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**NSIC Football Release
 November 19, 2002**

**2002 NSIC FOOTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM & AWARD
 WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference announced its 2002 All-Conference Football Team today, honoring first and second team selections, in addition to, honorable mention picks and the conference's annual individual award winners. The team and award winners were selected by the league's coaches.

Heading the list of first-team all-conference offensive selections is **Minnesota-Duluth senior quarterback Rick Fritz**. Fritz, a native of **Eden Prairie, MN**, was named **NSIC Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Year** after leading the league in overall TD passes (30) and finishing third in passing yards (2,430). He is currently second in the nation in passing efficiency with a 173.4 rating. Fritz holds several NSIC records including the career passing yardage (6,779), passing TDs (74) and total offense (7,829) marks. He also tied the NSIC single-season mark for TD passes with 29 in NSIC games only (Jeff Loots, SSU '91). In doing so, he led UMD to a 11-0 regular season (9-0 NSIC), the school's first league title since 1996, a top ten national ranking and a first-ever NCAA Division II football playoff berth. The Bulldogs will face fourth-ranked Northwest Missouri State (11-0) this Saturday in Maryville, MO at high noon.

Defensively, **Winona State junior linebacker Deric Sieck** earned the **NSIC Defensive Most Valuable Player of the Year** honors. Sieck finished the year with 121 tackles (62 unassisted), 1.5 sacks, one interception and one fumble recovery to lead the Warriors to a second place finish in the NSIC (8-1) and a Mineral Water Bowl berth on Saturday, December 7 in Excelsior Springs, MO.

Winona State senior quarterback Bruce Carpenter (Johnsburg, IL) was selected as this year's recipient of the **NSIC Glen Galligan Award**. The award is given to a student-athlete who participates at his institution for four years and is academically superior while making a positive contribution to the institution. The Galligan award was initiated in 1948 to honor an outstanding senior football player in the NSIC. Galligan was the athletic director at Winona State from 1929-47 and head football coach of the Warriors from 1927-33, and 1935. Academically, Carpenter has a 3.58 GPA and is an Art Education major, while his contributions on the gridiron have included leading the NSIC in overall passing yardage (2,603) and ranking second in TD passes (29) this season.

Also included on the First Team All-NSIC is **Minnesota-Morris senior runningback Paris Moore (Phoenix, AZ)**. Moore rushed for a 2002 NSIC-best and school-record 1,449 yards, finished seventh in nation in rushing yards per game (131.7) and scored 13 TDs (14 total). The other first team **runningback** is **Winona State's Kevin Curtin (Jr. - Midlothian, IL)**. Curtin, currently leads the nation in all purpose yards (2,164 and 196.7 PG) and punt returns (430 and 22.6 PG), while he is third in the NSIC in overall rushing yards (999) and scoring (15 TDs). At **wide receiver**, **Minnesota-Duluth's Tim Battaglia (Jr. - Cloquet, MN)** and **Bemidji State's Ryan Welle (Sr. - Bemidji, MN)** earned first-team all-conference recognition. Battaglia broke the NSIC single-season record for TD receptions for conference games only with 16 (17 overall) and is currently first in the league in overall receiving yards (1,007) and scoring (102 points). Welle led the NSIC in overall pass catches (64), finished second in receiving yards with 989 yards and broke or tied BSU career marks for receptions (t168), yards (2,676) and TDs (t24). On the first-team **offensive line** is **Brandon Pink (Sr., OT - Northome, MN)** of Bemidji State, **Nate Reimers (Sr., OT - Eden Prairie, MN)** and **Pete Lawton (So., OG - Spooner, WI)** of Minnesota-Duluth, **Matt Brown (Jr., OG - Savage, MN)** and **Malachi Johnson (Sr., C - Stillwater, MN)** of Winona State. **Minnesota-Morris's Mike Walker (Jr. - Phoenix, AZ)** caught 43 passes for 467 yards and two TDs at the **tight end** position.

