



For Immediate Release
Dec. 5, 2006

Contact: Mike Kern

Missouri Valley Conference Announces Football All-Centennial Team

ST. LOUIS -- In 2006-07, the Missouri Valley Conference celebrates a century of excellence as the nation's second-oldest NCAA Division I conference begins its second centennial as a leader in college athletics. As a part of the Centennial Celebration, The Valley is naming all-centennial teams for each of the Valley's sponsored sports. Team composition for football has been determined by a centennial committee and members of the Football Writer's Association of America.

Included in the list are former NFL greats, Heisman Trophy finalists, and 14 members of the College Football Hall of Fame. A total of 80 former Valley greats (68 players and 12 coaches) on the all-time list made significant contributions to the game of football, either while in the Missouri Valley Conference or in their post-collegiate careers.

In the league's first 99 seasons, inclusive of all MVC-sponsored sports, 32 members combined for 27 national championships, while 55 Valley student-athletes captured NCAA individual titles. In addition, Valley student-athletes and coaches earned 48 National Player or Coach of the Year honors in their respective sports. And the league had a myriad of student-athletes who collected All-America honors and earned national academic distinction in The Valley's first century.

FOOTBALL (sponsored 1907 to 1985): Twenty-nine different programs sponsored football in the Missouri Valley Conference in its 78 years as a conference sport. Tulsa was the dominant team, capturing or sharing 25 Valley titles -- including the last six, while competing in a league-high nine Bowl Games. Nebraska, one of the league's founding members, won nine of the first 11 MVC titles and earned two mythical national championships (1914 and 1915). Included in that era was a 34-game unbeaten string (the longest in school history). Notably, Tulsa became the first school in NCAA history to appear in five-straight New Year's Day games: 1942 Sun Bowl, 1943 and 1944 Sugar Bowls, 1945 Orange Bowl, and 1946 Oil Bowl.

VALLEY FOOTBALL-PLAYING MEMBERS (29) -- ranked by winning percentage in conference games

Team	Years (No.)	Games	W-L-T	Team	Years (No.)	Games	W-L-T
[^] Nebraska	1907-27 (18)	62	49-8-5	West Texas State	1971-85 (15)	80	34-42-4
Memphis State	1968-72 (5)	24	19-5-0	*Drake	1908-83 (58)	247	104-132-11
Tulsa	1935-85 (51)	201	141-54-6	New Mexico State	1972-82 (11)	56	22-32-2
Houston	1951-59 (9)	34	23-10-1	Wichita State	1945-85 (41)	183	70-105-8
Missouri	1907-27 (21)	104	63-32-9	Iowa	1907-10 (4)	14	5-8-1
+Oklahoma A&M	1925-56 (32)	97	53-39-5	Kansas State	1913-27 (15)	63	20-34-9
Iowa State	1908-27 (19)	86	45-34-7	Saint Louis	1937-49 (11)	36	11-21-4
Indiana State	1977-85 (9)	47	25-21-1	Illinois State	1981-85 (5)	25	7-15-2
North Texas State	1957-74 (28)	79	40-36-3	Washington (Mo.)	1907-42 (36)	120	33-79-8
Kansas	1907-27 (20)	95	42-40-11	Grinnell	1919-38 (20)	68	16-47-5
Louisville	1963-74 (12)	54	27-27-0	Washburn	1935-40 (6)	21	5-16-0
Oklahoma	1920-27 (8)	45	19-20-6	Butler	1932-33 (2)	3	0-2-1
Detroit	1949-56 (8)	34	16-17-1	Bradley	1949-51 (3)	10	1-9-0
Cincinnati	1957-69 (13)	51	23-25-3				
Southern Illinois	1977-85 (9)	48	22-26-0				
Creighton	1928-42 (15)	59	26-31-2				

*Drake did not compete for title from 1957-70;

[^]Nebraska suspended for 1919-20 seasons;

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE FOOTBALL ALL-CENTENNIAL TEAM

~ indicates players' final season in The Valley; players grouped in decades by their final collegiate seasons

* coaches' accomplishments are from the decades in which they were selected

THE EARLY YEARS (pre-1950)

