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Gregory Pellegrino  
gpellegrino@northeast10.org

### *American International's Poole Named Football Most Valuable Player*

**South Easton, Mass.** – American International graduate student wide receiver *Travis Poole (Brooklyn, N.Y.)* was named the 2008 Northeast-10 Football Most Valuable Player as voted by the conference head coaches.

Poole helped lead the Yellow Jackets to their first-ever Northeast-10 Regular Season Championship with a perfect 7-0 in conference play. Poole currently leads the conference in receiving yards with 1,119 and in touchdown receptions with 14. He has also accumulated 1,162 all-purpose yards which puts him in the top five in the Northeast-10. Poole is ranked fifth among the Division II leaders in yards per game (111.9) and 16<sup>th</sup> in scoring. In addition, he was named to the All-Northeast-10 First Team for the first time in his collegiate career.

Southern Connecticut State University sophomore running back *John Wiechman (Buxton, Maine)* was selected the 2008 Northeast-10 Offensive Player of the Year. In his second season of collegiate play, Wiechman had a breakthrough year as he finished second in the Northeast-10 in rushing with 961 yards. He's currently ranked eighth in total offense and leads NE-10 rushers in scoring with 15 touchdowns. Wiechman is also ranked among the national leaders in scoring (11<sup>th</sup>) and rushing (21<sup>st</sup>). In addition, he was named to the All-Northeast First Team.

Wiechman's teammate junior linebacker *Jerome Pinckney (Ellenwood, Ga.)* was voted the 2008 Northeast-10 Defensive Player of the Year. Pinckney is second on the team with 57 tackles, 7.5 in which were for a loss. He has also collected 1.5 sacks and forced and recovered two fumbles. Pinckney is part of a defensive unit that has allowed a league best 17.3 points per game and has held opponents to only 161 yards passing per game and 101.8 yards per game on the ground. He was also awarded his first-ever selection to the All-Northeast-10 First Team.

The honors continue for Southern Connecticut as senior center *Ed Peters (Roseland, N.J.)* was named the 2008 Northeast-10 Offensive Lineman of the Year. Peters has helped the Owls' top ranked offense to a conference best 34 points per game. Southern Connecticut is second in the NE-10 in pass offense with 249 yards per game as well as rush offense with 196 yards per game. Peters was selected to the All-Northeast-10 First Team for the second straight season. He was selected to the All-Northeast Second Team in 2006.

American International senior defensive lineman *Jean Simeon (Atlantic City, N.J.)* was named the 2008 Northeast-10 Defensive Lineman of the Year. Simeon has caused havoc to opposing quarterbacks this year as he currently has 5.5 sacks which is ninth best in the conference and 41 total tackles. He's ranked fourth in the NE-10 in tackles for a loss with 11. Simeon is part of a Yellow Jackets' defense that has held opponents to 17.4 points per game and has held opposing offenses to only 62.9 yards on the ground. Simeon was named to the All-Northeast-10 First Team for the first time in his collegiate career.

Saint Anselm College freshman quarterback *Marc Wilson (Farmington, Conn.)* was selected the 2008 Northeast-10 Freshman of the Year. Wilson made a huge splash for the Hawks in just his first year of collegiate play. He is currently the only Northeast-10 player to rush for over 1,000 yards this season (1,214) and became the first 1,000 yard rusher in Saint Anselm history, breaking their old single-season mark of 951 yards. In addition, Wilson also has thrown for 849 yards after completing 45.7- percent of his passes and has thrown for six touchdowns. He was also selected to the All-Northeast-10 All Rookie Team.

American International head coach *Art Wilkins* and Southern Connecticut head coach *Rich Cavanaugh* were voted the 2008 Coaches of the Year by their peers. This is the first time both coaches have received coach of the year honors. Wilkins guided the Yellow Jackets to the 2008 Northeast-10 Regular Season Championship with a perfect 7-0 mark and 9-1 overall. American International will be making their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament when they host Seton Hill University on Saturday.

Cavanaugh led the Owls to an 8-2 overall record and 6-1 mark in Northeast-10. Southern Connecticut will be making their fourth straight NCAA appearance on Saturday when they travel to West Chester, Pa. to face West Chester University in a first round contest.

With 15 member institutions the Northeast-10 is the second largest NCAA Division II athletic conference in the nation. Its 23 championship sports provide athletic opportunities for over 5,500 student-athletes, the largest such program of any Division II conference.

- NE-10 -

## 2008 Northeast-10 Conference Football All Conference Teams

### First Team - Offense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Rob Parent	So.	QB	American Int'l	West Warwick, R.I.
Herbert Woodard	So.	RB	Assumption	Salem, N.J.
John Wiechman	So.	RB	So. Connecticut	Buxton, Maine
Luke St. Marie	Jr.	FB	Saint Anselm	Mill Creek, Wash.
Travis Poole	Gr.	WR	American Int'l	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Jeremiah Watts	Jr.	WR	Merrimack	Clovis, Calif.
Tom Cerny	Sr.	TE	So. Connecticut	Mahwah, N.J.
David Belmont	So.	T	Merrimack	Melrose, Mass.
James Economou	So.	T	So. Connecticut	Coram, N.Y.
Tyke Spaulding	Sr.	G	American Int'l	Exeter, R.I.
Jacob Bradley	So.	G	Merrimack	Dorchester, Mass.
Ed Peters	Sr.	C	So. Connecticut	Roseland, N.J.
Marek Prezbylek	Sr.	K	American Int'l	Olsztyn, Poland
Andrew Jackson	Sr.	RS	Merrimack	New Britain, Conn.

