1)

Sacks per Game - Blake Baker, Lenoir-Rhyne (0.95)

Tackles for Loss per Game - Troy Harris, Mars Hill (1.86)

Interceptions per Game - Michael Green, Lenoir-Rhyne (0.64)

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Scoring Offense - Carson-Newman (39.3)

Scoring Defense - Lenoir-Rhyne (13.8)

Passing Offense - Tusculum (365.3)

Passing Defense - Newberry (200.9)

Rushing Offense - Lenoir-Rhyne (376.9)

Rushing Defense - Lenoir-Rhyne (85.9)

Total Offense - Carson-Newman (487.2)

Total Defense - Lenoir-Rhyne (307.6)

Photo Courtesy: Mike Houston, L-R Athletics