Defensively, **Minnesota-Duluth's senior defensive end Nate Davis (Portage, WI)** headlines the list of first-team all-conference lineman. Davis is first in the NSIC in sacks this season with 8.5 and fifth in tackles for loss with 14. Joining Davis as first team **defensive end** is **Concordia-Saint Paul's Joe Peters (Jr. - Cold Spring, MN)**. Peters finished second in the league sacks (7.5) and tackles for loss (17.0). On the interior line, the two **defensive tackles** are from **Minnesota-Duluth, Ben Tajha (Sr. - Floodwood, MN)** and **Mike Walters (Sr. - Eden Prairie, MN)**. Tajha and Walters recorded 17 tackles apiece, while Tajha added 2.0 sacks (2.5 tackles for loss) and Walters added 3.0 tackles for loss. Rounding out the **linebacking** crew is **Northern State's Jason Carson (Jr. - Hacienda Heights, CA)** and **Wayne State's Adam Long (So. - Bennington, NE)**. Carson, voted as the **2002 NSIC Defensive Newcomer of the Year**, compiled 79 tackles (48 solo, 15 for loss) while leading the NSIC in forced fumbles with five. Long, last year's NSIC Defensive Newcomer of the Year, contributed 113 tackles (3rd NSIC) and 12.5 for loss (9th NSIC) to WSC's defensive effort. The four **defensive backs** selected to the first team include **Concordia-Saint Paul's Reed Tietz (Sr. - Montgomery, MN)**, **Minnesota-Duluth's Cash Langeness (Jr. - Luck, WI)** and **Winona State's Nick Jaeger (Jr. - Lake Geneva, WI)** and **Steven Koehler (Jr. - Cresco, IA)**. Tietz finished the year with 60 tackles, three pass breakups, one interception and one fumble recovery. Langeness had two interceptions (1 for TD), 27 tackles, three sacks and nine pass breakups (3rd NSIC). Jaeger recorded two interceptions, 57 tackles and six pass breakups, while teammate Koehler picked off four passes for 75 yards, posted 61 tackles, five pass breakups and a fumble recovery.

Concordia-Saint Paul junior punter Josh Raphael (Orange, CA) earned first-team honors leading the NSIC in average yard per punt (41.0) on 50 chances. **Minnesota-Duluth's Chad Gerlach (So. - Wisconsin Rapids, WI)** was named first-team **place kicker** as he knocked through 10 of 14 field goal attempts and 57 of 63 extra point tries. **Senior Joe Mapson of Concordia-Saint Paul (Champaign, IL)** and **Curtin** were selected to the first-team as kick and punt return specialists, respectively. Mapson led the conference in average yards per kickoff (32.8) on 13 returns. Curtin currently leads the nation and the NSIC in punt return average (22.6). He also broke the NSIC single-season record for punt return yards (374) and average (28.8) in league games only, while scoring three TDs in that fashion. This season, Curtin earned First Team All-NSIC honors at runningback and punt return specialist, a rare feat for any individual.

Minnesota-Duluth's Bob Nielson was selected by his peers as the **2002 NSIC Coach of the Year**. The fourth year coach at UMD, led the Bulldogs to the NSIC championship, the school's first-ever 11-win season and second undefeated regular season (11-0 overall, 9-0 NSIC) in the program's 70-year history. Nielson's efforts has propelled UMD to the NCAA Division II playoffs for the first time in school history as the Bulldogs will hit the road to do battle with two-time national champion (1998 & 1999) Northwest Missouri State this Saturday. Nielson's most recent victory against Winona State, last year's NSIC title holder, was his 100th as a collegiate coach. This is UMD's second consecutive season in postseason action, as the Bulldogs participated in last year's MIAA/NSIC Mineral Water Bowl. Minnesota-Duluth is also the second NSIC team in as many years to earn a NCAA playoff berth. The Bulldogs are currently ranked No. 9 by Don Hansen's Football Gazette, No. 11 by the American Football Coaches Association and No. 12 by D2Football.com.

Last but not least, the final individual award was earned by **Concordia-Saint Paul's James McNear III (Fr., QB - Des Moines, IA)**. McNear was selected as the **NSIC Offensive Newcomer of the Year**. He finished first in the conference in total offense (2,752 yards - 275.2 PG), while passing for 2,264 yards and 20 TDs. McNear showed his versatility as he also rushed for 488 yards and seven TDs.