Name	School	Pos.	Yrs.~	Notable Honors
Neill Armstrong	Oklahoma A&M	DE	1946	1946 All-American; Philadelphia Eagles (1947-51); coached Chicago Bears (1978-81)
Guy Chamberlain	Nebraska	E	1915	College Football Hall of Fame; 1915 consensus All-American
Glenn Dobbs	Tulsa	HB	1942	College Football Hall of Fame; All-American in 1942; also coached at Tulsa
Bob Fenimore	Oklahoma A&M	HB	1946	College Football Hall of Fame; 1945 - 3rd in Heisman voting; 1945 consensus All-American
Jim Finks	Tulsa	QB	1948	2-time all-MVC; 7-year NFL player; long-time NFL CEO; Pro Football Hall of Fame
Forest Geyer	Oklahoma	FB	1915	College Football Hall of Fame
Harvey Jablonsky	Washington U.	G	1929	College Football Hall of Fame; captain of 1929 team
Ellis Jones	Tulsa	G	1945	one-armed player who was consensus All-American in 1945; No. 31 retired at Tulsa
Felto Prewitt	Tulsa	C	1945	All-American in 1945; No. 36 retired at Tulsa;
Claude Reeds	Oklahoma	FB	1913	College Football Hall of Fame
Clarence Swanson	Nebraska	E	1921	College Football Hall of Fame
Brick Travis	Missouri	T	1920	College Football Hall of Fame
Leigh "Polly" Wallace	Iowa State	C	1921	Iowa State Hall of Fame; three-time all-MVC; 1920 All-American
Ed Weir	Nebraska	T	1925	College Football Hall of Fame; 1924, 1925 consensus All-American

*COACHES: 1907-16 -- E. "Jumbo" Stiehm (Nebraska), 35-2-3, 5 MVC titles in 5 years
 1917-26 -- Gwinn Henry (Missouri), MVC titles in 1924, 1925 and 1927
 1927-36 -- Ossie Solem (Drake), 4-straight MVC titles from 1928-31
 1927-36 -- Lynn O. Waldorf (Oklahoma A&M) -- 34-10-7, 4-straight MVC titles
 1937-46 -- Henry Frnka (Tulsa), 5-straight New Year's Day Bowl Games

THE 1950s

Name	School	Pos.	Yrs.~	Notable Honors
Johnny Bright	Drake	RB	1951	College Football Hall of Fame; 1951 - 5th in Heisman voting; MVC Hall of Fame
Paul Carr	Houston	LB	1953	2-time all-MVC; 4-year NFL career with the San Francisco 49ers
Jack Conway	Wichita State	QB	1955	two-time all-MVC; helped Wichita State to back-to-back titles
Abner Haynes	North Texas State	RB	1959	all-American in 1959; No. 28 retired by NFL's Kansas City Chiefs
Jack Lee	Cincinnati	QB	1959	2-time all-MVC; 11-year AFL career with Kansas City, Houston and Denver
Marvin Matuszak	Tulsa	G	1952	2-time all-MVC; two-time All-American; 11-year career in the AFL and NFL
Ted Marchibroda	Detroit	QB	1952	All-MVC in 1952; 4-year NFL player; 12-year NFL head coach - Baltimore, Indianapolis
Dale Meinert	Oklahoma A&M	DT	1954	2-time all-MVC; St. Louis Cardinals (1960-67)
Ronnie Morris	Tulsa	QB	1952	3-time all-MVC; Tulsa Hall of Fame
Joe Morrison	Cincinnati	RB	1957	14-year playing career with the New York Giants
Lee Riley	Detroit	DB	1954	2-time all-MVC; 7-year NFL playing career
Bob St. Clair	Tulsa	E	1952	one of three Tulsa players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame; five-time Pro Bowl selection
Howard Waugh	Tulsa	RB	1952	2-time all-MVC; No. 3 career rusher (2,597 yards); Tulsa Hall of Fame
Hogan Wharton	Houston	OT	1959	Two-time MVC Lineman of the Year; Houston Oilers (1960-63)

*COACH: 1947-56 -- J.O Brothers (Tulsa) -- 4 MVC titles in his seven years as coach

THE 1960s

Name	School	Pos.	Yrs.~	Notable Honors
Billy Guy Anderson	Tulsa	QB	1965	all-MVC in 1965; No. 14 retired at Tulsa; single-season passing record (3,464 yards)
Doug Buffone	Louisville	LB/C	1965	all-MVC in 1965; No. 56 retired at Louisville; 15-year career at LB with Chicago
Joe Greene	North Texas State	DT	1968	College Football Hall of Fame; 1968 consensus All-American; 3-time all-MVC

Cedric Hardman	North Texas State	DE	1969	6-time NFL Pro Bowl selection with the San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders
Glen Holloway	North Texas State	OG	1969	2-time all-MVC; 5-year NFL career with the Chicago Bears and Cleveland Browns
Roland Lakes	Wichita State	C	1960	2-time all-MVC; 11-year NFL career with San Francisco 49ers and New York Giants
Jim O'Brien	Cincinnati	PK/SE	1969	2-time all-MVC; 2-time honorable mention All-America; won Super Bowl V with a FG
Brig Owens	Cincinnati	DB	1964	12-year NFL defensive back with the Washington Redskins
Bill Parcels	Wichita State	LB	1963	all-MVC in 1963; long-time NFL coach - winner of two Super Bowls (XXI and XXV)
Steve Ramsey	North Texas State	QB	1969	3-time all-MVC; No. 1 in career in pass yards (7,076) and TDs (69)
Jerry Rhome	Tulsa	QB	1964	College Football Hall of Fame; 1964 - 2nd in Heisman voting; No. 3 in career TDs (42)
Ronnie Shanklin	North Texas State	WR	1969	2-time all-MVC; No. 3 in career receptions (144) and yards (2,465)
Willie Townes	Tulsa	DT	1965	all-MVC in 1965; member of Tulsa Hall of Fame; 4-year NFL playing career
Howard Twilley	Tulsa	WR	1965	College Football Hall of Fame; 1965 - 2nd in Heisman; No. 1 catches (261) and yards (3,343)

