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## LEAGUE ANNOUNCES 2013 ALL-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL TEAM

**OGDEN, Utah (Nov. 26, 2013)** - A duo of record-breaking Eastern Washington Eagles earned major hardware, and were the only unanimous selections to the 2013 Big Sky All-Conference football team.

The All-Conference teams and individual award winners were selected by the 13 league head coaches Monday, and released by the league office Tuesday.

Eastern Washington sophomore quarterback Vernon Adams was voted as the Offensive MVP, while Eagle wide receiver Cooper Kupp became the recipient of the first Freshman of the Year honor. The two were unanimously selected to the All-Conference First Team. Kupp was an unanimous selection for Freshman of the Year.

Montana State senior defensive end Brad Daly and Cal Poly senior defensive tackle Sullivan Grosz were named Co-Defensive MVP.

UC Davis running back Gabe Manzanarez was named the Newcomer of the Year.

Previously, the league only honored a Newcomer of the Year, which went to either a freshman or a transfer. A separate Freshman of the Year honor was added this season. The conference is also recognizing three All-Conference squads for the first time.

Northern Arizona senior running back Zach Bauman and Eastern Washington senior cornerback T.J. Lee III were both selected to the First Team for the third straight season.

Six other players were named First Team for the second straight season: North Dakota wide receiver Greg Hardin, Montana offensive tackle Danny Kistler, Montana defensive end Zack Wagenmann, Montana linebacker Jordan Tripp, Northern Arizona cornerback Anders Battle, and Northern Arizona safety Lucky Dozier.

League champion Eastern Washington and second-place Northern Arizona both placed five players on the First Team. Montana and Cal Poly each saw four of its players named to the First Team. In all, nine of the 13 conferences teams had at least one player selected to the First Team.

Adams, a 6-foot, 190-pound sophomore from Pasadena, Calif., is a leading candidate for the Walter Payton Award. He finished the regular season tops the nation in pass efficiency (185.7) and total offense (379.2 yards per game). He has already set single-season Big Sky records with 46 passing touchdowns and 4,550 yards of total offense. He enters the playoffs with 4,059 passing yards, which ranks fourth in conference single-season history.

"I don't want to take anything away from players like Eric Meyer, Matt Nichols, and Bo Levi Mitchell, but Vernon's season this year is the best I've seen since I've been a college football coach," said Eastern Washington head coach Beau Baldwin.

### **INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS**

#### **Offensive Player of the Year**

Vernon Adams, So., QB, Eastern Washington

#### **Co-Defensive Player of the Year**

Sullivan Grosz, Sr., DT, Cal Poly  
Brad Daly, Sr., DE, Montana State

#### **Newcomer of the Year**

Gabe Manzanarez, Jr., RB, UC Davis

#### **Freshman of the Year**

Cooper Kupp, Fr., Eastern Washington

### **THREE-TIME FIRST TEAM SELECTIONS**

Zach Bauman, RB, Northern Arizona  
T.J. Lee III, CB, Eastern Washington

### **TWO-TIME FIRST TEAM SELECTIONS**

Greg Hardin, WR, North Dakota  
Danny Kistler, OT, Montana  
Zack Wagenmann, DE, Montana,  
Jordan Tripp, LB, Montana, LB  
Anders Battle, CB, Northern Arizona, CB  
Lucky Dozier, S, Northern Arizona S

### **UNANIMOUS SELECTIONS**

Vernon Adams, QB, Eastern Washington  
Cooper Kupp, WR, Eastern Washington

Kupp, a 6-2, 195-pound redshirt freshman from Yakima, Wash., has set a number of FCS freshman records through the first 12 games of his college career. He leads the nation with 18 TD catches, one shy of the FCS single-season freshman record and two shy of the Big Sky single-season record. He has caught a TD pass in all 12 games, an FCS record. He enters the playoffs with 77 catches for 1,378 yards. His 1,378 yards are second in the nation and are a FCS record for freshmen. His 77 catches are four shy of the FCS freshman record. He is a leading candidate for the Jerry Rice Award, given annually to the top freshman in the nation.

“It was unanimous with the coaches in the conference, and deservedly so,” Baldwin said. “In a conference rich with receiver talent, he was the best as a freshman. He is the best receiver in this conference – not just the best freshman – and he was in the top three or four nationally in terms of what he’s done statistically.”

Daly, a 6-1, 240-pound senior from Helena, Mont., leads the nation in sacks with 14 and tackles for loss with 20.5. Daly is the second straight Montana State player to win Defensive MVP, following linebacker Jody Owens in 2012. Daly also has 68 total tackles, seven quarterback hurries, two forced fumbles, two blocked kicks and an interception.

