

THE NATIONAL HARLON HILL AWARD COMMITTEE

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For A.M. Release Friday, November 11

TWENTY TWO CANDIDATES VIE FOR HILL TROPHY AS NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FLORENCE - Ala. -- A total of 22 candidates are in the running for the 2011 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year.

The list of candidates was announced Thursday by the National Harlon Hill Award Committee.

The list includes six players from Super Regions 1, 2 and 3 and four from Super Region 4.

Players are nominated and voted on by the sports information directors at the 148 NCAA Division II football-playing institutions. The 22 initial candidates will be placed on regional ballots and the top two players from each of the four NCAA regions will advance to the national ballot when regional voting concludes on November 19.

The winner of the 2011 award, which is presented by the National Harlon Hill Award Committee, will be announced at the 26th annual Harlon Hill Trophy Presentation Banquet on Friday, December 16 at the Florence Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. This year's Hill Trophy Banquet will also include the 13th induction into the Division II Football Hall of Fame.

Tickets are \$50 each or \$400 for a table of eight and can be purchased by calling the Shoals Chamber of Commerce at (256) 764-4661.

The NCAA Division II Championship Game is scheduled for December 17 at Florence's Braly Municipal Stadium at 10 a.m.

The Hill Trophy is sponsored by the **City of Florence, Ala., Florence-Lauderdale Tourism, Opti-Net, the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa and Herff Jones.**

Candidates were initially nominated by the sports information directors at their respective schools and those nominations were then reviewed by the Hill Regional Advisory Committees, which trimmed the list of candidates.

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Among the 2011 candidates are six players who were also candidates a year ago.

The group of 22 candidates includes 12 quarterbacks, nine running backs and one receiver. There are 16 seniors, five juniors and one sophomore.

Among the players vying for the 2011 award from the Super Regional 1 are senior running back **Nic Cooper** of Winston-Salem (N.C.) State University, senior wide receiver **Trevor Kennedy** of Mercyhurst (Pa.) College, junior quarterback **Kevin Morton** of Kutztown (Pa.) University, senior quarterback **Adam Neugebauer** of West Virginia Wesleyan University, senior running back **Rashaad Slowley** of Southern Connecticut State University and senior quarterback **Ray Wagner** of East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University.

Candidates from Super Regional 2 are junior running back **David Carter** of Morehouse (Ga.) College, senior quarterback **Lee Chapple** of the University of North Alabama, senior running back **Travis Daniels** of the University of North Carolina-Pembroke, senior quarterback **Micah Davis** of Delta State (Miss.) University, senior quarterback **Cody Haffly** of Wingate (N.C.) University and senior running back **Jonas Randolph** of Mars Hill (N.C.) College.

Super Regional 3 is represented by junior running back **Joe Glendening** of Hillsdale (Mich.) College, senior quarterback **Clay Garcia** of Colorado School of Mines, senior tailback **Jesse Lewis** of Colorado State University-Pueblo, sophomore quarterback **Chris Mills** of the University of Indianapolis (Ind.), senior running back **Mike Noffsinger** of Ohio Dominican University and senior quarterback **Jake Spitzlberger** of the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Selected from Super Regional 4 are junior quarterback **Mitchell Gale** of Abilene Christian University, junior quarterback **Brandon Kelsey** of Midwestern State (Texas) University, senior quarterback **Dane Simoneau** of Washburn (Kan.) University and junior running back **Jonathan Woodson** of Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

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North Dakota State quarterback Jeff Bentrin won the initial Hill Trophy in 1986, followed by three-time winner - Texas A&I (now Texas A&M-Kingsville) running back Johnny Bailey - in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Another North Dakota State quarterback, Chris Simdorn, claimed the 1990 award, followed by Pittsburg State receiver Ronnie West in 1991, Pittsburg State running back Ronald Moore in 1992, New Haven running back Roger Graham in 1993, Valdosta State quarterback Chris Hatcher in 1994.

North Alabama linebacker Ronald McKinnon became the first and so far only defensive player to win the award in 1995, followed by Truman State running back Jarrett Anderson in 1996, Bloomsburg University running back Irvin Sigler in 1997, Emporia State running back Brian Shay in 1998 and Northern Colorado quarterback Corte McGuffey in 1999.

The award had its second two-time winner when Valdosta State quarterback Dusty Bonner claimed the Hill Trophy in 2000 and 2001.

Grand Valley State quarterback Curt Anes won the Hill Trophy in 2002, followed by North Alabama quarterback Will Hall in 2003, Colorado School of Mines quarterback Chad Frieauf in 2004 and East Stroudsburg's Jimmy Terwilliger in 2005. The last four Hill Trophies have been won by running backs, beginning with Chadron State's Danny Woodhead in 2006 and 2007. Abilene Christian's Bernard Scott won in 2008, followed by Wayne State (Mich.) running back Joique Bell in 2009 and Central Missouri quarterback Eric Czerniewski in 2010.

2011 Harlon Hill Trophy Candidates

SUPER REGIONAL 1	Pos.	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Nic Cooper	RB	6-0	245	SR	Winston-Salem	Clinton, N.C.
Trevor Kennedy	WR	6-0	200	SR	Mercyhurst	Akron, Ohio
Kevin Morton	QB	6-2	212	JR	Kutztown	Abington, Pa.
Adam Neugebauer	QB	6-2	210	SR	West Virginia Wesleyan	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Rashaad Slowley	RB	6-0	205	SR	Southern Connecticut St.	Mount Vernon, N.Y.
Ray Wagner	QB	6-1	205	SR	East Stroudsburg	Harrisburg, Pa.

SUPER REGIONAL 2	Pos.	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
David Carter	RB	5-10	225	JR	Morehouse	Marietta, Ga.
Lee Chapple	QB	6-1	190	SR	North Alabama	Alpharetta, Ga.
Travis Daniels	RB	5-10	205	SR	UNC Pembroke	Washington, N.C.
Micah Davis	QB	6-2	205	SR	Delta State	Wesson, Miss.
Cody Haffly	QB	6-1	210	SR	Wingate	Locust Grove, Ga.
Jonas Randolph	RB	5-10	185	SR	Mars Hill	Daleville, Ala.

SUPER REGIONAL 3	Pos.	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Joe Glendening	RB	5-10	188	JR	Hillsdale	East Grand Rapids, Mich.
Clay Garcia	QB	6-0	210	SR	Colorado-Mines	Alamosa, Colo.
Jesse Lewis	TB	5-7	180	SR	Colorado-Pueblo	Loveland, Colo.
Chris Mills	QB	6-4	201	SO	Indianapolis	Lafayette, Ind.
Mike Noffsinger	RB	5-8	160	SR	Ohio Dominican	West Branch, Mich.
Jake Spitzlberger	QB	5-10	175	SR	Nebraska-Kearney	Lakewood, Colo.

SUPER REGIONAL 4	Pos.	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Mitchell Gale	QB	6-2	220	JR	Abilene Christian	Alva, Okla.
Brandon Kelsey	QB	6-2	203	JR	Midwestern State	Arlington, Texas
Dane Simoneau	QB	6-3	227	SR	Washburn	Salina, Kansas
Jonathan Woodson	RB	5-10	185	JR	Texas A&M-Kingsville	Missouri City, Texas