

NATHAN ADAMS *Gannon* **6-2 235 ILB OLB**
Gets involved in all phases of the defensive game; stopping the run, coverage and making plays behind the line of scrimmage. 2016 Stats: 73 tackles, 11 TFLs, 3 sacks, INT, 2 PBU, QBH, FF, FR.

CJ BARKSDALE *Catawba* **6-2 250 ILB OLB**
Named a first team All-South Atlantic Conference performer for the second consecutive year after missing most of the previous two years with injuries. As a DE in 2016, Barksdale made 68 tackles during the season. He had two and half sacks and led the team with 19 tackles for loss; also recovered a fumble and had a pass break up.

BEAU BATES *Minnesota-Duluth* **6-0 235 ILB**
2016 Don Hansen All-Super Region Three. Named a finalist for the 2016 Cliff Harris Award. Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Defensive Player of the Year. For the second straight season he paced UMD in tackles with a career-high 87 stops (37 more than the next closest Bulldog) and lead all NCAA Division II linebackers in quarterback sacks (13.0, the second-highest single-season output in program history). In addition, his 19.0 tackles for a loss were without rival in the NSIC and the most accumulated by a Bulldog since 2003 (Russ Rabe with a school-record 19.5). The two-year team captain and three-time All-NSIC North Division honoree (first team in 2016 and 2015 and second team in 2014) anchored a defensive unit that has allowed the 12th fewest rushing yards in the nation (94.9 yards per game). Bates, who ranks third among UMD's career leaders in sacks (19.0) and seventh in tackles (264), was the lone 2017 Bulldog to play in all 51 games over the past four seasons and was a starter in 38 of those outings.

AUSTIN BOLTON *University of Mary* **5-11 240 ILB**
One of the leading tacklers in Marauders history, Bolton finished among the NSIC and NCAA leaders this season. Led Mary with 85 tackles, registering 32 solo stops and 53 assists. Fourth on the team with 3.0 tackles for loss, Bolton also had a pass breakup and forced a fumble. Four times he reached double digits in tackles in a single game, including 13 against Augustana. With an average of 7.7 tackles per game, Bolton ranked 10th in the Northern Sun and 138th in the country. For his career, Bolton made 214 tackles, 10th best all-time at Mary.

TYLER BOWMAN *Malone* **6-2 250 ILB OLB**
G-MAC Co-Defensive Player of the Year. Led the Malone defensive line as an undersized nose guard with 50 total tackles in nine games. He registered four tackles for loss and three sacks to go along with a forced fumble, a blocked kick, and a pass breakup. Bowman finished 8th overall in the G-MAC with 5.6 tackles per game and led all defensive linemen in stops despite drawing consistent double teams.

SPENCER BROWN *Pittsburg State* **6-0 214 ILB OLB**
Considered one of the premiere linebackers in the MIAA and Super Region Three. A multiple-time All-MIAA and All-Super Region performer. Led the Gorillas with 96 tackles (50 solo) with 2.0 TFLs, one interception and one pass break-up.

JAKE CHESTNUT *Notre Dame College* **6-2 220 ILB OLB**

A senior captain, was Notre Dame's second leading tackler on the season with 67, including 28 solo stops. He also had 2.5 tackles for a loss, while adding an interception and broke up a pair of passes.

KENNETH DAVIS *Northeastern State* **6-1 230 ILB OLB**

A four-year member of the NSU football program picked up third team All-MIAA honors after finishing second in tackles (86) and two sacks. Also had an INT for a TD. Davis is a two-time All-MIAA honoree and was named honorable mention in 2014.

ZACK DELP *Kutztown* **6-0 225 ILB**

Named All-PSAC East First Team and All-Region Third Team. Started in all 11 games for the Golden Bears in his senior season. The All-PSAC linebacker was a three-year starter for KU, cementing his name in the Golden Bear record book. Delp led KU with 90 total tackles (ninth in PSAC), while also adding 3.5 sacks and an interception. He posted double-digit tackles in four games and had at least seven in nine of his 11 games played. Delp recorded 295 career tackles (seventh in KU history), 15.5 sacks, seven pass breakups, four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries. He posted 80 or more tackles in each of the last three seasons for KU.

NATE FELIZ *LIU-Post* **6-1 230 ILB OLB**

All-NE-10 Second Team. Despite playing in only nine contests, Feliz has totaled 52 tackles (31 solo, 21 assist) and two interceptions, with a pair of pass break-ups.

