



*Today's Scholar-Athletes - Tomorrow's Leaders*

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## **Colgate's Record-Breaking Season Recognized By All-League Voters** *RB Jamaal Branch, LB Tem Lukabu & Coach Dick Biddle Gain Major Awards For Playoff-Bound Raiders*

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – Colgate's football team, the first in Patriot League history to go 12-0 during the regular season, riding an 18-game winning streak and seeded fourth in the upcoming NCAA Division I-AA Tournament, was rewarded by the PL coaches, who combined to select 12 Raiders to the 2003 All-League Football Team as well as the Offensive, Defensive and Coach of the Year awards.

Jr. RB **Jamaal Branch** (Mashpee, Mass.), a finalist for the Walter Payton Award as the Division I-AA Offensive Player of the Year, was picked as the League's Offensive Player of the Year. Sr. LB **Tem Lukabu** (Avenel, N.J.), a finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award as the I-AA Defensive Player of the year, was chosen to receive his second-straight PL Defensive Player of the Year trophy. Eight-year veteran **Dick Biddle**, a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Division I-AA Coach of the Year Award, was unanimously selected by his peers as the 2003 PL Coach of the Year.

They'll lead the 12-0 Raiders (7-0 PL) into the 2003 NCAA Tournament against Massachusetts (10-2, 8-1 A-10) in Saturday's first-round playoff game at CU's Andy Kerr Stadium (12:30 p.m.).

The fourth major award, Freshman of the Year, was given to Fordham PK **Micah Clukey** (St. Augustine, Fla.), who was one of 12 Rams named to the 2003 All-League squad. Clukey led the PL in kick scoring (80 points), including 47-for-51 on PATs and 11-for-14 on FG attempts. He also topped the PL in field goal percentage (78.6%). Fordham, the 2002 PL champs, led the League with seven first-team All-PL choices this season, one more than CU.

Lehigh also had six first-team All-League players among its 10 post-season honorees. The remainder of the 2003 All-PL team included seven Towson Tigers, three Georgetown Hoyas and two each from Bucknell, Holy Cross and Lafayette.

Despite gaining just six yards in CU's opening game of the season, Branch exploded to crush the League's single-season rushing record by more than 200 yards. In leading the country in rushing (168.83), he became the first PL player to gain more than 2,000 yards in a season (2,026). In the season finale at Holy Cross, he gained 280 yards (and three TDs), missing the League's single-game record by just two yards. He rushed for 200 yards in four games this season and scored at least two TDs nine times. Branch also led the country in scoring (12.50) and broke the PL record for rushing TDs in a season (25). He enters the NCAA Tournament ranked 17th on the League's career rushing list (2,618).

Lukabu, who shared the 2002 Defensive Player of the Year award with Bucknell's **Adam Lord**, is the solo recipient this season after leading the Raiders with 95 tackles, including 56 solo hits. He ranked third in the PL in total tackles and tied for third in solo stops. Lukabu was also among the PL leaders in tackles for loss (10 for 46 yards), sacks (5 for 36 yards), pass break ups (8) and fumble recoveries (3).

Biddle was named Coach of the Year for the second time in his tenure at CU. He also earned the award in 1996, his first season in Hamilton. Biddle guided the Raiders to a team and League record for most wins in a season. Colgate's current 18-game winning streak is the longest among all NCAA Division I teams, and their ranking is the highest in team history. In eight years, Biddle's Raiders have compiled a 66-26 overall record (71.7%), including a 21-3 mark the last two years. His teams have won or shared four Patriot League titles, finished second four other times and compiled a 41-8 record (83.7%) against PL competition.

Raiders joining Branch on the All-League offense include senior first-team offensive linemen **Marc Sclafani** (Belmont, Mass.) and **Rene Vargas** (Miami, Fla.) along with Sr. TE **John Frieser** (Endwell, N.Y.), Jr. WR **Luke Graham** (Hamilton, N.Y.) and Jr. QB **Chris Brown** (Rockledge, Fla.) all on the second team.