Grosz, a 6-4, 295-pound senior from Fresno, Calif., was a force in the middle for one of the league’s top defenses. He had 71 total tackles – 13.5 for loss – eight sacks, five quarterback hurries, a forced fumble and an interception. He is the first Cal Poly player to win an individual award since the Mustangs joined the Big Sky in 2012.

Manzanares arrived at UC Davis prior to the season as a walk-on after transferring from City College of San Francisco. After a slow start, the 5-9, 195-pound junior from San Francisco, picked up steam and never slowed down. In 11 regular season games, he rushed for 1,285 yards and 12 touchdowns. In eight conference games, he averaged 140.2 rushing yards per game. He rushed for at least 100 yards in his final five games, and seven of his final eight.

Bauman and Lee, the two three-time First Team Players, have been leaders at their programs throughout their careers. Bauman, a senior from Chandler, Ariz., rushed for 1,000 yards for the fourth straight season. He ranks third all-time in league history in rushing yards with 5,031. He averaged 122.3 rushing yards per game and 148.4 all-purpose yards per game. Lee, a senior from Seattle, Wash., who played corner and safety this season, tallied 89 total tackles, four forced fumbles 10 pass breakups and an interception.

Lee, Kupp and Adams were joined on the first team by teammates Ashton Miller (Center) and Senior Bo Schutzle, who was named as the special teams player.

Battle, Dozier and Bauman were three of the five Northern Arizona Lumberjacks tabbed to the First Team. Defensive Tackle Tim Wilkinson and tight end RJ Rickert also made the unit.

Montana, which finished third in the Big Sky placed Tripp, and fellow senior outside linebacker J.P. Kanongata’a on the First Team, as well as Kistler at offensive tackle, and Wagenmann at defensive end.

Southern Utah’s senior Colton Cook was honored as the First Team Kicker. Sophomore inside linebacker Zak Browning of the playoff-bound Thunderbirds was also named to the First Team.

Sacramento State placed three players on the First Team: junior wide receiver DeAndre Carter, senior offensive guard Tyler Worthley, and senior inside linebacker Todd Davis, who leads the Big Sky in total tackles with 131.

Portland State was represented on the first team by senior running back DJ Adams, who rushed for 1,600 yards and a league-high 19 touchdowns, offensive tackle Mitchell Van Dyk, and punter Kyle Loomis, who leads the nation in punting.

Cal Poly guard Lefi Letuligasenoa, fullback Akaninyene Umoh, and safety Alex Hubbard joined Grosz on the First Team.

Montana State junior Shawn Johnson was named the First Team Return Specialist.

# 2013 ALL-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL TEAM

## FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Wide Receivers	*Cooper Kupp, Fr., Eastern Washington \$Greg Hardin, Sr., North Dakota DeAndre Carter, Jr., Sacramento State
Tackles	Mitchell Van Dyk, Sr., Portland State \$Danny Kistler, Sr., Montana
Guards	Tyler Worthley, Sr., Sacramento State Lefi Letuligasenoa, Sr., Cal Poly
Center	Ashton Miller, Sr., Eastern Washington
Tight End	RJ Rickert, Jr., Northern Arizona
Quarterback	*Vernon Adams, So., Eastern Washington
Running Back	!Zach Bauman, Sr., Northern Arizona DJ Adams, Sr., Portland State
Fullback	Akaninyene, Umoh, Sr., Cal Poly
Kicker	Colton Cook, Sr., Southern Utah
Return Specialist	Shawn Johnson, Jr., Montana State

## FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Tackles	Sullivan Grosz, Sr., Cal Poly Tim Wilkinson, Sr., Northern Arizona
Ends	Brad Daly, Sr., Montana State \$Zack Wagenmann, Jr., Montana
Outside LBs	\$Jordan Tripp, Sr., Montana JP Kanongata'a, Sr., Montana
Inside LBs	Todd Davis, Sr., Sacramento State Zak Browning, So., Southern Utah
Cornerbacks	\$Anders Battle, Sr., Northern Arizona !TJ Lee III, Sr., Eastern Washington
Safeties	\$Lucky Dozier, Sr., Northern Arizona Alex Hubbard, Sr., Cal Poly
Punter	Kyle Loomis, Jr., Portland State

