

SHANE BAUMANN *Benedictine (KS)* 6-0 200 SS

Good-sized safety. Was the Ravens second-leading tackler this season with 77 tackles. He also recorded five break ups, one interception and two forced fumbles.

JUSTIN GALLEGOS *Missouri Valley* 5-11 190 SS FS

2016 Heart of America Athletic Conference All-Southern Division 1st Team. Ended the season fourth on the team in total tackles (46). He also led the team, was second in the division and No. 12 in the NAIA, with five interceptions.

KALEB GARCIA *Jamestown* 6-3 200 SS

Honorable Mention All-NSAA, 84 tackles led all NSAA defensive backs and was eighth overall among all positions. His 11.5 tackles for loss also led all NSAA defensive backs.

NICK HOLSHOE *Concordia (MI)* 6-1 208 SS

Midwest League 2nd Team. Holshoe led the team with 88 total tackles and also had two interceptions, two forced fumbles, two recoveries, and 7 breakups. He is second all-time at Concordia with 381 career tackles and first all-time with 14 interceptions.

JACK HOPKINS *Pikeville* 6-1 220 SS

All-MSC safety. Very good tackler, decent in coverage. Good size and instincts. 2016 Stats: 91 tackles, 4.5 TFLs, INT, 4 PBUs, QBH, FF.

TAYLOR JAMES *Morningside* 5-11 205 SS FS

All-GPAC Second Team had 27 solos and 19 assists for 46 total tackles, including 6.5 tackles for losses of 19 yards, to go along with three interceptions and two pass breakups.

NATHAN JERNIGAN *Cumberland (TN)* 6-0 202 SS

All-American as a LB. Mid-South Conference West Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season. He collected 105 tackles in 11 contests this season, ranking third in the conference and tied for 21st nationally at 9.5 tackles per game. Jernigan registered five outings with double-digit stops, including a career-best 16 at Bethel University and 13 versus the University of the Cumberlands. He posted 11.0 tackles for loss with four sacks, five quarterback hurries, three pass breakups and one forced fumble. Jernigan led the Phoenix in tackles all four seasons at Cumberland, including 66 stops as a redshirt freshman, 99 as a sophomore and 104 as a junior. He finished his Phoenix career with 374 tackles with 31.0 tackles for loss, 10.0 sacks, four interceptions and 14 pass breakups.

GUNNAR KAYSER *Montana Tech* 6-4 220 SS FS

Named the Defensive Player of the Year by the Frontier Conference and was a Second Team AFCA-NAIA All-American. Kayser led the Frontier Conference in interceptions and ranked fourth in the NAIA. The senior safety led the Orediggers with 69 total tackles and helped Montana Tech lead the Frontier Conference in most defensive categories. Kayser is also a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete carrying a 4.0 grade point average while pursuing a degree in Petroleum Engineering.

ALDEN MANN *Wayland Baptist* 5-10 200 SS

As a LB, finished second in the NAIA with 17.0 tackles per game and set school records for most tackles in a career (403), season (136) and game (25). He was named CSFL Defensive Player of the Year and is a three-time All-CSFL pick, including a first-team honoree the last two seasons.

MICHAEL RABARA *McPherson* 6-1 195 SS

Honorable Mention All-KCAC was third on the team in tackles with 90 while also posting 6.0 tackles for loss, two interceptions, three pass-breakups and recovering two fumbles.

RODERICK RYLES *Lindenwood* 6-0 206 SS

Transfer from Pitt. Has appeared in 42 games. Recorded 275 tackles, also had 5.0 tackles for loss, five interceptions, five pass breakups, three forced fumbles, and two fumble recoveries.

LUCAS SCHAWANG *Midland* 6-0 210 SS

1st Team All-GPAC ranked second on the team with 75 total tackles this year. He added one sack and three interceptions in his senior season. Schawang ranked 10th in the GPAC in tackles per game (6.8).

JEREMY SHUPPERD *Marian* 6-3 230 SS

Earned his first career honor as a second team selection in '15; named All-MSFA Midwest Second Team in 2016 as well. 2016: Appeared in 12 games, made 50 total tackles, including 17 solos, recorded one tackle for loss, made two interceptions and broke up two more passes. Recorded season-high 11 tackles Oct. 29 vs. Concordia (Mich.).

CHANDLER STALEY *Benedictine (KS)* 6-0 200 SS

Team's leading tackler with 79 tackles, 6.5 TFLs, and an INT.

TUCKER STANLEY *Eastern Oregon* 6-0 201 SS

Tabbed first-team all-conference as a LB. He ranked 19th in the country in tackles per game (9.7), and he's totaled three interceptions, 11 tackles for loss, 2.5 sacks, four pass breakups, and seven passes defended.

STEPHEN THAYER *Missouri Valley* 5-9 202 SS

Finished his career at Missouri Valley by breaking the program's single-season tackles record (111) and topped the team with 11 total sacks and 21.5 tackles-for-loss. He was also named the Heart Southern Division Co-Defensive Player of the Year, and was a first team all-division selection. In addition to the conference honors, Thayer was named to the 2017 AFCA/NAIA All-American Team as a first team selection. At a recent pro day, finished with a 40-yard dash time of 4.45 seconds, and a vertical jump of 35 inches. Both results would have put Thayer in the top 12 of safeties performing at the NFL Combine.