2002 NSIC Football Standings

| | NSIC Record | | | Overall Record | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---|-------|----------------|----|-------|
| | W | L | Pct. | W | L | Pct. |
| *+^# Minnesota-Duluth | 9 | 0 | 1.000 | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| & Winona State | 8 | 1 | .889 | 8 | 3 | .727 |
| ~ Concordia-Saint Paul | 7 | 2 | .778 | 9 | 2 | .818 |
| Bemidji State | 6 | 3 | .667 | 6 | 5 | .545 |
| MSU Moorhead | 4 | 5 | .444 | 5 | 5 | .500 |
| Northern State | 4 | 5 | .444 | 4 | 7 | .364 |
| Southwest State | 3 | 6 | .333 | 4 | 7 | .364 |
| Wayne State (Neb.) | 3 | 6 | .333 | 3 | 8 | .273 |
| Minnesota-Crookston | 1 | 8 | .111 | 1 | 10 | .091 |
| Minnesota-Morris | 0 | 9 | .000 | 0 | 11 | .000 |

*2002 NSIC Champion

&2002 Mineral Water Bowl Berth

+No. 9 Don Hansen's Football Gazette / #No. 12 D2Football.com

^No. 11 American Football Coaches Association

%No. 34 Don Hansen's Football Gazette

~No. 40 Don Hansen's Football Gazette

NCAA DIVISION II PLAYOFFS: First Round (Saturday, Nov. 23)
 (+9/^11/#12) MN-DULUTH @ (#4) NW Missouri State 12:00 p.m.

NSIC/MIAA Mineral Water Bowl: Excelsior Springs, Mo. (Sat., Dec. 7)
 (+34) WINONA STATE vs. (#22/^23/+35) Emporia St., KS 1:00 p.m.

NSIC FOOTBALL RELEASE 2-2-2

NSIC Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Year

Rick Fritz, Minnesota-Duluth (Sr., QB - Eden Prairie, MN)

NSIC Defensive Most Valuable Player of the Year

Deric Sieck, Winona State (Jr., LB - Fayette, IA)

NSIC Glen Galligan Award

Bruce Carpenter, Winona State (Sr., QB - Johnsburg, IL)

NSIC Offensive Newcomer of the Year

James McNear III, Concordia-Saint Paul (Fr., QB - Des Moines, IA)

NSIC Defensive Newcomer of the Year

Jason Carson, Northern State (Jr., LB - Hacienda Heights, CA)

NSIC Coach of the Year

Bob Nielson, University of Minnesota-Duluth

2002 All-Conference First Team

| <i>Offensive Tackle</i> | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | School | Hometown |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|-----|----------------------|----------------------|
| Brandon Pink | 6-4 | 279 | Sr. | Bemidji State | Northome, MN |
| Nate Reimers | 6-5 | 310 | Sr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Eden Prairie, MN |
| <i>Offensive Guard</i> | | | | | |
| ***Pete Lawton | 6-4 | 305 | Sr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Spoooner, WI |
| Matt Brown | 6-2 | 310 | Jr. | Winona State | Savage, MN |
| <i>Center</i> | | | | | |
| Malachi Johnson | 6-1 | 250 | Sr. | Winona State | Stillwater, MN |
| <i>Quarterback</i> | | | | | |
| Rick Fritz | 5-10 | 195 | Sr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Eden Prairie, MN |
| <i>Running Back</i> | | | | | |
| Paris Moore | 6-0 | 190 | Sr. | Minnesota-Morris | Phoenix, AZ |
| Kevin Curtin | 5-9 | 185 | Jr. | Winona State | Midlothian, IL |
| <i>Wide Receiver</i> | | | | | |
| Ryan Welle | 5-11 | 203 | Sr. | Bemidji State | Bemidji, MN |
| Tim Battaglia | 6-3 | 200 | Jr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Cloquet, MN |
| <i>Tight End</i> | | | | | |
| Mike Walker | 6-5 | 240 | Jr. | Minnesota-Morris | Phoenix, AZ |
| <i>Defensive End</i> | | | | | |
| **Joe Peters | 6-5 | 260 | Jr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Cold Spring, MN |
| Nate Davis | 6-2 | 245 | Sr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Portage, WI |
| <i>Defensive Tackle</i> | | | | | |
| Ben Tajha | 6-4 | 290 | Sr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Floodwood, MN |
| Mike Walters | 6-3 | 275 | Sr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Eden Prairie, MN |
| <i>Line Backer</i> | | | | | |
| Jason Carson | 6-0 | 210 | Jr. | Northern State | Hacienda Heights, CA |
| Adam Long | 6-0 | 230 | So. | Wayne State (NE) | Bennington, NE |
| Deric Sieck | 6-2 | 230 | Jr. | Winona State | Fayette, IA |
| <i>Defensive Back</i> | | | | | |
| **Reed Tietz | 6-2 | 210 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Montgomery, MN |
| Cash Langeness | 5-11 | 185 | Jr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Luck, WI |
| **Nick Jaeger | 6-1 | 195 | Jr. | Winona State | Lake Geneva, WI |
| Steven Koehler | 6-1 | 190 | Jr. | Winona State | Cresco, IA |
| <i>Punter</i> | | | | | |
| Josh Raphael | 5-11 | 200 | Jr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Orange, CA |
| <i>Place Kicker</i> | | | | | |
| Chad Gerlach | 5-9 | 180 | So. | Minnesota-Duluth | Wisconsin Rapids, WI |
| <i>Kick Return Specialist</i> | | | | | |
| Joe Mapson | 5-10 | 180 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Champaign, IL |
| <i>Punt Return Specialist</i> | | | | | |
| ***Kevin Curtin | 5-9 | 185 | Jr. | Winona State | Midlothian, IL |

