



ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® TEAM SELECTED BY CoSIDA

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http://www.cosida.com/sports/2015/9/29/AAA_landingpage.aspx?

CARSON WENTZ OF NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY HEADLINES CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® DIVISION I FOOTBALL TEAM

AUSTIN, Texas—Senior quarterback **Carson Wentz** of North Dakota State University headlines the 2015 Academic All-America® Division I football team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Wentz has been selected as the 2015 CoSIDA Academic All-American® of the Year for Division I football. A health and physical education major with a 4.0 G.P.A., Wentz also was a first-team Academic All-America® choice last year.

The Bismarck, North Dakota, native was the driving force behind the four-time defending NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national champion Bison through the first six games of 2015 before his season was cut short with a broken right wrist.

To date this year, Wentz has completed 114 of 179 passes for 1,454 yards and 16 touchdowns while throwing just two interceptions. He also is a dangerous runner, carrying the ball 54 times for 215 yards and four scores, helping third-seeded NDSU advance to the second round of the FCS playoffs. Wentz has accepted an invitation to participate in the Reese's Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., on Jan. 30, 2016.

Wentz, who was a two-time NCAA Elite 89 Award recipient, set NDSU single-season passing records for completions, passing attempts, yards and total offense in leading the Bison to a 15-1 record, and fourth straight Missouri Valley Football Conference and NCAA FCS National Championships last season. He was named the 2015 NCAA FCS Championship Game Most Outstanding Player after scoring the game-winning touchdown with 37 seconds left in the 29-27 victory over Illinois State.

Carson's brother, Zach Wentz, a former baseball standout at NDSU, was a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-America® selection earning first team honors in 2012 and second team in 2011.

Fourteen of the 49 members of the 2015 CoSIDA Academic All-America® NCAA Division I football teams have at least a 3.90 G.P.A., with five student-athletes sporting a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. The 26 members of the first-team have an average G.P.A. of 3.81.

Kent State University senior defensive back **Jordan Italiano** is a three-time Academic All-America® selection and maintains a 3.98 G.P.A. while finishing work on his degree in biochemistry and pre-med. Italiano was a second-team pick in 2013 before moving up to the first-team in 2014 and 2015.

Wentz and Italiano are among a group of 10 student-athletes who are two-time CoSIDA Academic All-America® choices, including three who garnered first-team citations for the second consecutive year. University of Oklahoma graduate student offensive lineman **Ty Darlington** joined Wentz and Italiano as the three repeat first-team Academic All-America® student-athletes in 2015.

Wentz Leads CoSIDA Academic All-America® Division I Football Team – Page 2

In addition, Ohio State University senior offensive lineman **Jacoby Boren**, University of Montana senior defensive lineman **Derek Crittenden**, Georgia Southern University senior defensive back **Matt Dobson**, Robert Morris University senior offensive lineman **Nick Faraci**, University of Kentucky senior punter **Landon Foster** and Eastern Washington University wide receiver **Cooper Kupp** all moved up to the CoSIDA Academic All-America® first team this year after collecting second-team honors in 2014.

Villanova University senior linebacker **Don Cherry** rounded out this year's two-time CoSIDA Academic All-America® honorees, earning second-team recognition for the second consecutive season.

CoSIDA Academic All-America® Division I Football Team

The CoSIDA Academic All-America® Division I football first team includes four student-athletes with a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. in Wentz, Crittenden, Nicholls State University junior linebacker **Geoffrey Hebert** and South Dakota State University junior defensive back **Nick Mears**. Joining Kupp as the first team wide receiver is United States Naval Academy senior **Thomas Wilson**, while the tight end is Buffalo senior **Matt Weiser**. Due to a tie in the voting, there are three first-team running backs — Bucknell University senior **Matt DelMauro**, Stanford University sophomore **Christian McCaffrey** and Mercer University sophomore **Tee Mitchell**.

Boren, Darlington and Faraci make up three-fifths of the offensive linemen on the CoSIDA Academic All-America® first team, with Baylor University graduate student **Spencer Drango** and University of Northern Iowa senior **Jacob Rathmacher** completing the quintet. Ohio State graduate student **Jack Willoughby** is the first-team Academic All-America® placekicker this year.