MICHAEL FISHER *Northwood* **6-1 226 ILB OLB**

End his time at Northwood was one of the finest players in school history. He finished his career by ending the regular season leading the GLIAC in total tackles for the third straight year, totaling 115 stops. He also had 5.5 tackles for loss, three pass breakups and two interceptions. Fisher finished his career with 430 tackles, 58 more than any other player in school history. He earned All-GLIAC honors three times— First Team (2014, 2016), Second Team (2015). Fisher finished the year ranked fourth among active players in all of division II in career tackles. He was named Second Team Academic All-American by CoSIDA for the second time at the conclusion of the 2016 season.

TYLER FLUD *SW Minnesota* **6-0 225 ILB**

Earned first team All-NSIC South accolades for the second straight season. He led the Mustangs and finished tied for seventh in the NSIC with 92 tackles. He was also tied for fifth in the league with three forced fumbles. He recorded a team-high 10 tackles for loss and also had two interceptions. He finished his career ranking sixth in school history in tackles (300) and sixth in solo tackles (161).

ANDRE FOULKS *Wingate* **6-0 255 ILB OLB**

2nd Team All-SAC defensive lineman. Led one of the most dominant defensive fronts in NCAA Division II football. Foulks earned an all-conference nod for the second consecutive season, finishing fourth on the WU defensive charts with 50 total stops. Also posted 14 tackles for a total loss of 72 yards, 4.5 sacks, 15 quarterback hurries, three fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.

BRANDON GENCY *Ashland University* **6-1 234 ILB OLB**

Racked up 76 total tackles (11½ for loss), 2½ sacks, an interception, two forced fumbles and a fumble-recovery touchdown. First-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and All-Super Region 4 choice in 2016.

MARCUS GOODEN *Minnesota State* **6-0 225 ILB**

Was named the Defensive Player of the Year. Gooden, who was named to the All-NSIC Second Team, recorded 80 tackles, to go along with three tackles for a loss, two sacks and an interception.

QYEN GRIFFIN *West Alabama* **6-0 260 ILB OLB**

Transfer from University of Louisiana Lafayette. Highly touted player out of high school as a RB. Academics kept him from BCS recruitment. Dismissed from UL Lafayette where he was moved to starting LB for repeated violation of team rules. At UWA in 2016 had 35 tackles, 6.0 TFLs, sack, 4 PBUs, 5 QBHs, FR.

BRYAN HARDY *Bentley* **6-1 245 ILB**

2016 All-Northeast-10 Conference football first team and a candidate for Academic All-America® honors, shared the Northeast-10 lead in tackles, averaging 11 a game. His 121 total tackles was the most in the conference, and he reached double digits in seven of the last nine games, with a high of 16 at New Haven. Bentley's leading tackler for the third straight year, Hardy finished his career with 332 career tackles, most in program history.

CONNOR HARRIS *Lindenwood* **6-0 243 ILB ATH**

2016 recipient of the Cliff Harris Award as the nation's top defensive player among NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, and NAIA programs. This past season, Harris went on a record-breaking tour through the MIAA. He already owned the conference career tackle record before the season started. He then broke the NCAA Division II career tackle record against Northeastern State, the NCAA All-Division career tackle record at Fort Hays State, and became the first player in college history to surpass 600 career tackles against Nebraska-Kearney. Despite teams avoiding the middle of the field more often than previous seasons, Harris still finished third nationally with 12.5 tackles a game, and had 138 total tackles. He was once again a first-team all-MIAA and first-team All-American selection. Harris finished his career with 633 total tackles, including 323 solo stops. He had 34.0 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks. Harris intercepted six passes during his career, had 14 pass breakups, forced three fumbles, and had five fumble recoveries. Some of his turnovers were game changers, including two interceptions in a season-opening win over Washburn in 2014, and an interception return touchdown in the win this year against Nebraska-Kearney. Harris played in 48 games during his career, and started every one of those contests. Harris was much more than a defensive star for Lindenwood. Throughout his career, he was a key contributor on both special teams and offense. He punted 35 times in his career for a 37.3 average, and had seven inside the 20-yard line. This past season, Harris was also a placekicker at the end of the season, making all 12 PATs he attempted. On offense, Harris rushed 50 times for 328 yards and seven touchdowns, and he averaged 6.8 yards per carry. 2015: MIAA co-Defensive Player of the Year. Had one of the best statistical defensive seasons in Division II history. Harris recorded a Division II record 184 tackles, and set a new national record with 16.7 tackles a game.

