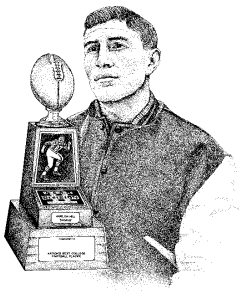
THE NATIONAL HARLON HILL AWARD COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 2880
Florence, Alabama 35630
(256) 765-4595
Fax (256) 765-4659
Jeff Hodges • Chairman



National Sponsors

THE CITY OF FLORENCE ALABAMA

FLORENCE • LAUDERDALE TOURISM

HERFF JONES

OPTINET
OPTIMUM NETWORKS - EXCELLENCE IN INTEGRATION

Marriott SHOALS HOTEL & SPA

FOR RELEASE MONDAY - November 19
CONTACT: JEFF HODGES- (256) 765-4595

EIGHT FINALISTS NAMED FOR HILL TROPHY AS NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FLORENCE, Ala. -- A field of 24 candidates has been trimmed to eight national finalists in regional voting for the 2012 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year.

The finalists were selected by the NCAA Division II sports information directors in regional voting and will now be placed on the national ballot where all 155 of the division's SIDs will select the award's 27th winner. The top two players from each of Division II's Super Regions advanced to the national ballot.

The list of 2012 finalists is comprised of four quarterbacks, three running backs and one receiver.

Six of the finalists helped lead their teams into the NCAA Division II playoffs this season and two of this weekend's second round playoff matchups will have Hill finalists facing each other.

Advancing from Super Region 1 are junior running back **Franklyn Quiteh** of Bloomsburg University (Pa.) and junior quarterback **Zach Zulli** of Shippensburg University (Pa.).

Super Region 2 is represented by senior wide receiver **Chris Bowden** of Wingate University (N.C.) and senior tailback **Derrick Washington** of Tuskegee University (Ala.).

The top vote getters in Super Region 3 are senior running back **Michael Hill** of Missouri Western State University and sophomore quarterback **Kevin Rodgers** of Henderson State University (Ark.). They will lead their respective teams against each other Saturday in the second round of the Division II playoffs.

Advancing from Super Region 4 are senior quarterback **Taylor Housewright** of Ashland University (Ohio) and junior quarterback **Dustin Vaughan** of West Texas A&M University. They will also face off Saturday in the Division II playoffs.

National voting will conclude on November 29 and the top three finishers will be invited to the Shoals for the presentation banquet.

The winner of the 2012 award, which is presented by the National Harlon Hill Award Committee, will be announced at the 27th annual Harlon Hill Trophy Presentation Banquet on Friday, December 14 at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. This year's Hill Trophy Banquet will also include the 14th 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 15 at Florence's Braly Municipal Stadium at noon.

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**.

Bowden, from Forsyth, Ga., was selected South Atlantic Conference co-Offensive Player of the Year and was one of just three Division II receivers to record more than 100 catches in the 2012 regular season. He caught 106 passes for 1,359 yards and nine touchdowns and had seven games with more than 100 receiving yards. His top game of the season was 262 yards on 16 catches against Mars Hill and he averaged 9.64 catches and 122.09 receiving yards per game .

Hill, from St. Joseph, Mo., is the 2012 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Offensive Player of the Year after helping lead Missouri Western to an 11-1 record, an MIAA championship and into the second round of the Division II playoffs. He rushed for 187 yards on 24 carries last weekend in leading the Griffons to a three-overtime win over Minnesota-Duluth in an opening round playoff game and now has 1,996 rushing yards on 269 carries this season. He has carried the ball 269 times and averages 7.4 yards per carry and 166.3 yards per game. He has added 16 pass receptions for 186 yards and three scores.

Housewright, from Ashland, Ohio, is the 2012 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Player of the Year and has led Ashland to a GLIAC Championship and a perfect 11-0 record entering a home playoff game Saturday against West Texas A&M. He set an NCAA Division II record earlier this year with 377 consecutive passes without an interception and has thrown for 2,905 yards and 30 touchdowns this season. He has completed 221 of 324 pass attempts for a 68.2 completion percentage and has thrown just one interception all season. He has added 190 rushing yards and one TD.