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Sclafani and Vargas, both first-time All-League honorees, were the key front men for an offense that led the PL and ranked nationally in rushing offense (10th, 242.58), total offense (16th, 420.58) and scoring offense (18th, 33.08). In addition to contributing to the rush blocking, Frieser makes his third-straight appearance on the All-PL squad after ranking third on the team with 23 receptions for 308 yards and four TDs. Leading the passing game and earning all-PL honors for the second-straight season is Graham, who ranked among the top six in the PL in receptions and receiving yards with 57 catches for 882 yards and six TDs. Brown engineered the attack, completing 163-of-280 passes for 2,116 yards and 15 TDs and adding 414 yards and eight scores in the rushing game.

Defensively for the Raiders, Sr. DL **Josh Sabo** (White Oak, Pa.) and Sr. DB **Sean McCune** (Hookstown, Pa.) joined Lukabu on the All-League first team while Sr. DL **Rob Hannah** (Akron, Ohio), Jr. LB **Andrell Tyson** (Decatur, Ga.) and Sr. DB **Ainsworth Minott** (Englewood, N.J.) were second-team choices. Sabo and Lukabu are the only returnees to the All-PL defensive unit.

McCune finished second on the team with 69 tackles while Tyson was fourth (46). McCune also added two interceptions and four pass break ups while Tyson chipped in five tackles for losses, a sack, an interception and a forced fumble. Minott added 39 stops, two interceptions and five pass break ups. Sabo contributed 10.5 of his 36 total tackles in opposing backfields, including four sacks, as well as knocked down four passes and recovered a fumble. Hannah added 19 hits, including 15 solo stops and 7.5 for losses, two fumble recoveries, one forced fumble and a pass break up.

Fordham's first-team All-League representatives started with record-setting Sr. WR **Javarus Dudley** (Hollywood, Fla.) and Sr. RB **Kirwin Watson** (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.). Dudley, a three-time first-team All-League choice who was the 2001 PL Offensive Player of the Year, broke the season records for receptions (101) and receiving yards (1,439) as well as the career marks for receptions (295), receiving yards (4,197), TD receptions (tied record of 34), kickoff return yardage (2,663) and all-purpose yards (7,121). Branch, also a three-time All-PL first-team player and the 2002 Offensive Player of the Year, twice tied the PL mark for rushing TDs in a game (5) while finishing second in the PL in rushing this season (1,477). Watson finished his career third on the League all-time rushing list (4,617), second in scoring (282) and fifth in all-purpose yards (4,994).

Also earning All-League honors on offense for the Rams were Sr. QB **Kevin Eakin** (Coral Springs, Fla.), Sr. OL **Prince Poitier** (Deerfield Beach, Fla.), Sr. OL **Kevin Oefelein** (Brooklyn, N.Y.) and Clukey. Eakin is the top QB in the PL for the second-straight year after completing 60.7% of his passes (247-for-407) for 3,072 yards, both League-leading marks. He finished his career 11th on the PL career passing yards list (6,112) and 12th on the total offense list (5,944). Poitier and Oefelein were keys to the success of Eakin, Watson and Dudley the past two seasons, helping the Rams rank among the NCAA leaders in passing offense (15th, 258.8), total offense (32nd, 369.83) and scoring offense (21st, 32.17).

Defensive all-stars for the Rams were Sr. DL **Colby Kuhns** (Hilton, N.Y.), Jr. DL **Aki Jones** (Jamaica, N.Y.) and Jr. DB **Tad Kornegay** (Trenton, N.J.) on the first team and Jr. LB **NaQuinton Gainous** (Tallahassee, Fla.) and Sr. DB **Will Davis** (Camden, N.J.) on the second team. Gainous and Davis were both second-team All-League choices in 2002. Gainous topped the Rams with 89 tackles while Kornegay was second with 71 hits and team-highs of four interceptions and 15 pass break ups. Davis chipped in 59 tackles to rank sixth on the team. Kuhns, who had 49 total stops, shared the PL lead with 15.5 tackles for loss, including three sacks, and added six pass break ups. He paired with Jones, who had 35 stops, including 9.5 in the opposing backfields, on the front wall for the Rams. Sr. **Steve Ayers** (Irvine, Calif.) earned second-team All-PL recognition after finishing second in the PL with a 38.5 yard punting average.

Lehigh, which finished second in the PL, ranked 25th in the country and among the top teams being considered for an at-large bid to the NCAA playoffs, put six players on the first-team All-League unit and four on second team.