CODY HEIMAN Washburn 6-3 245 ILB

Second team Don Hansen All-Region team pick and a first team All-MIAA selection, finished second on the team with 101 tackles including 7.0 for loss and 3.5 sacks for 14 yards adding two interceptions and a 60-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown against Missouri Southern. He finished 11th in the MIAA in tackles this season. Heiman was a second team all-MIAA pick as a junior and finished his career with 251 tackles ranking him 13th all-time as an Ichabod. Was a five-time MIAA Academic honor roll selection as well.

ALLEN HOLMAN Shippensburg 6-0 231 ILB

2016 CCA All-Super Region 1 Team. 2016 PSAC Eastern Division Defensive Player of the Year as a First Team linebacker. led the Red Raiders in tackles with 89, ninth-most in the PSAC, and was one of two captains on a defense that finished among the best in the conference – ranking second in scoring defense and third in both rushing defense and total defense. Overall, Holman totaled 10.5 tackles-for-loss – second on the team – forced two fumbles, intercepted two passes (one for a touchdown), recorded one safety, and had four passes defended. His work in stopping the run was paramount, as 68 of his 89 tackles came on rushing plays.

DAVID JAKPOR South Dakota Mines 5-11 230 ILB

All-RMAC Defense Second Team for the Hardrockers as a linebacker. Was a team captain and led the defense with 103 total tackles through 11 games which ranked him second in the RMAC, averaging 9.4 tackles a game. He tallied 40 solo tackles, 63 assisted and 3.5 tackles for a loss and is credited with one forced fumble and three fumble recoveries.

JEVARIS JONES Shorter 6-1 228 ILB OLB

All-GSC 2nd Team. Led the Hawks and the conference in tackles for the season, tallying 106 on the year for 10.6 per game and finished with seven games where he recorded ten or more tackles. His mark for solo tackles was second most in all of Division II, as he posted 80 solos on the year, to finish 0.6 per game behind the national leader. also tallied 16 tackles for a loss this season for 60 yards, 6.5 sacks and forced four fumbles – which led the GSC and ranked sixth among DII. The three-year member of the Hawks finishes his career at Shorter, cementing his named in the football record book in multiple categories. Ranks third all-time in tackles in a season (106), fifth in career tackles (235), fourth in career sacks (12.5), second in tackles for a loss in a season (16) and fourth for career tackles for a loss (28.5).

ADAM JOSEPHSON St. Cloud State 6-0 225 ILB

Honorable Mention All-NSIC selection, his third in as many years. Josephson led the conference and placed second in the nation with his five forced fumbles. He also placed second on the team in tackles with 71, while also totaling three tackles for loss.

ZACH JUDE Lake Erie 6-1 245 ILB

All-GLIAC Honorable Mention Team. Led the Storm defense with 90 total tackles this season. The senior had 45 solo tackles and 45 assisted tackles on defense. He set a career-high 19 tackles against Findlay. Jude accumulated half of a sack, one fumble recovery, two forced fumbles and two interceptions. Plays extremely physical.

JAVONTE KELLY Lane 6-0 240 ILB OLB

2nd Team All-SIAC. Good size, tied for team's leading tackler, provided senior leadership to defense. 2016 Stats: 75 tackles, 3.5 TFLs, 3 PBU, QBH, FR.

BRUCE LIVINGSTON *Arkansas Tech* **5-11 238 ILB**

All-GAC after notching 52 tackles on the season including 7.5 stops for loss, adding two sacks and six QB hurries. He recovered three fumbles including one for a score against Harding.

ASHTON MCKENZIE *Miles* **5-10 245 ILB**

Was selected 2ndTeam All-SIAC as a defensive lineman. He had 23 tackles (17 solo), and led the team in tackles for loss (10 for 60 yards) and sacks (six for 46 yards) while also forcing a fumble.

JACOB MITCHELL *Clark-Atlanta* **6-0 237 ILB**

All-SIAC. Led the Panthers defense in tackles with 89 on the season including 68 in the seven SIAC games. Versus conference foes, he had 11.5 tackles-for-loss and four sacks. On three occasions the senior registered double-digit tackles. He wrapped up his CAU career with 185 career tackles with 22 coming behind the line of scrimmage.

DEMETRIUS NEWBERRY *Chowan* **5-11 225 ILB OLB**

All-CIAA Second Team. Led Chowan's defensive efforts this season. He tallied 81 tackles with 54 solo stops, 21.5 tackles for loss (93 yards), six sacks (45 yards), two fumble recoveries and one forced fumble.

