

## **Victory Sports Network Announces 2007 NAIA Football All-American Teams**

*Cavender and Koeppen Named Players of the Year, Troth Gets Coach's Honor, Frederick Media Honor*

January 21, 2008

Grand Island, Neb – The Victory Sports Network has released the 2007 NAIA Football All-American Teams. This marks the sixth season for the awards. The biggest honors on this year's team were split among three different schools as VSN selected offensive, defensive and coach of the year awards. Chad Cavender was named VSN's Offensive NAIA Player of the Year while Owen Koeppen of Carroll College garnered VSN's Defensive NAIA Player of the Year. This year's team is presented by Engravers Edge of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



With help of coaches from across the NAIA, VSN has now completed their second year of incorporating NAIA Coaches into the selection process. Previously teams were selected by VSN only. Now a committee of NAIA Coaches votes on the teams compiled by VSN.

“With the NAIA and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) joining to create a smaller team of All-Americans, we decided it would be best if the coaches and VSN came together to collaborate on an All-American team,” said Jason Dannelly Owner/CEO of the Victory Sports Network.

This marks the second year that Chad Cavender has won the offensive player of the year award from VSN. The senior quarterback from Redding California led his squad to their second consecutive national title game in Savannah, Tennessee. Cavender threw 22 touchdown passes and just seven interceptions this season. He also completed 250 passes for 3409 yards. He also rushed for 206 yards and ran for an additional 8 touchdowns. In his career as a starter Cavender lost just one game; the 2007 National Title.

“Cavender did exactly what great quarterbacks are supposed to do,” said Dannelly. “He won all but one game as a starter and was a great leader for Sioux Falls. He may not have had the best numbers in the country but his intangibles are what make him so great.”

Owen Koeppen had a dominating season at linebacker for the Carroll College Saints. He was named the defensive MVP of the National Championship game and was also the Frontier Conference MVP. Koeppen totaled 119 tackles and with 13 tackles for a loss. Koeppen also had eight sacks, forced four fumbles and intercepted one pass. One of the forced fumbles came in the National Championship game. Koeppen helped to lead the Saints defense to the NAIA lead in scoring defense at just 5.4 points per game. The Saints gave up just nine touchdowns all season with only two rushing touchdowns.

“Koeppen is the linebacker that every coach in the NAIA wants to lead their defense,” said Dannelly. “He’s smart, athletic and understands how to manage a game. He is constantly around the ball or enabling his teammates to make great plays.”

VSN's NAIA Coach of the Year is Paul Troth of Missouri Valley. Troth has made it to the NAIA semifinals two years in a row and nearly defeated the University of Sioux Falls to advance the National Title. Troth's Vikings started the season slow with a 2-2 record and one of the wins coming in overtime. But as the season progressed the Vikings continued to improve week after week before upsetting previously undefeated Lindenwood in the final week of the season to secure a spot in the NAIA Championship Series. Both of Missouri Valley's wins in the postseason came on the road spoiling the

seasons for Friends University and Ohio Dominican University. The win against Ohio Dominican also spoiled a perfect season for the Panthers. Troth is 85-39 as a head coach at the collegiate level.

“Troth earned this award because of how his team dug down when the going got tough this season,” said Dannelly. “The Vikings were preseason #3 but started 2-2 and dropped out of the Top 25. A lot of programs would have quit. Troth’s team kept fighting until the very end and it enabled them to get to the postseason. That comes from players believing in what you are saying and doing as a coach. That’s the ultimate compliment any coach can receive.”

This season marks the first year the Victory Sports Network names a Media Person of the Year. This award is given to a media person that has helped spread the word of NAIA football and the Victory Sports Network across their region or nationally. The award is given only to a member of the working media as VSN will name a Sports Information Director of the Year later this spring.

Tom Frederick, the voice of the Sioux Falls Cougars, is this year’s VSN Football Media Person of the Year. Frederick is the long time play-by-play voice of the Cougars on 1230 AM KWSN and has been instrumental in bringing a high standard of broadcasting to the airwaves of NAIA college football.

“Tom’s play-by-play is one of the best calls in all of small college football,” said Dannelly. “His research is up to the minute and he is always looking to add more to his broadcast. He works very well with his color commentator Tim Hiatt and brings a high level of professionalism to the booth.”

