

NICK BECKER *Baker* **6-3 255 DE**

First Team All-Conference. Big playmaker, high-energy, non-stop motor. Should have been All-American. Tied a BU record for sacks in a game with four, in BU's 44-21 NAIA First Round win over No. 13 Sterling. 2016 Stats: 71 tackles, 23 TFLs, 13 sacks, INT, 4 PBUs, 2 FR.

CHRIS CASHER *Faulkner* **6-4 265 DE**

Casher, a transfer from Florida State, was third for the Eagles with 60 total tackles this season and second in tackles for a loss with 14.5 netting 46.6 yards. He also led the team in sacks per game (0.9) and total sacks (8.5) and was third and sixth, respectively in the MSC. Nationally he ranked first in forced fumbles per game with 0.5 while ranking 11th in sacks per contest, 15th in total sacks. Casher was a five-star defensive end and a Top 30 national recruit in the Class of 2012. Has seen his career marred by injury. He moved to tight end in the spring of '16 at FSU, but left due to academics. Also had a couple of off-field incidents both involving Jameis Winston.

CHAD CONWAY *Pikeville* **6-5 255 DE**

All-MSU. Decent pass rusher, alert, knack for batting down passes. 2016 Stats: 62 tackles, 7.0 TFLs, 2.5 sacks, INT, 6 PBUs, FF.

NATE CRNKOVICH *Morningside* **6-4 245 DE OLB**

All-GPAC defensive lineman had 30 tackles with 14 solos and 16 assists, including 5.5 tackles for losses of 13 yards, and was second on the team with five quarterback hurries.

DILLON DITTEMORE *Marian* **6-4 240 DE OLB**

Defensively, the Knights were led by Dillon Dittmore, who earned second team honors. Dittmore led the nation in sacks with 16 and had 61 total tackles. The senior forced three fumbles and recovered two more, while racking up 19.5 tackles for loss. Nominated for the Cliff Harris Award. The Cliff Harris Award is presented to the top defensive player in the country representing Division II, III and NAIA colleges and universities.

ZACH LANNING *Ottawa (KS)* **6-3 262 DE**

Was named Second Team All-KCAC. He was a four-time All-KCAC performer. Lanning finished the season with 54 tackles (20 UT/34 AT). He had nine tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks, two pass break ups, and one blocked kick.

CADE O'BRYAN *Georgetown (KY)* **6-4 280 DE**

First-team all-conference. Team's leading tackler. Agile for his size but can play inside as well. 2016 Stats: 58 tackles, 15.5 TFLs, 9 sacks, 2 PBUs, FF.

NOLAN SCHROEDER *Concordia (Neb.)* **6-3 265 DE**

Honorable mention All-GPAC in 1st year as a starter. Registered 22 tackles, including three for loss Had one sack for 10 yards lost ... broke up four passes. Was a member of a unit that had national rankings of 16th in total defense (328.4), 21st in pass defense (182.6) and 28th in scoring defense (24.1).

DAMIEN STEVENS *Central Methodist* **6-3 255 DE**

Fordham Transfer was named to the All-Conference 2nd Team Defense. Stevens finished the season with 56 tackles, nine and a half tackles for a loss, along with three and a half sacks.

NOEY TAUAVE *Dickinson State* **6-2 270 DE**

All-American, NSAA Football Defensive Most Valuable Player. Noey finished the season playing all 12 games, recording 77 tackles with 17 tackles for loss for 51.5 yards. Tauave also tallied five sacks for 29.5 yards. Noey finished the season ranked #25 in the NAIA in total tackles for loss and #33 in tackles for loss per game with 1.4.

JOSH TREYBAL *Northwestern (IA)* **6-3 263 DE**

A three-time all-conference pick, posted a team-high 44 tackles, tops among d-linemen in the GPAC. Treybal ranked seventh in the conference with 6.5 sacks this season and closed his career with 13.5 sacks.

SAM VAN GINKEL *Northwestern (IA)* **6-5 245 DE**

All-American led the GPAC and ranked ninth in the NAIA with 11 sacks this season. The senior was second on the team with 38.5 tackles and totaled a team-high nine quarterback hurries. Van Ginkel, a four-time first team all-conference selection, closed his career as the GPAC and program's all-time leader with 39.5 sacks.

VINCE WURST *Ottawa (KS)* **6-2 268 DE**

Earned First Team All-KCAC honors after being named to the Second Team a year ago. He led the team in tackles with 88 (45 UT/43 AT). Wurst had eight sacks, 11 tackles for loss, and one forced fumble. He is ranked 22nd in the NAIA in total sacks (8) and 29th in sacks per game (0.7).