SAMUEL SINGLETON *CSU-Pueblo* **5-11 230 ILB OLB**

All-RMAC Second Team Defense. Started 10 games at inside linebacker, Finished third on the team in tackles with 68 (25 solo) with 6.0 tackles for loss (-14 yards). Added two pass break-ups and forced a fumble. All-RMAC First Team in 2015.

DAYLAN SKIDMORE *Harding* **5-11 235 ILB**

Honorable Mention All-American and 3-time All-GAC led Harding in tackles for the fourth straight season with 88, including 5.0 tackles for loss and 4.0 sacks.

EDDIE SLYE *Brevard* **6-1 230 ILB LS**

Earned his first career All-SAC honor. Through 10 starts for the Tornados, Slye compiled 25 total tackles, 14 solo stops and 11 assists, while contributing one tackle for loss on the year. Biggest impact, however, came in the form of the kicking game as the senior snapped for the Tornados 10 out of 11 games on the season for over 50 snaps, aiding Tornados punter to finish the year with a 38.7 yards per punt average. Slye's impact was also noticed with Brevard's field goal game, as the senior aided in the Tornados making four out of 5 field goals on the year, with the only miss coming from 55-yards. Brevard also finished the season a perfect 18-18 in extra-point attempts, tied with Lenoir-Rhyne for tops amongst all SAC opponents.

BEN TAUCHEN *Michigan Tech* **6-2 230 ILB**

2nd Team All-GLIAC. Finished the 2016 season with 67 total tackles, which included a sack and three tackles for a loss. He also broke up three passes this past season. His total tackles ranked second on the team and his tackles per game average (6.7) was also second for the Huskies' defense. Tauchen finished his four-year collegiate career with 201 total tackles.

DRAKE THENELL *Colorado School of Mines* **6-2 220 ILB OLB**

Thenell compiled 65 tackles, 3.5 TFL, and a sack from his inside position, and co-lead the RMAC with three fumble recoveries. He also had an interception; the senior was a 2nd Team All-RMAC in 2016 and an honorable mention pick in 2015.

JAWAN TURNER *California University of Pennsylvania* **5-11 240 ILB**

All-Region as a defensive lineman. Received all-region laurels while in his third year as a starter. He ranks third on the team with 43 stops (21 solo) and also has posted 10.5 TFL and 6.5 sacks, plus four forced fumbles. Turner has recovered three fumbles this season and returned a pair for touchdowns.

NICHOLAS VALENTI *Assumption College* **5-11 256 ILB**

Secured his second all-conference selection, making 63 stops to go with one sack and 7.5 tackles for a loss.

JARRETT WOOD *Winona State* **6-3 245 ILB OLB**

Good-sized, solid linebacker. Has seen action in every game since he was a freshman. 3-year starter. 2016 Stats: 35 tackles, 5.5 TFLs, 1.5 sacks, 2 QBHs, 2 FR, FF, 3 blocked kicks.

AUSTIN YURKO *Western (CO)* **5-11 268 ILB**

Was the Mountaineers' sack leader in 2016, recording 4.5 and totaling 40 yards. The senior defensive lineman also forced three fumbles, recovering two, and blocked a field goal on special teams. Yurko's 61 tackles was fourth best on the team and his 7.5 tackles for a loss was tied for third most. TEarned his third All-RMAC selection.

BROOKS ARTHUR *Alderson Broaddus University* **6-0 235 MLB**

Great Midwest Athletic Conference All-Conference team. Named to the all-conference team after a strong season. Arthur finished with 37 tackles, six tackles for loss, and two interceptions. For his career, he finished with 151 tackles, 18 tackles for loss, four sacks, and three interceptions.

DERRICK BRYANT *Indianapolis* **5-10 215 MLB**

Undersized MLB. Compiled a career-high 121 stops from the middle linebacker spot. Picked up his second straight first-team nod after ranking in the top 15 in Division II in tackles per game.

CODY BURTSCHER *Tarleton* **5-11 230 MLB**

Named a finalist for the 2016 Cliff Harris Award. The second player in Tarleton football history to earn All-America recognition from the American Football Coaches Association. He was also a CoSIDA first-team Academic All-America selection, D2CCA first-team all-region, first-team All-Lone Star Conference, academic All-LSC, and the Lone Star Conference Linebacker of the Year. Finished the season as the Lone Star Conference leader in tackles with 117 while tacking on 6.0 tackles for a loss, 4.5 sacks, and three interceptions. He was also named the LSC Defensive Player of the Week after lifting the Texans to a 35-5 win over Angelo State in September. He also boasts a 3.93 grade point average as a bio-medical science major. Former running back.