## FIRST TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER

Bo Schutzle, Sr., Eastern Washington

\*Unanimous Selection

!Three-Time First Team Selection

\$Two-Time First Team Selection

## SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Wide Receiver	Ellis Henderson, So., Montana Luke Austin, Sr., Idaho State Ashton Clark, Sr., Eastern Washington
Tackles	Clay DeBord, So., Eastern Washington Giovanni Sani, Sr., Cal Poly
Guards	William Poehls, Sr., Montana Steven Forgette, Sr., Eastern Washington
Center	Roy Garcia, Jr., Northern Arizona Kjelby Oiland, Sr., Montana
Tight End	Tiai Salanoa, Jr., Montana State
Quarterback	Garrett Safron, Jr., Sacramento State
Running Back	Cody Kirk, Sr., Montana State Kristaan Ivory, Jr., Cal Poly
Fullback	Nick Butier, So., Northern Arizona
Kicker	Brendon Garcia, Sr., Idaho State
Return Specialist	Ellis Henderson, So., Montana

## SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Tackles	Andru Pulu, Sr., Eastern Washington Alex Bienemann, Sr., Montana
Ends	James Cowser, So., Southern Utah Nick King, Sr., UC Davis
Outside LBs	Ronnie Hamlin, Sr., Eastern Washington Johnny Millard, Sr., Cal Poly
Inside LBs	Brock Coyle, Sr., Montana Clarence Bumpas, Sr., Northern Colorado
Cornerbacks	Anthony Goodwin, Sr., Montana Deonte Flowers, Jr., Montana State
Safeties	Matt Hermanson, Jr., Montana Tommy Collet, Jr., Sr., Southern Utah
Punter	Justin Weldon, Sr., Sacramento State

## SECOND TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS

Chad Newell, Fr., Montana State

# 2013 ALL-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL TEAM

## THIRD TEAM OFFENSE

Wide Receivers	Tanner Bleskin, Sr., Montana State Morris Norrise, Sr., Sacramento State Kasey Closs, Jr., Portland State
Tackles	Cody Burgess, Sr., Southern Utah Jacob Julian, Fr., Northern Arizona
Guards	Cornelius Edison, Jr., Portland State JP Flynn, Fr., Montana State Trevor Poole, Jr., Montana
Center	Gavin Farr, Sr., Southern Utah
Tight End	Zack Gehring, Sr., Eastern Washington
Quarterback	Jordan Johnson, Jr., Montana
Running Backs	Gabe Manzanares, Jr., UC Davis Quincy Forte, Jr., Eastern Washington
Fullback	Jamal Wilson, So., Montana
Kicker	Brady Stuart, So., UC Davis
Return Specialist	Greg Hardin, Sr., North Dakota

## THIRD TEAM DEFENSE

Tackles	Tonga Takai, Jr., Montana Chima Ike, Sr., Northern Arizona
Ends	Anthony Larry, Sr., Eastern Washington Jake Irwin, Jr., Cal Poly
Outside LBs	Matt Holley, Jr., Southern Utah Mike Dosen, Sr., Northern Arizona
Inside LBS	Nick Dzubnar, Jr., Cal Poly Austin Hasquet, Jr., Northern Arizona Anthony Morales, Sr., Weber State
Cornerbacks	Tyree Mills, Sr., Southern Utah Jonathan Perkins, Sr., UC Davis
Safeties	Tevin McDonald, Jr., Eastern Washington David Edgerson, Sr., Portland State
Punter	Andy Wilder, Sr., Northern Arizona

## THIRD TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYERS

Ellis Henderson, So., Montana

## HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE

Wide Receivers – Cole Stanford, Sr., Cal Poly; Cory Mitchell, Jr., Eastern Washington; Shaq Hill, So., Eastern Washington; Chad Hansen, Fr., Idaho State; Cam Warren, WR, Montana; Brian Flotkoetter, Jr., Montana State; Kenny Golladay, So., North Dakota; Jesse Brantley, Sr., Northern Arizona; Nick Cole, Sr., Northern Arizona; Dimitri Stimpfhill, Jr., Northern Colorado; Will Jefferson, Jr., Northern Colorado; Shane Harrison, So., Sacramento State; Fatu Moala, Sr., Southern Utah; Tom Hemmingsen, Sr., UC Davis; Erik Walker, Sr., Weber State.

Tackles – Cassidy Curtis, So., Eastern Washington; John Schmaing, So., Montana; Quinn Catalano, Jr., Montana State; John Weidenaar, So., Montana State; Joe Kleason, Sr., North Dakota; Kyle Smith, Fr., Portland State; Ian Joseph, Jr., UC Davis.