This season’s VSN All American team saw a vast number of schools from across the country gaining honors. Carroll College lead all NAIA teams with six players landing on the first and second teams, Sioux Falls followed with four; Ohio Dominican, Saint Francis (IN), Jamestown College had three All Americans

# The Victory Sports Network's 2007 NAIA Football All American Teams

*Presented by Engravers Edge*

## First Team Offensive

| Pos. | Player            | School                       | Ht.  | Wt. | Cl. | Hometown                |
|------|-------------------|------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| OL   | Mike Galassi      | Walsh University (OH)        | 6'5  | 302 | SR  | Strongsville, Ohio      |
| OL   | Truman Ashby      | Benedictine College (KS)     | 6'3  | 290 | SR  | St. Louis, Missouri     |
| OL   | Dru Filkins       | St. Ambrose (IA)             | 6'4  | 270 | SR  | Downers Grove, Illinois |
| OL   | Jeremy Saunders   | Quincy University (IL)       | 6'5  | 314 | SR  | Warren, Illinois        |
| OL   | Brian Smiley      | Saint Francis (IN)           | 6'1  | 295 | SR  | Fort Wayne, Indiana     |
| TE   | Josiah Fenceroy   | Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)    | 6'3  | 240 | SR  | Sioux City, Iowa        |
| WR   | Jared Stace       | Ohio Dominican               | 5'9  | 190 | SR  | Columbus, Ohio          |
| WR   | Antuan Bloom      | Morningside College (IA)     | 5'11 | 170 | JR  | Miami, Florida          |
| WR   | Jon Davis         | Azusa Pacific (CA)           | 6'3  | 200 | SR  | Acampo, California      |
| RB   | Bernard Payton    | Malone College (OH)          | 6'1  | 205 | SR  | Pomona, California      |
| RB   | Adrian Smith      | Bethel College (TN)          | 6'0  | 210 | SR  | Ocala, Florida          |
| RB   | Ra'shad Morgan    | Virginia-Wise                | 5'10 | 208 | SR  | Chesterfield, Virginia  |
| QB   | Chad Cavender     | Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)    | 6'0  | 185 | SR  | Redding, California     |
| ATH  | Trey Erickson     | Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)    | 6'0  | 220 | SR  | Yankton, South Dakota   |
| K    | Shane Longest     | Saint Xavier University (IL) | 5'11 | 180 | SR  | Wilmington, Illinois    |
| KS   | D'Artagnan Dai'Re | Doane College (NE)           | 5'8  | 161 | JR  | West Covina, California |

## First Team Defensive

| Pos. | Player            | School                     | Ht.  | Wt. | Cl. | Hometown                  |
|------|-------------------|----------------------------|------|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| DL   | Letarius Lee      | Univ. of Sioux Falls (SD)  | 6'2  | 255 | SR  | Sioux Falls, South Dakota |
| DL   | Phil Lenoue       | Carroll College (MT)       | 6'1  | 235 | SR  | Spokane, Washington       |
| DL   | Wacey Coleman     | Black Hills State (SD)     | 6'2  | 230 | SO  | Gillette, Wyoming         |
| DL   | Ryan Miles        | Texas College              | 6'2  | 240 | JR  | Livingston, Texas         |
| LB   | Owen Koeppen      | Carroll College (MT)       | 6'2  | 232 | JR  | Florence, Montana         |
| LB   | Reggie Singletary | Missouri Valley            | 6'0  | 243 | SR  | Kansas City, Missouri     |
| LB   | J.J. Perino       | Montana Tech               | 6'1  | 245 | SR  | Helena, Montana           |
| LB   | Frits Remedor     | Southern Nazarene (OK)     | 6'2  | 240 | SR  | Naples, Florida           |
| DB   | Brandon Kaufman   | Bethel College (KS)        | 6'0  | 180 | SR  | Moundridge, Kansas        |
| DB   | Clay Hamblen      | Georgetown College (KY)    | 5'11 | 184 | SR  | Danville, Indiana         |
| DB   | Chad Hustedt      | Morningside College (IA)   | 6'2  | 185 | SR  | Galva, Iowa               |
| DB   | Marc Samson       | Montana St. Univ. Northern | 6'1  | 174 | SR  | Helena, Montana           |
| PR   | Jake Stoltz       | Jamestown College          | 5'10 | 185 | SR  | Gilbert, Arizona          |
| P    | Zach Thiry        | Carroll College (MT)       | 6'2  | 215 | JR  | Meridian, Idaho           |