*Denotes number of times First Team All-NSIC

Note: Lawton was First Team All-NSIC OT in 2000

2002 All-Conference Second Team

| <i>Offensive Tackle</i> | Ht. | Wt. | Yr. | School | Hometown |
|----------------------------------|------|-----|-----|----------------------|-------------------|
| David Blaskowski | 6-2 | 295 | Jr. | Winona State | Ringle, WI |
| Jon Holzer | 6-3 | 262 | Sr. | MSU Moorhead | Wykoff, MN |
| <i>Offensive Guard</i> | | | | | |
| Nick Sundsmo | 6-5 | 310 | So. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Saint Paul, MN |
| Ross Montgomery | 6-3 | 267 | Sr. | MSU Moorhead | Wykoff, MN |
| <i>Center</i> | | | | | |
| Adam Fechhelm | 6-2 | 260 | So. | Minnesota-Duluth | Wausau, WI |
| <i>Quarter Back</i> | | | | | |
| Bruce Carpenter | 6-2 | 220 | Sr. | Winona State | Johnsburg, IL |
| <i>Running Back</i> | | | | | |
| Chris Washington | 5-9 | 193 | Jr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Minneapolis, MN |
| Shane Carter | 5-11 | 222 | Sr. | MSU Moorhead | Aberdeen, SD |
| <i>Receiver</i> | | | | | |
| Joseph Mapson | 5-10 | 175 | Jr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Champaign, IL |
| Chris Samp | 6-2 | 200 | Jr. | Winona State | Green Bay, WI |
| <i>Tight End</i> | | | | | |
| James Mansfield | 6-2 | 225 | So. | Northern State | Norris, SD |
| <i>Defensive End</i> | | | | | |
| Geoff Fischer | 6-1 | 230 | So. | Minnesota-Duluth | Lakeville, MN |
| Ty Breitlow | 6-3 | 250 | Jr. | Winona State | Wauwatosa, WI |
| <i>Defensive Tackle</i> | | | | | |
| Phil Alejandrino | 6-1 | 255 | Jr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Chino, CA |
| Dustin Looman | 6-2 | 260 | Sr. | Winona State | Paynesville, MN |
| <i>Line Backer</i> | | | | | |
| Jon Aamot | 6-0 | 232 | Jr. | Bemidji State | Makoti, ND |
| Adam Skinner | 6-2 | 230 | So. | Minnesota-Duluth | Cumberland, WI |
| Jake Tietje | 6-2 | 230 | Sr. | Winona State | Fairmont, MN |
| <i>Defensive Back</i> | | | | | |
| Marty Humeniuk | 5-9 | 200 | Jr. | Bemidji State | Baudette, MN |
| Willie Ingram | 6-0 | 220 | Jr. | Minnesota-Morris | Los Angeles, CA |
| Greg Staatz | 5-9 | 160 | Jr. | Southwest State | Pipestone, MN |
| Kyle Lingenfelter | 6-1 | 205 | Jr. | Wayne State (NE) | Plainview, NE |
| <i>Punter</i> | | | | | |
| Owen Olson | 6-0 | 185 | Jr. | Northern State | Denver, CO |
| <i>Place Kicker</i> | | | | | |
| Steve Opgenorth | 5-10 | 180 | Jr. | Winona State | Green Bay, WI |
| <i>Kickoff Return Specialist</i> | | | | | |
| Josh Schleusner | 5-9 | 169 | Sr. | Southwest State | New Underwood, SD |
| <i>Punt Return Specialist</i> | | | | | |
| Deacon Burns | 5-8 | 185 | Fr. | Northern State | Brownwood, TX |