Quiteh, from Tobyhanna, Pa., leads Division II in rushing this season with an average of 176.8 yards per game. He has carried the ball 287 times for 2,121 yards and 24 touchdowns and has averaged 7.4 yards per carry. He tushed for more than 100 yards in every game in 2012 and has a current streak of 17 straight games with 100 yards or more. He rushed for more than 200 yards four times this seasin and his career numbers stand at 5,328 yards rushing with 58 touchdowns. A first-team All-PSAC selection for the third straight year, Quiteh helped lead Bloomsburg to a 10-2 record this fall and into the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Rodgers, from Rockwall, Texas, was unanimously selected Great American Conference Offensive Player of the Year after leading Henderson State to a perfect 10-0 record and a GAC title. Entering this weekend's second round playoff game against Missouri Western State, he has thrown for 3,590 yards and 40 touchdowns this season, completing 68 percent of his passes and throwing just eight interceptions in 344 pass attempts. He also has one rushing touchdown.

Vaughan, from Corpus Christi, Texas, is the 2012 Lone Star Conference Offensive Player of the Year and has helped lead the Buffaloes to a 10-2 record entering Saturday's second round playoff game at Ashland. He has thrown for 3,821 yards and 37 touchdowns and completed 64.5 percent of his passes. He averages 318.4 passing yards per game.

Washington, from Raymore, Mo., has helped lead Tuskegee to a 9-1 record in 2012 while rushing for 1,399 yards and 13 touchdowns. He averaged 8.1 yards per carry this season and rushed for more than 100 yards in a game six times, and more than 200 yards three times. In his last two outings of the regular season he rushed for 208 yards against Miles and 224 against Fort Valley. He also caught 13 passes for 210 yards and a score and also threw a TD pass this season. Washington was named Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year and SIAC Player of the Year, while helping lead Tuskegee to the conference championship.

Zulli, from Schwenksville, Pa., is the 2012 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference East Division Offensive Player of the Year and last weekend led Shippensburg to its first NCAA playoff win since 1991. Entering this weekend's second round game at Winston-Salem State, he has thrown for 4,529 yards and 53 touchdowns. He has completed 65 percent of his 488 pass attempts and has thrown just seven interceptions. He averages throwing for 377.4 yards per game while helping lead Shippensburg to an 11-1 record.

* * *

The initial Harlon Hill Trophy was won by North Dakota State quarterback Jeff Bentrim in 1986, followed by 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

and Valdosta State University quarterback Chris Hatcher in 1994. North Alabama linebacker Ronald McKinnon became the first defensive player to win the award when he claimed the Hill Trophy in 1995.

Truman State University running back Jarrett Anderson won the 1996 award and Bloomsburg University running back Irvin Sigler claimed the Hill Trophy in 1997 award. Running back Brian Shay of Emporia State won in 1998, followed by Northern Colorado quarterback Corte McGuffey in 1999 and Valdosta State quarterback Dusty Bonner in 2000 and 2001, and Grand Valley State quarterback Curt Anes in 2002. The 2003 trophy was awarded to North Alabama quarterback Will Hall, and Chad Friehauf of the Colorado School of Mines won the 2004 award. Terwilliger claimed the 2005 Hill Trophy as a junior.

Chadron State's Danny Woodhead won the Hill Trophy in 2006 and 2007, joining Bailey and Bonner as the only multiple winners of the award. Abilene Christian's Bernard Scott won the 2008 Hill Trophy, followed by Wayne State's (Mich.) Joique Bell in 2009, Central Missouri quarterback Eric Czerniewski in 2010 and Mars Hill running back Jonas Randolph last year.

2012 Harlon Hill Trophy Finalists

	Pos.	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Chris Bowden	WR	6-3	215	SR	Wingate	Forsyth, Ga.
Michael Hill	RB	5-11	205	SR	Missouri Western State	St. Joseph, Mo.
Taylor Housewright	QB	6-2	215	SR	Ashland	Ashland, Ohio
Franklyn Quiteh	RB	5-10	203	JR	Bloomsburg	Tobyhanna, Pa.
Kevin Rodgers	QB	6-3	215	SO	Henderson State	Rockwall, Texas
Dustin Vaughan	QB	6-5	220	JR	West Texas A&M	Corpus Christi, Texas
Derrick Washington	TB	6-0	215	SR	Tuskegee	Raymore, Mo.
Zach Zulli	QB	6-2	188	JR	Shippensburg	Schwenksville, Pa.