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Fordham, Colgate Combine For 25 Players On Football All-Star Team

*RB Kirwin Watson & Coach Dave Clawson Gain Major Awards For Playoff-Bound Rams
CU LB Tem Lukabu Shares Defensive Player Of The Year Award With Bucknell DL Adam Lord
Holy Cross RB Gideon Akande Is Fourth Crusader To Win Rookie Of The Year Trophy*

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – Fordham and Colgate, which tied for the 2002 Patriot League football championship, combined to grab 25 of 52 spots on the All-League team and win three of the four major post-season awards in a vote of the League coaches.

The 21st-ranked Rams (9-2, 6-1 PL), headed to Boston Saturday to face fourth-seeded Northeastern University in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, earned 14 All-League berths. Fordham is led by Jr. RB **Kirwin Watson** (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.), who was named the 2002 Offensive Player of the Year, and fourth-year head coach **Dave Clawson**, who picked up his second-straight PL Coach of the Year honor.

Watson, now a two-time first-team All-League selection, won his second-straight PL rushing title, averaging 118.4 yards per game, and scored 17 TDs (16 rushing) to win the PL scoring crown. He is already eighth on the League's career rushing list with 2,973 yards. Clawson, who built the Rams from an 0-11 squad in 1999 to a playoff team in 2002, joins former Holy Cross mentor **Mark Duffner** (1986-87) as the only coaches in PL history to win the League's Coach of the Year honor in consecutive years.

The 25th-ranked Raiders (9-3, 6-1 PL), who won or shared the PL crown for the third time in the last six years, earned 11 All-League awards. CU was led by Jr. LB **Tem Lukabu** (Avenel, N.J.), who was selected as the League's Co-Defensive Player of the Year with Bucknell Sr. DL **Adam Lord** (Troy, N.Y.).

Lukabu finished second in the League in total tackles (112) and third in tackles per game (9.3), leading the Raiders to finish as the best rushing defense in the League, allowing just 99.2 yards per outing. Lord, who was also selected as the League's Pre-Season Defensive Player of the Year, earned All-League honors for the third-straight year after leading BU's defensive unit to second place in rushing defense (99.4 ypg.), second in passing defense (178.0) and first in total defense (277.4).

Also highlighting the 2002 All-League squad is Holy Cross Fr. RB **Gideon Akande** (Chicago, Ill.), who became the fourth Crusader in the 17-year history of the PL to win the Rookie of the Year award. Akande broke the Crusaders' rookie rushing record and finished fifth overall in the League with 77.5 yards per game (853 total). Previous HC Rookies of the Year include 1992 QB **Andy Fitzpatrick**, 1994 RB **J.R. Walz** and 1999 QB **Brian Hall**.

Watson, who is also among the finalists for the Division I-AA Walter Peyton Award, was among eight Fordham offensive players to earn All-League recognition. Joining Watson on the first-team squad were Jr. WR **Javarus Dudley** (Hollywood, Fla.), Sr. FB **Alemayo White** (Hempstead, N.Y.), Jr. QB **Kevin Eakin** (Coral Springs, Fla.) and Sr. PK **Matt Fordyce** (Mentor, Ohio).

Dudley, the 2002 Pre-Season Offensive Player of the Year, earned first-team All-League recognition after leading the League in receptions (69 rec., 26.27 ypg.) and finishing second in receiving yards (1,052 yds., 95.6 ypg.). Dudley also finished second in the PL in kickoff returns (25.1 avg.) and all-purpose yards (1,731 yds., 157.4 ypg.). White is primarily used as a blocking back for Watson but contributed 260 all-purpose yards and three TDs. Eakin earned first-team All-League honors after leading the PL in passing yards per game (241.5), completion percentage (64.2%), passing TDs (21) and passing efficiency (152.3).

Fordyce actually earned two first-team All-League berths. In addition to earning the placekicking honor, Fordyce joined Jr. DB **Dan McGrath** (Webster, N.Y.) on the first-team defensive unit as the All-League punter. Fordyce led the PL in kick-scoring average (77 points, 7.0) and was second in punting (39.0 avg.). McGrath was second on the tackle charts for the Rams (68) and ranked second in the PL in punt return average (13.9).

Earning second-team All-League recognition for the Rams were Sr. OL **John San Marko** (Cincinnati, Ohio), Jr. OL **Kevin Oefelein** (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Jr. TE **Travis Johnson** (Fairport, N.Y.), Sr. DL **Aymen Aboushi** (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Jr. DL **Keron Lucius** (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Soph. LB **NaQuinton Gainous** (Tallahassee, Fla.) and Jr. DB **Will Davis** (Camden, N.J.).

Colgate earned five first-team All-League nods and six players on the second team. Joining Lukabu on the starting unit were Sr. OL **Mike Murphy** (New Milford, N.J.), Sr. OL **Matt Shepard** (Natick, Mass.), Jr. TE **John Frieser** (Endwell, N.Y.) and Sr. DB **Max Wynn** (Atlanta, Ga.).