On defense, Dobson and Italiano provide a veteran presence among the first-team defensive back corps, joined by Mears and Idaho State University senior **Cody Sorenson**. All three first-team choices in the linebacking unit are newcomers — Hebert, University of Dayton senior **Chris Beaschler** and University of the Incarnate Word senior **Padyn Giebler**. Crittenden is the only returning student-athlete among the first-team defensive line contingent, which also had an extra player due to a tie in the voting and includes The Citadel junior **Joe Crochet**, North Dakota State sophomore **Greg Menard**, Northern Iowa junior **Karter Schult** and Duke University junior **A.J. Wolf**.

Foster completes the CoSIDA Academic All-America® First Team as the squad's punter.

The CoSIDA Academic All-America® second team is led by two-time selection Curry. Coastal Carolina University graduate student **Alex Ross** is the second-team quarterback, while University of Colorado senior **Nelson Spruce** and South Dakota State sophomore **Jake Wieneke** are the second-team wide receivers, University of Minnesota sophomore **Brandon Lingen** is the tight end and Chattanooga junior **Derrick Craine** is the second-team running back.

The offensive linemen named to the second team include Navy senior **E.K. Binns**, Purdue University graduate student **Robert Kugler**, Fresno State senior **Justin Northern**, Kentucky senior **Jordan Swindle** and Penn State University senior **Tyler Yazujian**. Duke senior placekicker **Ross Martin** rounds out the second-team offense.

In addition to Cherry, the other linebackers on the second team are University of Arkansas junior **Brooks Ellis** and Duquesne University senior **Sam Martello**. Presbyterian University junior **Ugonna Akoh**, Northern Iowa senior **Isaac Ales**, South Dakota State junior **Shayne Gottlob** and Youngstown State University graduate student **Steve Zaborsky** make up the second-team defensive line. The defensive backs on the second team include Kent State junior **Nick Cuthbert**, Duke junior **DeVon Edwards**, University of Iowa senior **Jordan Lomax** and Brown University senior **Will Quigley**.

Bowling Green State University sophomore **Joseph Davidson** is the CoSIDA Academic All-America® second-team punter.

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2015 Academic All-America® Football Team

FIRST TEAM

| Pos. | Name | School | Yr. | Hometown | GPA | Major |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|---------------------|------|---|
| QB | Carson Wentz (1) | North Dakota State | Sr. | Bismarck, N.D. | 4.00 | Health & physical education |
| RB | Matt DeMauro | Bucknell | Sr. | Nutley, N.J. | 3.76 | Accounting & financial management |
| RB | Christian McCaffrey | Stanford | So. | Castle Rock, Colo. | 3.31 | Undeclared |
| RB | Tee Mitchell | Mercer | So. | Jacksonville, Fla. | 3.81 | Management |
| WR | Cooper Kupp (2) | Eastern Washington | Jr. | Yakima, Wash. | 3.54 | Economics |
| WR | Thomas Wilson | U.S. Naval Academy | Sr. | Brandenburg, Ky. | 3.86 | Naval architecture (honors) |
| TE | Matt Weiser | Buffalo | Sr. | Womelsdorf, Pa. | 3.49 | Communication |
| OL | Jacoby Boren (2) | Ohio State | Sr. | Pickerington, Ohio | 3.83 | Sustainable plant systems |
| OL | Ty Darlington (1) | Oklahoma | Gr. | Apopka, Fla. | 4.00 | Planned programs (UG) / adult & higher ed (G) |
| OL | Spencer Drango | Baylor | Gr. | Cedar Park, Texas | 3.71 | Finance / MBA |
| OL | Nick Faraci (2) | Robert Morris (Pa.) | Sr. | McDonald, Pa. | 3.94 | Nursing |
| OL | Jacob Rathmacher | Northern Iowa | Sr. | Story City, Iowa | 3.87 | Biology & biochemistry |
| K | Jack Willoughby | Ohio State | Gr. | Princeton, N.J. | 3.90 | Economics & statistical sciences |
| DL | Derek Crittenden (2) | Montana | Sr. | Whitefish, Mont. | 4.00 | Chemistry |
| DL | Joe Crochet | The Citadel | Jr. | Stone Mountain, Ga. | 3.81 | Business admin. (UG) / MBA |
| DL | Greg Menard | North Dakota State | So. | Lakeville, Minn. | 3.90 | Civil engineering |
| DL | Karter Schult | Northern Iowa | Jr. | Tripoli, Iowa | 3.83 | Exercise science / family services |
| DL | A.J. Wolf | Duke | Jr. | Greenwich, Conn. | 3.69 | Public policy studies |
| LB | Chris Beaschler | Dayton | Sr. | Ada, Ohio | 3.68 | Mechanical engineering |
| LB | Padyn Giebler | Incarnate Word | Sr. | Ivan, Texas | 3.82 | Engineering |
| LB | Geoffrey Hebert | Nicholls State | Jr. | Thibodaux, La. | 4.00 | Finance / accounting |
| DB | Matt Dobson (2) | Georgia Southern | Sr. | Monticello, Fla. | 3.72 | History |
| DB | Jordan Italiano (1) (#) | Kent State | Sr. | Canfield, Ohio | 3.98 | Biochemistry / pre-med |
| DB | Nick Mears | South Dakota State | Jr. | Milbank, S.D. | 4.00 | Economics |
| DB | Cody Sorensen | Idaho State | Sr. | Spokane, Wash. | 3.85 | Mechanical engineering |
| P | Landon Foster (2) | Kentucky | Sr. | Franklin, Tenn. | 3.97 | Finance |

