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**Wyoming Senior Julius Stinson  
Earns First Team All-Mountain West Conference Honors,  
Wade Betschart and John Fletcher Named to the MWC Second Team  
and Four Cowboys Earn Honorable Mention Accolades**

**Laramie, Wyo. (Dec. 4, 2007)** -- The Mountain West Conference announced its All-Conference football team today, and Wyoming senior cornerback **Julius Stinson** was named First Team All-MWC in voting by conference head coaches and media members.

Stinson concluded his Wyoming career ranked No. 2 in the conference and No. 24 in the nation in interceptions with five on the season. He also ranked second in the MWC and No. 12 in the NCAA in passes defended, with a total of 17 for the year. The native of Victorville, Calif., was one of 12 semifinalists for this year's Jim Thorpe Award, which honors the nation's top defensive back. Stinson was an Honorable Mention All-MWC selection his junior year.

Senior tight end/h-back **Wade Betschart** earned Second Team All-MWC for the second consecutive season. Betschart caught 32 passes for 296 yards in 2007 -- both were career highs. He was one of the most consistent tight ends in the league this past season, catching three or more passes in eight of 12 games. He caught two touchdown passes on the season -- one versus Air Force and one against UNLV. He also was a devastating blocker coming out of the backfield from his h-back position.

**John Fletcher** quickly made his mark in the league in his first year as a starter on the Wyoming defensive line. The sophomore defensive tackle recorded 10.5 sacks on the season to rank No. 2 in the conference and No. 12 in the country. He also totalled 14.0 tackles for losses to tie for fifth in the MWC and 45th in the nation. This was Fletcher's first All-Conference honor of his career.

The four Cowboys who earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors were: **Ward Dobbs** (junior inside linebacker), **Kyle Howard** (junior offensive tackle), **Mitch Unrein** (sophomore defensive end) and **Billy Vinnedge** (senior punter).

The **MWC Offensive Player of the Year** was **Chad Hall, Sr., RB/WR from Air Force.**

**UNLV senior linebacker Beau Bell** won the **Defensive Player of the Year** award.

**Junior place-kicker/punter Louie Sakoda of Utah** was voted **Special Teams Players of the Year**, after sharing the honor a year ago.

The **Freshman of the Year** was **BYU running back Harvey Unga.**

**Air Force's Troy Calhoun** earned **Coach of the Year** honors in his first season as head coach of the Falcons.

(see the attached listing of the complete 2007 All-MWC Football Teams)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

## 2007 ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE FOOTBALL TEAMS

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** - The Mountain West announced its 2007 All-Conference football teams and individual award winners today as selected by the nine head coaches and media panel. Air Force running back/wide receiver **Chad Hall** was chosen as the Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year, while UNLV linebacker **Beau Bell** was named MWC Defensive Player of the Year. Utah place kicker/punter **Louie Sakoda** earned the MWC Special Teams Player of the Year award for the second straight season. BYU running back **Harvey Unga** was honored as MWC Freshman of the Year, while **Troy Calhoun** of Air Force was selected as the MWC Coach of the Year.

### **OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – CHAD HALL, SENIOR, RB/WR, AIR FORCE**

- Hall is Air Force's second MWC Offensive Player of the Year (Mike Thiessen-2000).
- Hall is the fourth running back since the inception of the MWC to be named offensive player of the year.
- Only player in the nation to lead his team in rushing (1,415), receiving (488) and all-purpose yardage (2,504).
- Leads the MWC and ranks 16th nationally in rushing average (117.92 ypg).
- Leads the MWC and ranks third nationally in all-purpose yardage (208.67 ypg).
- Set new MWC single-season records for all-purpose yardage in overall (2,504 yards) and conference-only games (1,617 yards). The previous overall mark was held by BYU's Luke Staley with 2,018 yards in 2001, while the conference-only record was originally set by Wyoming's Jovon Bouknight with 1,475 yards in 2005.
- Has the second-most rushing yards in a single-season in school history behind Beau Morgan's 1,494 yards (1996), and needs just 80 in the bowl game to set a new Academy standard.
- Named the MWC Offensive Player of the Week three times in 2007.