## Second Team Offensive

| Pos. | Player             | School                   | Ht.  | Wt. | Cl. | Hometown               |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| OL   | Dale Ackland       | Jamestown College (ND)   | 6'0  | 275 | SR  | Oakridge, Oregon       |
| OL   | Brandon Jacobitz   | Hastings College (NE)    | 6'4  | 320 | SR  | Campbell, Nebraska     |
| OL   | Mike Siverly       | McKendree College (IL)   | 6'4  | 315 | SR  | Casey, Illinois        |
| OL   | Cale Fischer       | NW Oklahoma State (OK)   | 6'4  | 275 | FR  | Guymon, Oklahoma       |
| OL   | Bryson Pelc        | Carroll College (MT)     | 6'1  | 270 | SR  | Helena, Montana        |
| TE   | Tyler Driscoll     | Saint Ambrose (IA)       | 6'1  | 215 | SR  | DeWitt, Iowa           |
| WR   | Graylin Allison    | Belhaven College (MS)    | 6'0  | 180 | SR  | Florence, Florida      |
| WR   | Casey Kelly        | Montana Tech             | 5'9  | 172 | SR  | Butte, Montana         |
| WR   | Preston Nicholson  | Culver-Stockton (MO)     | 6'2  | 200 | SR  | Tampa, Florida         |
| RB   | Thez Robinson      | NW Oklahoma State        | 6'1  | 205 | SR  | Lyons, Georgia         |
| RB   | Nick Banks         | Minot State (ND)         | 5'10 | 190 | JR  | San Diego, California  |
| RB   | JaMaine Lewis      | Concordia Univ. (NE)     | 6'0  | 220 | SR  | St. Louis, Missouri    |
| QB   | Cris Reisert       | Ohio Dominican           | 6'2  | 205 | JR  | Cincinnati, Ohio       |
| ATH  | Nick Milodragovich | Carroll College (MT)     | 5'11 | 180 | SR  | Great Falls, Montana   |
| K    | Derek Doerfler     | Baker University (KS)    | 5'11 | 213 | JR  | Lee's Summit, Missouri |
| KS   | Moses Cochran      | Univ. of the Cumberlands | 5'8  | 178 | SR  | Thomasville, Georgia   |

### **Second Team Defensive**

| <b>Pos.</b> | <b>Player</b>     | <b>School</b>                | <b>Ht.</b> | <b>Wt.</b> | <b>Cl.</b> | <b>Hometown</b>        |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|
| DL          | Shawn Lewis       | Urbana University (OH)       | 6'4        | 245        | JR         | Aberdeen, Maryland     |
| DL          | Brandon Smith     | Ottawa University (KS)       | 6'1        | 240        | SR         | Shawnee, Kansas        |
| DL          | Cody Van Sloten   | Northwestern (IA)            | 6'4        | 235        | JR         | Doon, Iowa             |
| DL          | Tim Farrell       | Saint Francis (IN)           | 6'1        | 236        | JR         | Fort Wayne, Indiana    |
| LB          | Jeremy Robinson   | Olivet Nazarene (IL)         | 6'0        | 240        | SR         | Crown Point, Indiana   |
| LB          | Patrick O'Neal    | Union (KY)                   | 6'1        | 215        | SR         | Lula, Georgia          |
| LB          | Sean Kenney       | Saint Xavier University (IL) | 5'10       | 225        | SR         | Palos Hills, Illinois  |
| LB          | Brandon Day       | Carroll College (MT)         | 6'1        | 210        | JR         | Helena, Montana        |
| DB          | Gary Thomas       | Jamestown College (ND)       | 5'10       | 200        | SR         | Sparks, Nevada         |
| DB          | Paul Carter       | Saint Francis (IN)           | 6'0        | 198        | SR         | Indianapolis, Indiana  |
| DB          | Tanner Tetrault   | Black Hills State (SD)       | 6'2        | 210        | SR         | St. Onge, South Dakota |
| DB          | Joe Slabaugh      | Ohio Dominican               | 6'1        | 201        | JR         | Akron, Ohio            |
| PR          | Johnathon Johnson | Edward Waters (FL)           | 6'1        | 207        | JR         | Miami, Florida         |
| P           | Andrew Lutton     | Azusa Pacific (CA)           | 6'1        | 175        | SO         | Seattle, Washington    |