The Mountain Hawks had a League-leading four first-team defenders, including Sr. DL **Mike Gregorek** (Bethlehem, Pa.), Sr. LBs **Tom McGeoy** (Palo Alto, Pa.) and **Mike Taggart** (Victor, N.Y.) and Sr. DB **Lawrence Williams** (Gettysburg, Pa.). Soph. DL **Royce Morgan** (Avenel, N.J.) was a second-team All-PL defensive choice. Gregorek and McGeoy were first-team all-stars last year while Taggart and Williams were second-team selections in 2002. Morgan is making his first post-season appearance.

McGeoy led the Mountain Hawks with 86 tackles, including 7.5 tackles for loss and two sacks, tied for the PL lead with three recovered fumbles, intercepted one pass and broke up five other aeriels. Taggart played in only eight games, but he finished fourth on the team with 51 hits. Gregorek provided the rush up front, contributing 49 tackles, and 10 of his 13.5 tackles in backfield were sacks, which led the PL. Gregorek also batted down a team-best eight passes, which led all PL linemen. Williams chipped in 57 tackles, which was third on the team, and shared team-high honors with four interceptions. Williams finished his career with 13 interceptions, which is tied for third in PL history, and returned a PL-record five of them for TDs. Morgan, in his first year as a starter, contributed 30 tackles and ranked among the PL leaders with 11.5 tackles for loss and eight sacks.

Offensively for the Mountain Hawks, Jr. TE **Adam Bergen** (Seaford, N.Y.) and Sr. PK **Matt Douglas** (Dallas, Pa.) each earned first-team All-PL honors while Sr. OL **Oscar Guerrero** (West New York, N.J.), Jr. OL **Justin Terry** (Orrtanna, Pa.) and Sr. RB **Jermaine Pugh** (Mine Hill, N.J.) gained second-team recognition. Pugh is the only returnee from the 2002 All-PL team after earning second-team honors last year.

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Bergen led all tight ends and ranked among the top five in the PL in receptions and receiving yards with 70 catches for 840 yards. Douglas led Lehigh in scoring, converting 40 of 42 PAT attempts and 12-of-19 FGs for 76 points, which led the PL in kick scoring per game (6.9). Pugh was the team's top rusher for the third-straight season, gaining 768 yards on 186 carries, ranked third on the team in receiving with 35 catches for 340 yards, and led the Mountain Hawks with seven touchdowns. Pugh finished his career 15th on the League's career rushing chart (2,674) and 17th in all-purpose yardage (4,140). Guerrero, a second-year starter, and Terry provided the holes for Pugh and the time for LU QBs to find Bergen. The two blocking machines helped the Mountain Hawks finished 24th nationally in passing offense (245.4) and 36th in scoring offense (30.00).

Towson, finishing its seventh and final season as a member of the League, gained seven post-season nods, including five on the defensive side of the ball, one on offense and one specialist. The Tigers' defense was led by Jr. DB **P.D. Moore** (Cape May Courthouse, N.J.), who earned his second-straight first-team All-League berth, as well as second-team Sr. DLs **Steven Nance** (Beltsville, Md.), **Jason Troilo** (Whitehouse Station, N.J.), Sr. LB **Neal Regan** (Philadelphia, Pa.) and Jr. DB **Davon Telp** (Baltimore, Md.). On offense, Sr. OL **Jason Gunning** (Pennsauken, N.J.) picked up his second-straight first-team All-PL award, and Sr. **Steve Bulcavage** (Acconkeck, Md.) moved up from second-team punter last year to first-team this season.

Regan led the team with 94 total tackles and shared the League lead with 15.5 tackles for losses, including five sacks. Moore was fifth on the team with 63 total hits, including four sacks and six other tackles for losses, and defended nine passes with three picks. Nance, who contributed 57 hits and seven sacks, along with Troilo, who had 45 stops and six sacks, were tied for fourth in the PL with 13.5 tackles for loss and were among the leaders in sacks. Telp, who broke several team and PL records by returning two interceptions for TDs against Georgetown, had 45 total tackles and three interceptions for a League-high 150 return yards. Offensively, Gunning was the key as the Tigers averaged 327.8 yards per game. Bulcavage, who broke the PL record with an 89-yard punt at Colgate, led the League with a 43.3 punting average, which raised his career average to a League-record 40.88 yards per punt.