SECOND TEAM

| Pos. | Name | School | Yr. | Hometown | GPA | Major |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|-----|--------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| QB | Alex Ross | Coastal Carolina | Gr. | Alpharetta, Ga. | 3.57 | Management (UG) / MBA |
| RB | Derrick Craine | Chattanooga | Jr. | McDonough, Ga. | 3.61 | Health & human performance |
| WR | Nelson Spruce | Colorado | Sr. | Westlake Village, Calif. | 3.58 | Business (finance & management) |
| WR | Jake Wieneke | South Dakota State | So. | Maple Grove, Minn. | 3.67 | Physical education / teacher edu. |
| TE | Brandon Lingen | Minnesota | So. | Wayzata, Minn. | 3.85 | Pre-engineering |
| OL | E.K. Binns | U.S. Naval Academy | Sr. | Cape Coral, Fla. | 3.43 | Economics |
| OL | Robert Kugler | Purdue | Gr. | Pittsburgh, Pa. | 3.85 | History / political science |
| OL | Justin Northern | Fresno State | Sr. | Lakewood, Calif. | 3.79 | Mechanical engineering |
| OL | Jordan Swindle | Kentucky | Sr. | St. Johns, Fla. | 3.91 | Kinesiology |
| OL | Tyler Yazujian | Penn State | Sr. | Royersford, Pa. | 3.86 | Information sciences & technology |
| K | Ross Martin | Duke | Sr. | Solon, Ohio | 3.57 | Psychology |
| DL | Ugonna Akoh | Presbyterian | Jr. | Athens, Ga. | 3.77 | Chemistry |
| DL | Isaac Ales | Northern Iowa | Sr. | Muscatine, Iowa | 3.44 | Physical education |
| DL | Shayne Gottlob | South Dakota State | Jr. | Salem, S.D. | 3.96 | Economics |
| DL | Steve Zaborsky | Youngstown State | Gr. | Mineral Ridge, Ohio | 3.71 | Mechanical engineering |
| LB | Don Cherry (2) | Villanova | Sr. | Trumbull, Conn. | 3.36 | Finance |
| LB | Brooks Ellis | Arkansas | Jr. | Fayetteville, Ark. | 3.77 | Exercise science / pre-prof science |
| LB | Sam Martello | Duquesne | Sr. | Westlake, Ohio | 3.68 | Accounting |
| DB | Nick Cuthbert | Kent State | Jr. | Chesterland, Ohio | 3.96 | Criminal justice |
| DB | DeVon Edwards | Duke | Jr. | Covington, Ga. | 3.36 | Psychology |
| DB | Jordan Lomax | Iowa | Sr. | Upper Marlboro, Md. | 3.49 | Sport & recreation management |
| DB | Will Quigley | Brown | Sr. | Marblehead, Mass. | 3.88 | Business organizations (economics) |
| P | Joseph Davidson | Bowling Green State | So. | Findlay, Ohio | 3.95 | Mathematics |

CoSIDA Academic All-American® of the Year: Carson Wentz, North Dakota State

1 = 2014 CoSIDA Academic All-America® first team
 2 = 2014 CoSIDA Academic All-America® second team
 # = 2013 CoSIDA Academic All-America® second team