



BIG SKY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

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OGDEN, Utah (March 1, 2007) - Weber State senior David Patten was selected the Big Sky Conference's Men's Basketball Most Valuable Player on Thursday, and was one of three unanimous picks to the All-Conference first team.

The team, selected by the nine Big Sky Conference basketball coaches, was picked on Thursday morning. For the first time since 1988-89, the Big Sky selected a first team and a second team, as well as honorable mention team. Since 1990, the Big Sky announced one All-Conference team, and honorable mention picks.

Eastern Washington sophomore Rodney Stuckey, and Northern Arizona senior Ruben Boykin Jr., joined Patten as unanimous first-team selections. The trio was joined on the first team by Idaho State senior David Schroeder, Montana sophomore Jordan Hasquet, and Northern Arizona senior Tyrone Bazy.

Stuckey, the 2006 MVP, Schroeder and Boykin Jr., were repeat first-team selections.

Portland State junior Dupree Lucas was selected Newcomer of Year. Freshman of the Year went to Montana's Cameron Rundles, while teammate Bryan Ellis was tabbed Defensive Player of the Year.

Patten, a 6-foot-8 forward from Placentia, Calif., led Weber State to a share of the Conference regular-season title a year after the Wildcats tied for last place. Patten averaged 14.1 points and 5.4 rebounds per game, while shooting 54.9 percent from the field. In conference play, Patten averaged 16.3 points, 67.3 rebounds and shot 58.6 percent from the field.

Patten is the fifth Weber State player to be named Big Sky MVP, joining Jermaine Boyette (2003), Harold Arceneaux (1999, 2000), Jimmy DeGraffenried (1996), and Ruben Nembhard (1995).

Stuckey, a 6-5 guard from Kent, Wash., leads the Big Sky and ranks seventh in the nation in scoring averaging 24.6 points per game. Stuckey also finished second in the Big Sky in assists with 5.52 per game and steals with 2.45 per game. He led the Big Sky in free-throw percentage at .846 and made 215 free throws.

Boykin Jr., a 6-7 forward Los Angeles, led the Big Sky with 16 double-doubles. He ranks third in the Big Sky at 16.3 points per game, and is first in rebounds at 9.0 per game. Boykin Jr. also ranks in the top 15 in the league in field-goal percentage (52.4) and assists (3.18). Boykin Jr. also led Northern Arizona to a share of the regular-season title, and the No. 2 seed in the Big Sky Championship.

Schroeder, a 6-2 guard from Salmon, Idaho, helped the Bengals qualify for the Big Sky Championship for the first time since 2004. Schroeder ranks second in the league in scoring at 16.8 points per game. He also averaged 5.5 rebounds and 1.48 steals per game. He made 42.4 percent of his 3-point field goals during the regular season, and averaged 2.59 3-pointers per game.

Hasquet, a 6-7 forward from Missoula, Mont., averaged 13.3 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. He came on strong in conference play, netting 15.6 points and 6.8 rebounds per game. Hasquet recorded six double-doubles during the regular season.

Rounding out the first team was Bazy, a 6-1 guard from Bryan Texas. The 2006 Newcomer of the Year was the second-leading scorer in conference play, averaging 18.4 points per game. In all games, Bazy averaged 16.1 points, 2.54 assists, and 1.14 steals per game. He also shot .822 percent from the free-throw line.

This year's Newcomer of the Year Lucas, a 6-1 guard from Wichita, Kan., helped Portland State to a fourth-place finish. Dupree averaged 13.1 points and 3.7 assists per game. In conference play, he netted 15.1 points and 2.94 assists per game. The transfer from Xavier is the third Vikings to win Newcomer of the Year. Current Portland Trail Blazers guard Ime Udoka claimed the honor in 2000, and Jason Hartman was Newcomer of the Year in 1998. Lucas was also a second team All-Conference pick.

Rundles, a 6-1 true freshman from Minneapolis, Minn., excelled late in the season for the Grizzlies. He averaged 18.3 points per game over his final four games. Rundles led all Big Sky freshman in scoring (8.2 points per game), assists (2.13), and 3-point field goal percentage (.481). Rundles is the first Grizzly to win Freshman of the Year since Darren Engellant in 1989.

Ellis, a 5-10 senior guard from Detroit, Mich., was a spark plug on the defensive end for the Grizzlies. Ellis helped Montana finish third in the league in scoring defense. He averaged 1.6 steals per game, and often guarded opponents' top scoring guards. Ellis is the first Grizzly to win Defensive Player of the Year.

The second team consisted of Montana's Andrew Strait, Northern Arizona's Stephen Sir, Montana State's Nick Dissly, Weber State's Juan Pablo Silveira and Lucas. Sir leads the nation in 3-point field goals per game, and has a league single-season record of 114 made 3-pointers entering the tournament.

Strait, a first-team pick in 2006, averaged 14.9 points and 6.4 rebounds this season. Dissly, who led MSU to a fifth-place finish, averaged 14.6 points and 4.7 rebounds per game. Silveira averaged 10.9 points per game, and made a league-best 87 percent of his free throws in conference play.

2006-07 BIG SKY ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM



First Team

<u>Player, School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
#*Rodney Stuckey, Eastern Washington	So.	6-5	G	Kent, Wash.
*David Schroeder, Idaho State	Sr.	6-2	G	Salmon, Idaho
Jordan Hasquet, Montana	So.	6-9	F	Missoula, Mont.
Tyrone Bazy, Northern Arizona	Sr.	6-1	G	Bryan, Texas
#*Ruben Boykin Jr., Northern Arizona	Sr.	6-7	F	Los Angeles, Calif.
#David Patten, Weber State	Sr.	6-8	F	Placentia, Calif.

#Unanimous Selection. *Two-Time Selection

Second Team

<u>Player, School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Andrew Strait, Montana	Jr.	6-8	F/C	Yakima, Wash.
Nick Dissly, Montana State	Sr.	6-4	F	Bozeman, Mont.
Stephen Sir, Northern Arizona	Sr.	6-6	G	Minnetonka, Minn.
Dupree Lucas, Portland State	Jr.	6-1	G	Wichita, Kan.
Juan Pablo Silveira, Weber State	So.	6-3	G	Salto, Uruguay

Honorable Mention

Paul Butorac, Sr., F, Eastern Washington; Akbar Abdul-Ahad, Sr., G, Idaho State; Carlos Taylor, Jr., G, Montana State; Kirk Archibeque, Jr., C, Northern Colorado; Scott Morrison, Jr., C, Portland State; Arturas Valeika, Jr., F, Weber State.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS

Most Valuable Player

David Patten, Weber State

Newcomer of the Year

Dupree Lucas, Portland State

Freshman of the Year

Cameron Rundles, Montana

Defensive Player of the Year

Bryan Ellis, Montana