(more)

American * Army * Bucknell * Colgate * Holy Cross * Lafayette * Lehigh * Navy

Shepard, Murphy and Frieser combined to lead CU to the best rushing offense in the League, averaging 177.5 yards per game. Frieser, a two-time All-League choice who has also earned Verizon Academic All-District recognition, contributed 19 receptions and two TDs to the passing game. Wynn contributed 54 tackles this season and joined Lukabu to lead a defense that allowed just 18.0 ppg.

Second-team All-League recognition was awarded to Soph. WR **Luke Graham** (Hamilton, N.Y.), Sr. FB **Justin Polk** (Great Prairie, Texas), Soph. PK **Lane Schwarzberg** (Winter Haven, Fla.), Jr. DL **Josh Sabo** (White Oak, Pa.), Jr. DL **Mike Latek** (Rochester, N.Y.) and Sr. DB **Maurice Robertson** (Riverdale, Ga.).

Lehigh, which entered the season ranked among the top teams in the country, placed 10 players on the All-League team after finishing with an 8-4 overall record (4-3 PL). Leading the Mountain Hawks were first-team all-stars Sr. OL **Jeff Santacroce** (Mt. Airy, Md.), Jr. DL **Mike Gregorek** (Bethlehem, Pa.), Jr. OB **Tom McGeoy** (Palo Alto, Pa.) and Sr. DB **Ken Pitter** (Cherry Hill, N.J.).

Santacroce is a two-time first-team All-League choice who joined second-team Sr. OLs **John Timko** (West Chester, Pa.) and **John Bryner** (Hatfield, Pa.) to open the holes for second-team Jr. RB **Jermaine Pugh** (Mine Hill, N.J.). Pugh finished second in the League in total rushing yards (1,339), including nine 100-yard games.

Gregorek, McGeoy and Pitter all earned post-season recognition for the first time after leading LU to the best pass defense in the PL (158.6 ypg.) finishing among the top three in scoring defense (18.0), rush defense (119.8) and total defense (278.4). Also contributing to the Mountain Hawks defense were second-team picks Jr. LB **Mike Taggart** (Victor, N.Y.), Jr. DB **Lawrence Williams** (Gettysburg, Pa.) and Sr. DB **Matt Salvaterra** (Macungie, Pa.). It was the second-straight second-team all-star nod for Salvaterra.

Rounding out the first-team All-League offensive lineup are Lafayette Sr. OL **Chris Royle** (Stockton, N.J.), Jr. OL **Kevin Moss** (New York, N.Y.) and Towson Sr. WR **Jamal White** (Sicklerville, N.J.).

Royle and Moss, along with second-team all-stars Jr. QB **Marko Glavic** (Pickering, Ontario, Canada) and Jr. WR **John Weyrauch** (Mountain Top, Pa.), led Lafayette's resurgence this year to a third-place finish in the League. LC's 7-5 overall record (5-2 PL) was the team's best under third-year coach **Frank Tavani**. Lafayette's passing offense (223.2) ranked second in the PL while the 'Pards were fourth in total offense (373.7). Glavic, the 2000 PL Rookie of the Year, already moved up to seventh on the League's career yards passing chart (7,094) and sixth in total offense (7,350).

White, a 1999 All-American who helped Towson gain a winning record for the fourth time in the last five seasons, finished among the top four in the League in receptions (54, 4.91 avg.), receiving yards (892, 81.1 ypg.) and broke the League record for career pass receptions with 219 for 3,156 yards.

Towson Sr. DL **Juston Yelverton** (Dover, Del.) and Soph. DB **P.D. Moore** (Cape May Courthouse, N.J.) joined Lord and two other Bison to complete the first-team PL defense. BU Sr. DL **Joe Massey** (Brooklyn, N.Y.) is a repeat selection on the first-team All-League squad while Jr. LB **Stephane Pluviose** (Cliffwood Beach, N.J.) gained first-team honors for the first time.

Yelverton and Moore, along with second-team all-stars Jr. LB **Neal Regan** (Philadelphia, Pa.) and Sr. DB **Edmund Carazo** (Severn, Md.), combined to help Towson finish fourth in the League in rushing defense (121.3), total defense (344.1) and scoring defense (22.3). Regan (110) and Moore (75) finished second and 10th, respectively, among the PL tackles leaders, Yelverton was second in tackles for loss (14) and Carazo led the League with seven interceptions and was second with 13 passes defended. Yelverton finished his career tied for 20th among the League's career sack leaders with 16 for 106 yards.

Massey has also been a stalwart up front, finishing 10th in the League in career sacks with 22.5 for 171 yards while Pluviose is among the League's tackles leaders (6th, 90 tackles) for the second-straight season.

Earning second-team All-League offensive line recognition was Bucknell Jr. **Rashad Stallworth** (Prichard, Ala.) and Holy Cross Jr. **Steve Fox** (Fairfax, Va.) while second-team defensive honors went to HC Sr. LB **David Dugan** (Washington, D.C.) and Georgetown Sr. punter **David Paulus** (Manlius, N.Y.). Dugan was a first-team All-League choice in 2001.

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.

More information may be obtained by contacting Tom Byrnes (tbyrnes@patriotleague.com) at the Patriot League Office at (610) 289-1957 or the League website at www.patriotleague.com.