### **VSN Honorable Mention All-American**

**Offensive Line** - Chad Tormey-Friends, Josh Ekovich-Saint Francis (IN), Thomas Leinenbach-U-Cumberlands, Jon Conklin-Sterling College, Chase Hansen-Bethel College, Shawn Flanagan-Eastern Oregon, Zach Morrison-Shorter College, Rob Mosby-Morningside College, Matt Pierce-Ohio Dominican, Brady Schwebach-Univ. of Sioux Falls, Bart Archdekin-Minot State, Jeremy Inferera-U.M. Western, Kris Vasquez-Missouri Valley, Henry Potter-UVA Wise, Jacob Bruster-Friends, T.J. Wendt-Univ. of Sioux Falls, Joey Gilsdorf-Sterling College

**Tight End** - Buck Reed-Bethel College (TN), Cotton Green-NW Oklahoma State, LaRoi Johnson-Malone College, Kevin Laudermilk-Sterling College

**Wide Receiver** - Zach Bolger-Jamestown College, Beau Kildow-Morningside College, Zach Edwards-NW Oklahoma State, Justin Sayre-Ohio Dominican, Michael Hayward-St. Ambrose, Brian Piper-Georgetown College (KY), Antonio Brown-Bethel College (TN), McKay Dunn-Southern Virginia, Kyle Callahan-Union College (KY)

**Quarterback** - Joey Waters-Union College (TN), Ronnie Jankovich-Bethel College (TN), Jim DuPage-St. Ambrose, Matt Schneider-MidAmerica Nazarene, Randy Hippeard-UVA Wise

**Runningback** - Ricky Walker-Cumberlands, Corey Warner-Montana Tech, Robert Holmes-Missouri Valley, George Smith-McKendree, Terrance Bell-Bethel (TN), Daniel Carter-Saint Francis (IN), Patrick Ealy-MidAmerica Nazarene, Trey Hightower-Friends, Hakeem Abdullah-Lindenwood, Greg Fountain-Campbellsville University

**Defensive Line** - Nick Yanko-Ohio Dominican, Josh Glahn-MSU-Northern, Lucas Burr-Olivet Nazarene, Casey Roel-Azusa Pacific, Karter Kleeman-Dickinson State, Sean Fisher-Southern Nazarene, Matt Yarbrough-Shorter College, Vince Filipp-St. Ambrose, Anthony Scolamieri-Southern Oregon, Joe Berrow-Georgetown College (KY), Darren Quaile-Univ. of Sioux Falls, Lantz Mathers-NW Oklahoma State, Larry Wentzel-Missouri Valley, Courtney White-Georgetown College (KY), Mike Paffhausen-Carroll College, Brian Schaefering-Lindenwood University

**Linebacker** - Carl Thomas-Saint Francis (IN), Justin Ficklin-Bacone, Marquette Floyd-Missouri Valley, Justin Conley-Hastings College, Jacob Zsuppon-Quincy University, Nate Jansen-Northwestern College, Ryan Gloer-Shorter College, Gabe Guthrie-Georgetown College (KY), Austin Stack-Southern Oregon, Tanis Ready-Friends University, Chad Schira-U.M. Western, Brett Nickolite-Morningside College

**Defensive Back** - Jason Hoath-Lambuth University, Phil Schroer-Nebraska Wesleyan, Lawrence Davis-McKendree University, Brock VanCleave-Southern Nazarene University, Aubrey Smith-Missouri Valley College, Brian Abshire-U-Cumberlands, Nick Milodragovich-Carroll College, Treveor Holleman-Univ. of Sioux Falls, Zach Richardson-Carroll College, Nick Marshall-Minot State, Roshe Hepburn-Graceland University, Jeff Braun-Montana Tech

**Punter** - Michael Wilson-Belhaven College, Don Saisbury-MSU-Northern, Mitch Croy-Ohio Dominican

**Kicker** - Marcus Miller-Carroll College, Halley Ferrell-Lindenwood University, Matt Lindgren-University of Sioux Falls

**Return Specialist** - Jeff Neujahr-Concordia University, Justin Gerald-Central Methodist, Joshua Warren-Belhaven College

**Athlete** -Allen Ervin-Lambuth University, Rob Lash-Walsh University, Tyler Degenhardt-Sterling College