NORTHERN SUN SHOWCASE TV SHOW



Show #3 - Airs: Wed., Nov. 27 - 2:30 p.m.

Replays: Sat., Nov. 30 - 5:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 1 - 5:00 a.m.

NORTHERN SUN SPOTLIGHT RADIO SHOW



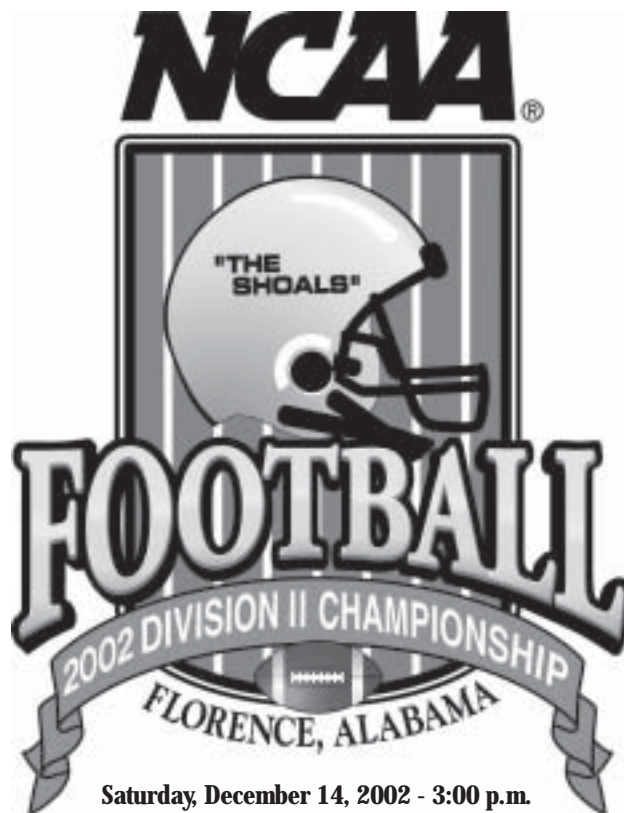
Show #11 Airs: Wed., Nov. 20 - 10:00 p.m.

Please check your local affiliate for day of the week and airtime.