Guards – Matt Fisher, Fr., Cal Poly; Brandon Murphy, Sr., Eastern Washington; Terrance Carey, So., Idaho State; Brandon Anderson, So., North Dakota; Jake Solomon, Sr., Northern Colorado; Tyler

Olker, Sr., Northern Colorado; Nick Nissen, Jr., Southern Utah

Center – Stephen Sippel, So., Cal Poly; Mitch Gaulke, Sr., Portland State; Tyson Tiatia, Sr., Weber State; Jay Luchetti, Jr., UC Davis.

Tight Ends – Josh Cook, Fr., Idaho State; Clay Pierson, Sr., Montana; Austin Wilbers, Sr., Northern Colorado; Anthony Norris, So., Southern Utah; Taylor Sloat, Sr., UC Davis.

Quarterbacks – DeNarius McGhee, Sr., Montana State; Seth Lobato, Sr., Northern Colorado.

Running backs – Xavier Finney, So., Idaho State; Jordan Canada, Jr., Montana; Tromaine Dennis, Sr., Northern Colorado.

Fullbacks – Dalton Turay, Jr., UC Davis; Quinn Zamora, Fr., Northern Colorado.

Kicker – Kevin Miller, Sr., Eastern Washington; Ben Worst, Fr., Montana; Zeb Miller, Sr., North Dakota; Andy Wilder, Sr., Northern Arizona.

Return Specialist: Alex Hubbard, Sr., Cal Poly; Lucky Dozier, Sr., Northern Arizona; Nate Tago, Fr., Portland State; Charles Boyett, Jr., UC Davis; AJ Coney, Fr., Weber State

## HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE

Tackles – Chris Lawrence, Jr., Cal Poly; Nick Leyden, Sr., Cal Poly; Will Katoa, Sr., Eastern Washington; Dylan Zylstra, Jr., Eastern Washington; Tyler Kuder, So., Idaho State; Taylor Sheridan, So., Montana State; Lexington Smith, Jr., Northern Colorado; Joe Lopez, Jr., Portland State; Junior Alexis, So., Portland State; Robert Torgerson, Fr., Southern Utah; Toi Taufa, So., Southern Utah; James Washington, Jr., Weber State

Ends – Andrew Alcaraz, Sr., Cal Poly; Evan Day, Jr., Eastern Washington; Austin Graves, Jr., Idaho State; Tyrone Holmes, So., Montana; Steven Garcia, Sr., Northern Arizona; Gavin Miller, Sr., Northern Colorado; Jeremy Boone, Sr., Portland State; Darnell Sankey, So., Sacramento State; Andrew Eide, Fr., Southern Utah

Outside Linebackers: Cameron Ontko, Jr., Cal Poly; Cole Moore, Jr., Montana State; Leilon Willingham, Jr., Northern Colorado; Max Flores, Jr., Northern Colorado; Chad Hansen, Sr., Southern Utah

Inside Linebackers: Cody McCarthy, Jr., Eastern Washington; Mitch Beckstead, Jr., Idaho State; Alex Singleton, Jr., Montana State; Ryan Reardon, Sr., Northern Arizona; Garrison Goodman, Sr., North Dakota; Jaycob Shoemaker, Sr., Portland State; Steven Pitts, Jr., UC Davis

Cornerbacks – Bijon Samoodi, Sr., Cal Poly; Vante Smith-Johnson, Sr., Cal Poly; Ronald Baines, Sr., Eastern Washington; Nate Harris, So., Montana; Marcus Alford, So., Northern Arizona; Courtney Hall, Jr., Northern Colorado; Aaron Sibley, So., Portland State; Markell Williams, Sr., Sacramento State; LeShaun Sims, So., Southern Utah; Shamawn Wright, So., UC Davis

Safeties – Allen Brown, Sr., Eastern Washington; Cody Sorensen, So., Idaho State; Bo Tully, Sr., Montana; Steven Bethley, Sr., Montana State; Cam Kuksa, Fr., North Dakota; Blair Wishom, Sr., Northern Arizona; Dean Faddis, Sr., Portland State; Miles Killebrew, So., Southern Utah

Punters – Stephen Shaw, So., Montana; Rory Perez, Sr., Montana State; Brock Miller, Sr., Southern Utah; Colby Wadman, Fr., UC Davis; Tony Epperson, P, Weber State

## HONORABLE MENTION SPECIAL TEAMS

Nick Albano, Jr., Idaho State; Anthony Hughes, Sr., Northern Arizona; Dominique Bennett, Sr., North Dakota; Hayden Plinke, So., Portland State