

THE NATIONAL
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AWARD
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**TWENTY FOUR CANDIDATES VIE FOR HILL TROPHY
AS NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

FLORENCE - Ala. -- A total of 24 candidates are in the running for the 2006 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year, including the 2005 winner and five other players who were candidates last season.

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

The list includes six players each from the Southeast, Northeast, Southwest and Northwest regions.

Players are nominated and voted on by the sports information directors at the 150 NCAA Division II football-playing institutions. The 24 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 17.

The winner of the 2006 award, which is presented by the National Harlon Hill Award Committee, will be announced at the 21st annual Harlon Hill Trophy Presentation Banquet on Friday, December 15 at the Florence Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. This year's Hill Trophy Banquet will also include the eighth induction into the Division II Football Hall of Fame.

Tickets are \$45 each or \$360 for a table of eight and can be purchased by calling Dee Corum at the Shoals Chamber of Commerce at (256) 764-4661.

The NCAA Division II Championship Game is scheduled for December 16 at Florence's Braly Municipal Stadium at 11 a.m.

The Hill Trophy is sponsored by Coca-Cola, the City of Florence, Ala., Trustmark Construction, TNT Fireworks, Opti-Net and the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa.

There were 28 candidates 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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Hill Add 2 . . .

Among the players vying for the 2006 award from the Northeast region is the 2005 winner - senior quarterback Jimmy Terwilliger of East Stroudsburg. Terwilliger is trying to become just the third student-athlete to win the Hill Trophy more than once. Texas A&M-Kingsville running back Johnny Bailey won the Hill Trophy in 1987, 1988 and 1989, and Valdosta State quarterback Dusty Bonner won the award in 2000 and 2001.

Other Northeast Region candidates are, senior running back Marlon Beckles of American International College, senior tailback Chris Morgan of Indiana University (Pa.), senior running back Lorenzo Perry of Bryant College (R.I.), senior defensive back Dan Peters of Shepherd College and junior quarterback Joe Ruggiero of California University (Pa.).

Southeast region candidates include senior receiver/kick returner Anthony Merritt of the University of North Alabama, who finished sixth in the Hill voting last season, and senior quarterback Scott Eyster of Delta State University, who was eighth. Other Southeast candidates are freshman receiver Cedric Jones of Valdosta State University, senior defensive lineman Alton Pettway of Albany State University, senior quarterback Josh Stepp of Newberry College and senior cornerback Robert Towns of Harding.

Candidates from the Northwest region are senior receiver Greg Aker of the University of Minnesota-Duluth, freshman running back Joique Bell of Wayne State University, junior wide receiver Weston Dressler of the University of North Dakota, senior quarterback Cullen Finnerty of Grand Valley State University, senior running back Stefan Logan of the University of South Dakota and junior quarterback Zach Miller of the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

The list of Southwest region candidates includes three returnees from last year's list in senior quarterback Dalton Bell of the West Texas A&M University, senior tailback Germaine Race of Pittsburg State University and junior tailback Danny Woodhead of Chadron State College. Also on the ballot in the Southwest are senior quarterback Toby Korrodi of Central Missouri, sophomore quarterback Billy Malone of Abilene Christian University and junior running back Xavier Omon of Northwest Missouri State University.

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 Friehauf in 2004 and Terwilliger last season.

2006 Harlon Hill Trophy Candidates

Northeast	Pos	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Marlon Beckles	RB	5-11	200	SR	American International	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Chris Morgan	TB	6-0	210	SR	Indiana, Pa.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lorenzo Perry	RB	5-6	185	SR	Bryant	Providence, R.I.
Dan Peters	DB	6-1	207	SR	Shepherd	Cresson, Pa.
Joe Ruggiero	QB	6-2	195	JR	California, Pa.	Detroit, Mich.
Jimmy Terwilliger	QB	6-0	172	SR	East Stroudsburg	East Stroudsburg, Penn.

Southeast	Pos	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Scott Eyster	QB	6-3	205	SR	Delta State	Hammond, La.
Cedric Jones	WR	6-0	180	FR	Valdosta State	Waycross, Ga.
Anthony Merritt	WR	6-0	200	SR	North Alabama	Columbus, Ga.
Alton Pettway	DL	6-3	258	SR	Albany State	Bay Minette, Ala.
Josh Stepp	QB	6-1	185	SR	Newberry	Pelion, S.C.
Robert Towns	CB	5-11	195	SR	Harding	Memphis, Tenn.

Northwest	Pos	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Greg Aker	WR	5-11	195	SR	Minnesota-Duluth	Superior, Wis.
Joiue Bell	RB	6-0	213	FR	Wayne State	Benton Harbor, Mich.
Weston Dressler	WR	5-8	184	JR	North Dakota	Bismarck, N.D.
Cullen Finnerty	QB	6-2	210	SR	Grand Valley State	Brighton, Mich.
Stefan Logan	RB	5-7	185	SR	South Dakota	Miami, Fla.
Zach Miller	QB	6-4	216	JR	Nebraska-Omaha	Wahoo, Neb.

Southwest	Pos	Ht	Wt	Cl	School	Hometown
Dalton Bell	QB	6-3	205	SR	West Texas A&M	Canyon, Texas
Toby Korrodi	QB	6-4	230	SR	Central Missouri	San Antonio, Texas
Billy Malone	QB	6-3	235	SO	Abilene Christian	Paris, Texas
Xavier Omon	RB	6-0	215	JR	NW Missouri State	Beatrice, Neb.
Germaine Race	TB	5-11	225	SR	Pittsburg State	Warrensburg, Mo.
Danny Woodhead	TB	5-9	200	JR	Chadron State	North Platte, Neb.