NSIC FOOTBALL RELEASE 3-3-3

2002 All-Conference Honorable Mention

| <i>Offensive Tackle</i> | <u>Ht.</u> | <u>Wt.</u> | <u>Yr.</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Hometown</u> |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Casy Knutson | 6-4 | 310 | Jr. | Northern State | Shakopee, MN |
| Pat Mertes | 6-6 | 352 | Jr. | Southwest State | Sibley, IA |
| <i>Offensive Guard</i> | | | | | |
| Bryan Stoffel | 6-2 | 296 | Jr. | Bemidji State | Saint Paul, MN |
| Chad Behnke | 6-5 | 285 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Eagan, MN |
| Cory Becker | 6-3 | 290 | Jr. | MSU Moorhead | New York Mills, MN |
| Nick Bogenrief | 6-1 | 270 | So. | Southwest State | Delano, MN |
| <i>Center</i> | | | | | |
| Brice Vollbrecht | 6-0 | 277 | Jr. | Bemidji State | Morristown, MN |
| Dan Barfknecht | 6-0 | 265 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Lakeville, MN |
| William Freitag | 6-3 | 265 | Fr. | Minnesota-Crookston | Maple Valley, WA |
| <i>Quarter Back</i> | | | | | |
| James McNear III | 6-2 | 175 | Fr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Des Moines, IA |
| Brad Duerr | 5-11 | 207 | Sr. | MSU Moorhead | Fosston, MN |
| Justin Schreiber | 6-0 | 175 | Sr. | Minnesota-Crookston | Glyndon, MN |
| Jake Parten | 6-2 | 220 | Sr. | Northern State | Sioux City, IA |
| <i>Running Back</i> | | | | | |
| Ken Sather | 5-9 | 186 | Sr. | Southwest State | Dawson, MN |
| Corey Parlet | 6-0 | 248 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Minneapolis, MN |
| <i>Receiver</i> | | | | | |
| Steve Battaglia | 6-3 | 190 | Sr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Cloquet, MN |
| Eric Kjar | 6-5 | 220 | Jr. | Wayne State (NE) | Kemmerer, WY |
| Jeff Dobbertin | 5-11 | 205 | Sr. | Winona State | Johnsburg, IL |
| Adam Lilla | 6-1 | 190 | Sr. | Winona State | Winona, MN |
| <i>Tight End</i> | | | | | |
| Adam Grunzke | 6-1 | 255 | So. | Minnesota-Crookston | Easton, MN |
| <i>Defensive End</i> | | | | | |
| Kevin Steinke | 6-2 | 240 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Brainerd, MN |
| Brian Simon | 6-5 | 256 | Sr. | Southwest State | Cold Spring, MN |
| Tim Rexius | 6-2 | 230 | Jr. | Wayne State (NE) | Norfolk, NE |
| Matt Wayne | 6-2 | 250 | Jr. | Winona State | Menomonie, WI |
| <i>Defensive Tackle</i> | | | | | |
| Mitch Hecker | 6-0 | 276 | Jr. | Bemidji State | Jackson, MN |
| Jim Stanek | 6-3 | 245 | So. | Winona State | Hillsboro, WI |
| <i>Line Backer</i> | | | | | |
| Jon Roscoe | 6-3 | 230 | Sr. | Bemidji State | Fargo, ND |
| James Miley | 5-11 | 225 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | Minneapolis, MN |
| Corey Hoppe | 6-2 | 226 | Sr. | MSU Moorhead | Graceville, MN |
| Justin Briese | 5-10 | 210 | Jr. | Northern State | Pierre, SD |
| Mark Rentschler | 6-1 | 187 | Sr. | Southwest State | Inwood, IA |
| Dave Otto | 6-1 | 235 | Jr. | Minnesota-Duluth | Milltown, WI |
| <i>Defensive Back</i> | | | | | |
| Tom Maus | 5-10 | 185 | Jr. | Bemidji State | Hatton, ND |
| Tell Hammerstrom | 6-1 | 200 | Sr. | Concordia-Saint Paul | New Underwood, SD |
| Nick Starcevic | 6-0 | 190 | Fr. | Minnesota-Crookston | Kimball, MN |
| Nate Becker | 5-8 | 165 | Jr. | Minnesota-Morris | Eden Valley, MN |
| Luke Lokanc | 6-3 | 190 | Fr. | Winona State | Mokena, IL |
| <i>Punter</i> | | | | | |
| Tyson Kassel | 5-11 | 200 | Sr. | Southwest State | Walnut Grove, MN |
| <i>Place Kicker</i> | | | | | |
| Neil Collier | 5-8 | 184 | Sr. | Bemidji State | Gordonville, MO |
| <i>Kickoff / Punt Return Specialist</i> | | | | | |
| Michael Olsonawski | 5-7 | 165 | Sr. | Minnesota-Crookston | Hallock, MN |



Saturday, December 14, 2002 - 3:00 p.m.
Live TV Broadcast - ESPN



Excelsior Springs, MO
Saturday, December 7, 2002 - 1:00 p.m.
WINONA STATE vs. Emporia State, KS