Anthony DeDAMOS *Wayne State (MI)* **6-2 250 MLB**

2016: Named to the GLIAC All-Academic Excellence Team, served as one of the team captains. Earned Second Team All-GLIAC honors. Started all 11 games at middle linebacker. Led the squad in both assisted tackles (31) and total tackles (61), and tied-for-second in quarterback hurries (3). Totaled 5.5 tackles for loss (2 solo, 7 assisted) and two assisted sacks. 40th among all active D2 players in total tackles for loss with 35.0, 57th with 137 career solo tackles and 64th with 247 total tackles.

KEANU FOKI *Dixie State* **6-1 255 MLB**

Earned first team All-RMAC honors this year as a defensive lineman, finishing the season with 45 tackles (10.5 for loss), five quarterback hurries, and a forced fumble. Foki also set the new DSU single-season sack record with an RMAC-best 7.5 sacks this season. Received invitation to participate in Dream Bowl V.

GABE FREEMAN *West Georgia* **6-1 237 MLB**

A three-time All-GSC performer, as he was Second Team as a utility player in 2014, then Second Team as a linebacker in 2015 and now 2016. Freeman had 33 tackles, including two for a loss, a sack and an interception on the year.

EDDRICK HARRIS *North Alabama* **5-10 231 MLB**

A first-team All-GSC and All-Super Region 2 pick, is a four-year letterman. He leads UNA in tackles this season with 59 total stops. He has also intercepted two passes that he returned for 34 yards and one touchdown, broke up four passes and forced one fumble.

JORDAN HERDMAN *Simon Fraser* **6-2 235 MLB**

Two-time Great Northwest Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year. AFCA Division II All-America Second Team and nominated for the Cliff Harris award as the best defensive player in NCAA Division II Football despite playing for a winless team! Re-wrote the Great Northwest Athletic Conference record book during his career, claiming the all-time marks in tackles (428) and assisted tackles (223). Herdman also holds the GNAC single game records with 26 tackles and 17 solo stops. ranked ninth in Division II with an average of 11.3 tackles per game. Finishing with a conference-leading 113 total tackles (56 solo, 57 assisted), Herdman fell three solo tackles shy of equalling the GNAC career record of 208. Was First Team All-Conference and West Region and named to the GNAC All-Academic Team with a 3.90 GPA as a biomedical physiology major three straight years.

JOE MORAN *Grand Valley State* **6-2 240 MLB**

An excellent student and a consistent and focused athlete. Usually averages 50 total tackles. 2016 Stats: 33 tackles, 1.5 TFLs, INT, PBU, 2 FR.

ZACH OLSZEWSKI *Ashland University* **6-0 238 MLB**

Still ranked as one of the top inside linebackers in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, even though he has only earned All-GLIAC honorable mention honors for the past two years. His 73 total tackles, 4½ for loss, one sack, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble in 2016 and 155 tackles over the past two seasons speak for themselves.

JERROD SHELBY *American International College* **6-4 215 MLB**

Named to the Northeast-10 Conference First Team. Shelby recorded 110 total tackles in 2016, with 5.5 tackles for loss, 0.5 sacks, and two interceptions on the season.

BOB VERNICK *Slippery Rock* **6-1 230 MLB**

Fought through injuries to play in, and start, nine games. A first team All-PSAC West honoree who ranked second on the team in tackles with 69 and interceptions with four. Also recorded 3.5 tackles for loss and five pass break-ups. Had 10 or more tackles in a game four times. Began season with back-to-back 10-tackle performances.

A.J. WENTLAND *McKendree* **6-4 240 MLB**

Made his impact on the Bearcats' record book during his four seasons in a McKendree uniform. Early in 2016, the Bearcats' middle linebacker became the program's all-time leader in tackles, and finished his career with 421 stops. For the third year in a row, Wentland set a school record for tackles in a season, notching 145 in 2016. In his last 32 games, Wentland posted at least 10 tackles in a game 28 times. During the Bearcats' Oct. 1 game at Southwest Baptist University, he had 22 tackles to tie his own single-game record established back in the 2015 regular-season opener against West Liberty University. Following the season, Wentland was named the 2016 GLVC Defensive Player of the Year and to the 2016 D2CCA Football All-America team.

ELIJAH WILLIAMS *UNC-Pembroke* **6-0 235 MLB ILB**

Team's second leading tackler who is active in all phases of the defense. Strong tackler, very good in coverage. 2016 Stats: 66 tackles, 4 TFLs, 2 sacks, INT, 4 PBUs, 3 QBHs, FR, 2 FR.