



Media Relations

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All-Great West Football Conference Teams Announced

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (Dec. 2) -- UC Davis quarterback Jon Grant and Cal Poly running back James Noble and defensive end Chris Gocong earned top honors as the 2005 All-Great West Football Conference honors were announced Friday.

Selected by the conference's six head coaches, Grant and Noble shared Great West Offensive Player of the Year honors while Gocong earned the Defensive Player of the Year award.

Grant, a junior, completed 259 of 450 passes (57.6 percent) for 2,873 yards and 14 touchdowns, all conference highs, in leading UC Davis to a share of the 2005 Great West title. Grant also led the conference in total offense (273.3 yards per game).

Noble, a redshirt freshman, has rushed for 1,493 yards and 15 touchdowns in 10 games, averaging 7.2 yards per carry and 149.3 yards per game, fourth best in Division I-AA. Noble has cracked the 100-yard mark eight times, including a pair of 200-yard performances.

Gocong has recorded 22.0 sacks, best in Division I-AA, and his 28.0 tackles for lost yardage is No. 2. The 2004 Buck Buchanan Award runner-up has 87 tackles this season, including 44 solo stops, and 14 quarterback hurries, including seven against Idaho State.

Other specialty awards went to South Dakota State sophomore placekicker Parker Douglass as Special Teams Player of the Year, Noble as Freshman of the Year and Rich Ellerson of Cal Poly as Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

Douglass led the conference in scoring with 9.9 points per game, making 42 of 43 extra-point kicks and 19 of 26 field goals. Ellerson guided the Mustangs to their third straight winning season, second Great West title and their first-ever Division I-AA playoff berth. Cal Poly has won 26 of its last 35 games under Ellerson, who has a 34-22 mark in five seasons with the Mustangs.

The first team includes 14 players from Cal Poly, eight from UC Davis, four from North Dakota

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State, three from Northern Colorado and two from South Dakota State. The first team also includes 10 seniors, 10 juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen.

Six players are repeat first-team selections. They are Grant, Gocong, offensive lineman Tim Popowski of North Dakota State, running back Kyle Steffes of North Dakota State, running back Andre Wilson of Northern Colorado and safety Reed Doughty of Northern Colorado.

Four other first-team selections from a year ago are on the second unit in 2005, including Southern Utah wide receiver Jerome Eason, South Dakota State running back Anthony Watson, UC Davis tight end Daniel Fells and North Dakota State defensive back Craig Dahl.

Three players who were second-team all-conference a year ago and moved up to the first team this fall are Cal Poly offensive lineman Beau Finato, Mustang wide receiver Jonah Russell and UC Davis inside linebacker Dan Elbanna.

And four other players are repeat second-team selections -- South Dakota State offensive linemen Paul Keizer and Taylor Murray, Southern Utah outside linebacker Steve Smith and South Dakota State defensive back Hank McCall.

- Great West Football -

2005 All-Great West Football Conference Teams

Co-Offensive Player of the Year: Jon Grant, QB (UC Davis), James Noble, RB (Cal Poly)

Defensive Player of the Year: Chris Gocong, DE (Cal Poly)

Special Teams Player of the Year: Parker Douglass, PK (South Dakota State)

Freshman of the Year: James Noble, RB (Cal Poly)

Coach of the Year: Rich Ellerson (Cal Poly)

First Team

Offense

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Hometown
C	Stephen Field	Cal Poly	6-1	270	Fr.	Arroyo Grande, CA
OL	*Tim Popowski	North Dakota State	6-2	310	Sr.	Brookings, SD
OL	Mitch Erickson	South Dakota State	6-6	290	So.	Hutchinson, MN
OL	**Beau Finato	Cal Poly	6-0	255	Sr.	Palo Alto, CA
OL	Nate Safe	North Dakota State	6-5	308	So.	Cannon Falls, MN
TE	A.J. Cooper	North Dakota State	6-1	239	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ
WR	Ramses Barden	Cal Poly	6-6	210	Fr.	Altadena, CA
WR	Tony Kays	UC Davis	6-1	188	Jr.	Elk Grove, CA
WR	**Jonah Russell	Cal Poly	6-0	195	Sr.	Folsom, CA
QB	*Jon Grant	UC Davis	6-2	198	Jr.	Pacific Grove, CA
QB	Anthony Garnett	Cal Poly	6-1	210	Sr.	Seaside, CA
RB	*Kyle Steffes	North Dakota State	5-11	204	So.	Dickinson, ND
RB	James Noble	Cal Poly	5-6	180	Fr.	Barstow, CA
RB	*Andre Wilson	Northern Colorado	6-1	190	Jr.	Denver, CO