In its third year in the League, Georgetown put three players on the All-League team for the first time, including first-team Sr. WR **Luke McArdle** (Boxford, Mass.) as well as second-team Sr. **Matt Fronczke** (Downers Grove, Ill.) and Soph. DL **Michael Ononibaku** (Amherst, Mass.) on the defense. All three Hoyas earn post-season recognition for the first time. McArdle led the country in all-purpose yardage, averaging 184.64 yards per game, and was among the PL and national leaders in receptions (63) and receiving yards (1,118), breaking the team's career records in both. In three PL seasons, McArdle finished seventh on the PL receiving yards list (2,431) and 13th in all-purpose yards (4,440). Fronczke finished third on the Hoyas and was among the PL leaders for the second-straight year in total tackles with 85. Ononibaku was one of the top tacklers among PL defensive linemen with 50 total stops and ranked among the PL leaders with 14 TFLs and eight sacks.

Holy Cross and Lafayette each placed one player on the first-team offense and one on the second team. HC Sr. OL **Steve Fox** (Fairfax, Va.) and LC Sr. OL **Kevin Moss** (New York, N.Y.) are repeat All-PL selections and earned first-team recognition while HC Sr. WR **Ari Confesor** (Providence, R.I.) and LC Jr. RB **Joe McCourt** (Philadelphia, Pa.) were first-time honorees and second team picks.

Confesor had the second-highest single-season total of receptions (90) in PL history and finished among the Top 10 nationally in receptions per game (4th, 7.50), receiving yards per game (10th, 101.08) and all-purpose yards (5th, 172.67). He was among four PL players, along with McArdle, Dudley and Branch, to rank among the top seven in the country in all-purpose yards -- a PL first. Confesor finished his Patriot League career seventh in receptions (182), 12th in receiving yards (2,352) and fourth in all-purpose yards (5,370). Fox was a key for HC's passing attack, which ranked 17th nationally with a 251.2-yard per game average.

Moss was the lead blocker for McCourt and the LC offense, which ranked 16th nationally in passing offense (254.1), 30th in total offense (404.91) and 44th in scoring offense (28.64). McCourt, who had the highest per-game rushing average in the PL in 2002, was the 'Pards' top rusher (245-for-1,157 yards), receiver (52-for-444 yards), scorer (104) and all-purpose runner (1,601) this year. He finished 26th in the country in rushing per game, 23rd in all-purpose yards and ninth in scoring. McCourt will enter his senior season ranked seventh in the League in career rushing (3,281), seventh in all-purpose yards (4,631) and 12th in scoring (224).

Bucknell, which tied the League record for most improvement by going from 0-7 in PL play last year to 4-3 (tied for third place) this season, also earned two second-team All-League nods for Sr. OL **Rashad Stallworth** (Prichard, Ala.) and Jr. LB **Kevin Ransome** (Bear, Del.). Stallworth, who earned his second-straight second-team All-League award, led a rejuvenated BU offense that averaged 242.33 rushing yards, which ranked second in the PL behind Colgate and 12th in the country. Ransome, who led the League with 116 total tackles and 63 solo hits, earned post-season recognition for the first time in his career.

The Patriot League, an NCAA Division I athletics conference founded on the principle of admitting athletes who are academically representative of their class, is in its second decade of academic and athletic excellence. Participation in intercollegiate athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of the undergraduate experience. A successful Division I-AA football conference since 1986 and an all-sport conference since 1990, membership includes American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh and Navy, while seven additional institutions hold associate membership. Patriot League member institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation, graduating alumni who are well prepared for life with the ability to make meaningful contributions to their community and society in general. In the most recent NCAA Graduation Rate Report of student-athletes, the Patriot League ranked FIRST among NCAA Division I conferences.

# 2003 Patriot League Football All-League Team

## FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous PL Honors</u>
Marc Sclafani, Colgate	Sr.	OL	Belmont, Mass.	
Rene Vargas, Colgate	Sr.	OL	Miami, Fla.	
Prince Poirier, Fordham	Sr.	OL	Deerfield Beach, Fla.	
Steve Fox, Holy Cross	Sr.	OL	Fairfax, Va.	2nd in '02
Kevin Moss, Lafayette	Sr.	OL	New York, N.Y.	1st in '02; 2nd in '01
Jason Gunning, Towson	Sr.	OL	Pennsauken, N.J.	1st in '02
Adam Bergen, Lehigh	Jr.	TE	Seaford, N.Y.	
Javarus Dudley, Fordham	Sr.	WR	Hollywood, Fla.	1st in '02; 1st & OPOY in '01
Luke McArdle, Georgetown	Sr.	WR	Boxford, Mass.	
Jamaal Branch, Colgate	Jr.	RB	Mashpee, Mass.	
Kirwin Watson, Fordham	Sr.	RB	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	1st & OPOY in '02; 1st in '01
Kevin Eakin, Fordham	Sr.	QB	Coral Springs, Fla.	1st in '02
Matt Douglas, Lehigh	Sr.	PK	Dallas, Pa.	

## FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous PL Honors</u>
Josh Sabo, Colgate	Sr.	DL	White Oak, Pa.	2nd in '02
Colby Kuhns, Fordham	Sr.	DL	Hilton, N.Y.	
Aki Jones, Fordham	Jr.	DL	Jamaica, N.Y.	
Mike Gregorek, Lehigh	Sr.	DL	Bethlehem, Pa.	1st in '02
Tem Lukabu, Colgate	Sr.	LB	Avenel, N.J.	1st & Co-DPOY in '02
Tom McGeoy, Lehigh	Sr.	LB	Palo Alto, Pa.	1st in '02
Mike Taggart, Lehigh	Sr.	LB	Victor, N.Y.	2nd in '02
Sean McCune, Colgate	Sr.	DB	Hookstown, Pa.	
Tad Kornegay, Fordham	Jr.	DB	Trenton, N.J.	
Lawrence Williams, Lehigh	Sr.	DB	Gettysburg, Pa.	2nd in '02
P.D. Moore, Towson	Jr.	DB	Cape May Courthouse, N.J.	1st in '02
Steve Bulcavage, Towson	Sr.	P	Accokeek, Md.	2nd in '01

## SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous PL Honors</u>
Rashad Stallworth, Bucknell	Sr.	OL	Prichard, Ala.	2nd in '02
Kevin Oefelein, Fordham	Sr.	OL	Brooklyn, N.Y.	2nd in '02
Justin Terry, Lehigh	Jr.	OL	Orrtanna, Pa.	
Oscar Guerrero, Lehigh	Sr.	OL	West New York, N.J.	
John Frieser, Colgate	Sr.	TE	Endwell, N.Y.	1st in '02; 1st in '01
Luke Graham, Colgate	Jr.	WR	Hamilton, N.Y.	2nd in '02
Ari Confesor, Holy Cross	Sr.	WR	Providence, R.I.	
Joe McCourt, Lafayette	Jr.	RB	Great Prairie, Texas	
Jermaine Pugh, Lehigh	Sr.	RB	Mine Hill, N.J.	2nd in '02
Chris Brown, Colgate	Jr.	QB	Rockledge, Fla.	
Micah Clukey, Fordham	Fr.	PK	St. Augustine, Fla.	

## SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous PL Honors</u>
Rob Hannah, Colgate	Sr.	DL	Akron, Ohio	
Michael Ononibaku, Georgetown	So.	DL	Amherst, Mass.	
Royce Morgan, Lehigh	So.	DL	Avenel, N.J.	
Steven Nance, Towson	Sr.	DL	Beltsville, Md.	
Jason Troilo, Towson	Sr.	DL	Whitehouse Station, N.J.	
Kevin Ransome, Bucknell	Jr.	LB	Bear, Del.	
Antrell Tyson, Colgate	Jr.	LB	Decatur, Ga.	
NaQuinton Gainous, Fordham	Jr.	LB	Tallahassee, Fla.	2nd in '02
Neal Regan, Towson	Sr.	LB	Philadelphia, Pa.	2nd in '02
Ainsworth Minott, Colgate	Sr.	DB	Englewood, N.J.	
Will Davis, Fordham	Sr.	DB	Camden, N.J.	2nd in '02
Matt Fronczke, Georgetown	Sr.	DB	Downers Grove, Ill.	
Davon Telp, Towson	Jr.	DB	Baltimore, Md.	
Steve Ayers, Fordham	Sr.	P	Irvine, Calif.	

**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**

Jamaal Branch, Colgate, Jr., RB

**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**

Tem Lukabu, Colgate, Sr., LB (Co-DPOY in 2002)

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:**

Micah Clukey, Fordham, Fr., PK

**COACH OF THE YEAR:**

Dick Biddle, Colgate (also in 1996)