2002 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>
Matt Shepard, Colgate	Sr.	OL	Natick, Mass.	2nd in '01
Mike Murphy, Colgate	Sr.	OL	New Milford, N.J.	
Chris Royle, Lafayette	Sr.	OL	Stockton, N.J.	1st in '01, 2nd in '00
Kevin Moss, Lafayette	Jr.	OL	New York, N.Y.	2nd in '01
Jeff Santacroce, Lehigh	Sr.	OL	Mt. Airy, Md.	1st in '01
Jason Gunning, Towson	Jr.	OL	Pennsauken, N.J.	
John Frieser, Colgate	Jr.	TE	Endwell, N.Y.	1st in '01
Javarus Dudley, Fordham	Jr.	WR	Hollywood, Fla.	1st in '01
Jamal White, Towson	Sr.	WR	Sicklerville, N.J.	1st in '99
Alemayo White, Fordham	Sr.	FB	Hempstead, N.Y.	
Kirwin Watson, Fordham	Jr.	RB	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	1st in '01
Kevin Eakin, Fordham	Jr.	QB	Coral Springs, Fla.	
Matt Fordyce, Fordham	Sr.	PK	Mentor, Ohio	2nd team punter in '00

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous PL Honors</u>
Joe Massey, Bucknell	Sr.	DL	Brooklyn, N.Y.	1st in '01
Adam Lord, Bucknell	Sr.	DL	Troy, N.Y.	1st in '01, 2nd in '00
Mike Gregorek, Lehigh	Jr.	DL	Bethlehem, Pa.	
Juston Yelverton, Towson	Sr.	DL	Dover, Del.	2nd in '01
Stephane Pluviose, Bucknell	Jr.	LB	Cliffwood Beach, N.J.	
Tem Lukabu, Colgate	Jr.	LB	Avenel, N.J.	
Tom McGeoy, Lehigh	Jr.	LB	Palo Alto, Pa.	
Max Wynn, Colgate	Sr.	DB	Atlanta, Ga.	2nd in '01
Dan McGrath, Fordham	Jr.	DB	Webster, N.Y.	
Ken Pitter, Lehigh	Sr.	DB	Cherry Hill, N.J.	
P.D. Moore, Towson	So.	DB	Cape May Courthouse, N.J.	
Matt Fordyce, Fordham	Sr.	P	Mentor, Ohio	2nd in '00

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous PL Honors</u>
Rashad Stallworth, Bucknell	Jr.	OL	Prichard, Ala.	
Kevin Oefelein, Fordham	Jr.	OL	Brooklyn, N.Y.	
John San Marco, Fordham	Sr.	OL	Cincinnati, Ohio	
Steve Fox, Holy Cross	Jr.	OL	Fairfax, Va.	
John Timko, Lehigh	Sr.	OL	West Chester, Pa.	
John Bryner, Lehigh	Sr.	OL	Hatfield, Pa.	
Travis Johnson, Fordham	Jr.	TE	Fairport, N.Y.	
Luke Graham, Colgate	So.	WR	Hamilton, N.Y.	
John Weyrauch, Lafayette	Jr.	WR	Mountain Top, Pa.	
Justin Polk, Colgate	Sr.	FB	Great Prairie, Texas	
Jermaine Pugh, Lehigh	Jr.	RB	Mine Hill, N.J.	
Marko Glavic, Lafayette	Jr.	QB	Pickering, Ontario, Canada	ROY '00
Lane Schwarzberg, Colgate	So.	PK	Winter Haven, Fla.	

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

<u>Name, School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous PL Honors</u>
Josh Sabo, Colgate	Jr.	DL	White Oak, Pa.	
Mike Latek, Jr., Colgate	Jr.	DL	Rochester, N.Y.	2nd in '01
Aymen Aboushi, Fordham	Sr.	DL	Brooklyn, N.Y.	
Keron Lucius, Fordham	Jr.	DL	Brooklyn, N.Y.	
NaQuinton Gainous, Fordham	So.	LB	Tallahassee, Fla.	
David Dugan, Holy Cross	Sr.	LB	Washington, D.C.	1st in '01
Mike Taggart, Lehigh	Jr.	LB	Victor, N.Y.	
Neal Regan, Towson	Jr.	LB	Philadelphia, Pa.	
Maurice Robertson, Colgate	Sr.	DB	Riverdale, Ga.	
Will Davis, Fordham	Jr.	DB	Camden, N.J.	
Lawrence Williams, Lehigh	Jr.	DB	Gettysburg, Pa.	
Matt Salvaterra, Lehigh	Sr.	DB	Macungie, Pa.	2nd in '01
Edmund Carazo, Towson	Sr.	DB	Severn, Md.	
David Paulus, Georgetown	Sr.	P	Manlius, N.Y.	

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Kirwin Watson, Fordham, Jr., RB

CO-DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR: Adam Lord, Bucknell, Sr., DL
Tem Lukabu, Colgate, Jr., LB

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Gideon Akande (Chicago, Ill.), Holy Cross, Fr., RB

COACH OF THE YEAR: Dave Clawson, Fordham (also in 2001)