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## First Team - Defense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Jean Simeon	Sr.	DL	American Int'l	Atlantic City, N.J.
Darryl Laforest	Jr.	DL	Bentley	Roslindale, Mass.
McKenzie Mathews	Jr.	DL	Bentley	Syracuse, N.Y.
Lee Robinson	Gr.	DL	Pace	New Milford, Conn.
Jaliem Cuttino	Sr.	DL	So. Connecticut	New Britain, Conn.
George Whetstone	Sr.	DL	Stonehill	Westwood, Mass.
Nick Abraham	So.	LB	American Int'l	Tewksbury, Mass.
Dustin Zitzmann	Jr.	LB	Assumption	Pinellas Pk, Fla.
Tony Johnson	Fr.	LB	Merrimack	Lynn, Mass.
Jerome Pinckney	Jr.	LB	So. Connecticut	Ellenwood, Ga.
Greg Sanzari	Sr.	LB	Stonehill	Centerport, N.Y.
Allen Bush	So.	DB	American Int'l	Newark, N.J.
Christopher Martino	Sr.	DB	Assumption	Lincroft, N.J.
Andrew Jackson	Sr.	DB	Merrimack	New Britain, Conn.
Martin Manson	Jr.	DB	So. Connecticut	Bloomfield, Conn.
Greg Nowak	Fr.	P	Assumption	West Palm Beach, Fla.

## Second Team - Offense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Chris Roberts	Jr.	QB	So. Connecticut	New Britain, Conn.
Richard Johnson	Jr.	RB	Merrimack	Brockton, Mass.
Nate Ford	Jr.	RB	Pace	Queens, N.Y.
Jarom Freeman	Jr.	RB	So. Connecticut	Peekskill, N.Y.
Eddie Vachon	So.	RB	Stonehill	Newton, Mass.
Marcus Cameron	Sr.	FB	American Int'l	Hempstead, N.Y.
Kertis Hussey	Jr.	WR	American Int'l	Paterson, N.J.
John Studley	Sr.	WR	Bentley	Peabody, Mass.
Ty Marshall	Sr.	WR	So. Connecticut	College Park, Ga.
Andrew Kulak	Jr.	TE	Pace	Wolcott, Conn.
Matthew Sidebottom	So.	T	Assumption	Franklin, Mass.
Tom Pfeifer	Jr.	T	Stonehill	West Babylon, N.Y.
Tony Dilello	Sr.	G	American Int'l	Oneonta, N.Y.
Carlos Agosto	Sr.	G	So. Connecticut	Norwalk, Conn.
Adam Burt	Sr.	C	Merrimack	Burlington, Mass.
Tyler McNamara	Jr.	K	Bentley	Medway, Mass.
Stephan Neville	Fr.	RS	Stonehill	Foxboro, Mass.

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## Second Team - Defense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Jashawn Williams	So.	DL	American Int'l	Roosevelt, N.Y.
Brian DeStephano	Gr.	DL	American Int'l	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Wilson Perjuste	Sr.	DL	Merrimack	Lynn, Mass.
Eric Holter	Jr.	DL	So. Connecticut	Milford, Conn.
Rich Reichert	Jr.	LB	American Int'l	Nesconset, N.Y.
Michael Duffy	Jr.	LB	Bentley	Plymouth, Mass.
Shane Brown	Jr.	LB	Merrimack	Wakefield, Mass.
Chris Carroll	Jr.	DB	Bentley	Lynn, Mass.
Mike O'Brien	Sr.	DB	Merrimack	Marlborough, Mass.
Greg Brain	Jr.	DB	Pace	Westtown, N.Y.
Jon Jones	Sr.	DB	Pace	Dover, N.H.
Jon Kilborn	Sr.	DB	Stonehill	Dartmouth, Mass.
John White	Sr.	P	Bentley	Kingston, Mass.

## All-Rookie Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Greg Nowak	P	Assumption	West Palm Beach, Fla.
AJ Riker	G	Bentley	Haskell, N.J.
Matt Welch	FB	Bentley	Woburn, Mass.
Quivari Jackson	WR	Merrimack	Lynn, Mass.
Tony Johnson	DE	Merrimack	Lynn, Mass.
Dillon Register	OL	Merrimack	Wayland, Mass.
James Suozzo	QB	Merrimack	Everett, Mass.
Ali Mourtada	K	Pace	Foxboro, Mass.
Kyle Hayes	LB	Saint Anselm	Merritt Island, Fla.
Bryant Lane	TE	Saint Anselm	Norwood, Mass.
Marc Wilson	QB	Saint Anselm	Farmington, Conn.
Jeff Querusio	OT	So. Connecticut	Somerville, Mass.
Dan Lambertson	DL	So. Connecticut	Guilford, Conn.
Stephan Neville	RS	Stonehill	Foxboro, Mass.

**Most Valuable Player:** Travis Poole, American Int'l

**Offensive Player of the Year:** John Wiechman, Southern Connecticut

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Jerome Pinckney, Southern Connecticut

**Offensive Lineman of the Year:** Ed Peters, Southern Connecticut

**Defensive Lineman of the Year:** Jean Simeon, American Int'l

**Freshmen of the Year:** Marc Wilson, Saint Anselm

**Co-Coaches of the Year:** Art Wilkins, American Int'l and Rich Cavanaugh, Southern Connecticut