*COACHES: 1957-66 -- Odus Mitchell (North Texas) -- 3 MVC titles; 3-time runners-up
1957-66 -- Marcelino "Chelo" Huerta (Wichita State) -- College Football Hall of Fame; 1963 MVC Coach of the Year

THE 1970s

Name	School	Pos.	Yrs.~	Notable Honors
Steve August	Tulsa	OL	1976	all-MVC in 1976; All-American in 1976; 8-year NFL career with Seattle, Pittsburgh
Andy Dorris	New Mexico State	DE	1972	all-MVC in 1972; 9-year NFL career with New Orleans, Houston, St. Louis, and Seattle
Rick Dvorak	Wichita State	DL	1973	3-time all-MVC; 5-year NFL career with New York Giants and Miami
Paul Skeeter Gowen	Memphis	RB	1971	2-time all-MVC; 1969 MVC Sophomore of the Year; 2-time HM All-American
Tunch Ilkin	Indiana State	OL	1979	14-year NFL career; 13 seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers
Tom Jackson	Louisville	LB	1972	2-time MVC Player of the Year; three-time all-MVC; 14-year NFL career with Denver
Steve Largent	Tulsa	WR	1975	14-year NFL career with the Seattle Seahawks, Pro Football Hall of Fame
Drew Pearson	Tulsa	WR	1972	11-year NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys
Joe Pisarcik	New Mexico State	QB	1973	8-year NFL player with the New York Giants and Philadelphia Eagles
Bo Robinson	West Texas State	RB	1978	3-time all-MVC; No. 1 in career rushing yards (3,542)
Lovie Smith	Tulsa	DB	1979	3-time all-MVC; 1978 All-American; Chicago Bears head coach; Tulsa Hall of Fame
Mike Stark	Memphis	OL	1971	3-time all-MVC; first-team AP All-American in 1971
Howard Stevens	Louisville	RB	1972	2-time all-MVC; 5-year NFL career with the New Orleans Saints and Baltimore Colts
Rickey Watts	Tulsa	WR	1978	all-MVC in 1978; 5-year NFL playing career

*COACHES: 1967-76 -- F.A. Dry (Tulsa) -- 4-straight MVC titles from 1973-76
1967-76 -- Billy Murphy (Memphis) -- 3-time MVC Coach of the Year

THE 1980s

Name	School	Pos.	Yrs.~	Notable Honors
Sid Abramowitz	Tulsa	OL	1982	two-time all-MVC; All-American in 1982; 4-year NFL playing career
Clarence Collins	Illinois State	WR	1983	all-MVC in 1983; No. 2 in career receptions (147) and yards (2,498)
Jumpy Geathers	Wichita State	DL	1983	13-year career in the NFL with New Orleans, Washington, Atlanta, and Denver
Vencie Glenn	Indiana State	DB	1985	MVC Defensive Player of the Year 1985; 10-year NFL career with 5 different teams
Michael Gunter	Tulsa	RB	1983	2-time all-MVC; No. 2 in career rushing yards (3,536)
Kevin Lilly	Tulsa	DL	1984	3-time all-MVC; 2-year NFL playing career
Prince McJunkins	Wichita State	QB	1982	2-time all-MVC; No. 2 career total offense (6,591 yards)
Jeff Miller	Indiana State	QB	1985	2-time MVC Player of the Year; 3-time all-MVC; No. 1 career total offense (7,559 yards)
Mike Prior	Illinois State	DB	1984	3-time All-American; No. 1 in career interceptions (23); 13-year NFL career
Terry Taylor	Southern Illinois	DB	1983	2-time all-MVC; 12-year NFL career with Seattle, Detroit, Cleveland, and Atlanta
Amero Ware	Drake	RB	1982	3-time all-MVC; No. 3 career rusher (3,217 yards)
Fredd Young	New Mexico State	DL	1982	7-year NFL player; 4-time NFL Pro Bowl Selection as LB for Seattle Seahawks

*COACH: 1977-85 -- John Cooper (Tulsa) -- 5-straight MVC titles from 1980-84