Defense

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Hometown
DL	*Chris Gocong	Cal Poly	6-3	265	Sr.	Santa Barbara, CA
DL	Chris White	Cal Poly	6-3	273	Jr.	Bakersfield, CA
DL	James Amos	UC Davis	6-3	245	So.	Galt, CA
DL	John Faletose	UC Davis	6-2	260	Fr.	Carmichael, CA
DL	Mike Ng	UC Davis	6-2	244	Jr.	Fairfield, CA
OLB	Justin Peek	Cal Poly	6-1	220	Jr.	Oakhurst, CA
OLB	Ben Reece	UC Davis	5-9	205	Sr.	Paso Robles, CA
ILB	Kyle Shotwell	Cal Poly	6-1	235	Jr.	Goleta, CA
ILB	**Dan Elbanna	UC Davis	5-11	215	Sr.	Walnut Creek, CA
DB	*Reed Doughty	Northern Colorado	6-1	210	Sr.	Johnstown, CO
DB	Courtney Brown	Cal Poly	6-2	205	Jr.	Oakland, CA
DB	Aaron Williams	Cal Poly	5-10	193	Sr.	Garden Grove, CA
DB	Kenny Chicoine	Cal Poly	6-1	205	Jr.	Huntington Beach, CA
DB	Jonathan Barsi	UC Davis	6-0	195	Jr.	Los Altos, CA

Special Teams

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Hometown
P	**Tim Chicoine	Cal Poly	6-1	185	So.	Huntington Beach, CA
PK	Parker Douglass	South Dakota State	4-8	170	So.	Columbus, NE
RS	Patrick Ealy	Northern Colorado	5-8	181	Fr.	Denver, CO

Second Team

Offense

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Hometown
C	Matt Sens	Northern Colorado	6-4	285	Jr.	Greeley, CO
OL	**Paul Keizer	South Dakota State	6-4	291	Sr.	Hull, IA
OL	Brett Gauld	Cal Poly	6-4	300	Sr.	Solvang, CA
OL	**Taylor Murray	South Dakota State	6-3	295	Jr.	Cambridge, MN
OL	Elliott Vallejo	UC Davis	6-8	295	Jr.	Salinas, CA
TE	*Daniel Fells	UC Davis	6-4	252	Sr.	Fullerton, CA
WR	Josh Davis	South Dakota State	6-0	174	Sr.	Omaha, NE
WR	Blaise Smith	UC Davis	6-2	190	Sr.	Santa Maria, CA
WR	*Jerome Eason	Southern Utah	6-3	215	Sr.	Lancaster, CA
QB	Nick Hager	Northern Colorado	6-0	180	Sr.	Fort Collins, CO
RB	Adam Martinez	Cal Poly	6-2	225	Sr.	Paso Robles, CA
RB	*Anthony Watson	South Dakota State	5-10	221	Jr.	Worthington, MN
RB	Cory Koenig	South Dakota State	5-10	195	So.	Underwood, IA

Defense

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Hometown
DL	Rodney Thompson	North Dakota State	6-3	307	Sr.	Minneapolis, MN
DL	Justin Frick	North Dakota State	6-3	292	Jr.	Yankton, SD
DL	Matt Chachere	Cal Poly	6-0	235	Sr.	Modesto, CA
DL	Gabe Koenigsfeld	South Dakota State	6-4	249	Sr.	Marble Rock, IA
OLB	**Steve Smith	Southern Utah	6-0	215	Sr.	Salt Lake City, UT
OLB	Kole Zimmerman	North Dakota State	5-11	221	Sr.	Windom, MN
ILB	Joe Mays	North Dakota State	5-11	242	So.	Chicago, IL
ILB	Billy Ray Kirch	South Dakota State	6-1	219	Sr.	Blaine, MN
DB	*Craig Dahl	North Dakota State	6-1	207	Jr.	Mankato, MN
DB	Nevan Bergan	UC Davis	5-11	170	Jr.	San Diego, CA
DB	**Hank McCall	South Dakota State	5-11	195	Sr.	Algona, IA
DB	Broad Kofoed	Southern Utah	6-0	175	Jr.	Salt Lake City, UT

Special Teams

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Hometown
P	Mike Dragosavich	North Dakota State	6-5	190	So.	Oak Lawn, IL
PK	Emmanuel Benjamin	UC Davis	5-10	195	So.	Modesto, CA
RS	Shamen Washington	North Dakota State	5-6	140	So.	St. Petersburg, FL

Honorable Mention

Cal Poly: None.

North Dakota State: None.

Northern Colorado: **Shaun Farner (OL), Jake Gable (OL), Paul Sweitzer (TE), Andy Birkel (WR), Cory Sleeth (WR), Jake Carlson (DL), Kurt Hout (DL), Jake Duren (ILB), Greg Gebhardt (DB), *Justin Zaitz (PK).

South Dakota State: Mitch Pontrelli (DL), Andrew Hoogeveen (OLB), *Neal Bainbridge (P), JaRon Harris (RS).

Southern Utah: Joey Hew Len (WR), Matt Roan (OL), Mike Knight (OL), **Levi Erickson (DL), Jason Ripley (DL), Derek Hood (DL), John King (DB), **Brandon Perkins (P/PK).

UC Davis: Nolan de Graaff (OLB), Adam Cook (DB).

* denotes first-team All-Great West Football Conference selection in 2004

** denotes second-team All-Great West Football Conference selection in 2004