### **DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – BEAU BELL, SENIOR, LB, UNLV**

- Bell is UNLV's third MWC Defensive Player of the Year (Kevin Thomas-2001; Jamaal Brimmer-2002).
- Bell is the fourth linebacker since the inception of the MWC to be named defensive player of the year. He is the first linebacker in UNLV history to garner defensive player of the year accolades.
- Leads the MWC and ranks 20th nationally in total tackles (126-10.5 avg.).
- Leads the MWC and ranks 11th nationally in solo tackles (79-6.6 avg.).
- Leads the MWC and is tied for fourth nationally in forced fumbles (5-0.42 avg.).
- Recorded four interceptions on the season, including one for a touchdown against Wyoming.
- Named the MWC Defensive Player of the Week three times in 2007. He is the only player in league history to be named defensive player of the week three times in the same season.

### **SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR – LOUIE SAKODA, JUNIOR, PK/P, UTAH**

- Sakoda was a co-winner of the inaugural MWC Special Teams Player of the Year award in 2006.
- Leads the MWC and ranks eighth nationally in punting average (44.8).
- Has pinned teams inside their 20 on 27 of his 69 total punts (39.1%).
- Has recorded 21 punts that went 50 yards or longer.
- Has made 19-of-22 field goals, including 17-of-20 on field goals 40 yards or longer.
- Has converted 33-of-35 point-after attempts.
- Named the MWC Special Teams Player of the Week four times in 2007.

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR – HARVEY UNGA, FR, RB, BYU**

- Unga is the third freshman of the year honoree for BYU since the inception of the MWC in 1999. Running back Luke Staley earned the award in 1999 and wide receiver Austin Collie won it in 2004.
- Ranks third in the MWC and 31st in the nation with 100.9 rushing yards per game. Unga also is third among freshman rushers in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision with 1,211 yards.
- Unga is the first freshman at BYU and third in MWC history to rush for over 1,000 yards. Entering the Las Vegas Bowl, he is six yards shy of breaking the MWC Freshman rushing record of 1,216 yards held by Air Force's Keith Boyea (2001).
- Is the first running back in school history to record seven 100-yard rushing games during his freshman season.
- Set a new MWC record for all-purpose yardage by a freshman with 1,840 yards, shattering the previous record of 1,328 yards held by New Mexico's DonTrell Moore (2002).
- Selected as the MWC Offensive Player of the Week three times this season.

**COACH OF THE YEAR – TROY CALHOUN**

- Selected as conference coach of the year in his first season at the Air Force Academy. Becomes the third first-year coach in MWC history to earn the award in their inaugural season (Gary Crowton, BYU-2001 and Urban Meyer, Utah-2003).
- Becomes the first Air Force head coach to win a conference coach of the year honor since Fisher DeBerry in 1998.
- There were 23 coaching changes in 2007. Of those 23, Calhoun is one of five first-year coaches to win at least nine games and one of eight to earn a bowl bid season.

**NOTABLES**

- Four student-athletes were repeat first-team all-Conference selections in 2007, including New Mexico WR **Travis Brown** and RB **Rodney Ferguson** and TCU DL **Chase Ortiz** and PK/PR **Brian Bonner**.
- TCU DE **Chase Ortiz** is the only three-time first-team all-conference honoree on this year's squad.
- **Chad Hall** (RB-Air Force), **Tyler Donaldson** (DL-New Mexico) and **DeAndre Wright** (DB-New Mexico) are all first-team selections in 2007 after being second-team honorees in 2006.
- TCU has claimed a first-team kick returner honoree in each of its three years as a member of the MWC, including PK/PR **Brian Bonner** in 2006 and 2007.
- New Mexico has had a first-team running back each of the last six years, including current honoree **Rodney Ferguson** each of the last two seasons.
- Running back **Harvey Unga** of BYU was the lone freshman selected to either of the all-conference teams. Unga is the sixth freshman, and third running back, in MWC history to earn all-conference accolades (DonTrell Moore, TB, New Mexico-2002 (first team); Lynell Hamilton, RB, San Diego State-2003 (first team); Hoost Marsh, KR, Wyoming-2004 (first team); Jason Phillips, LB, TCU-2005 (second team); Ryan Wolfe, WR, UNLV-2006 (first team).
- Of the 50 first and second-team selections, 32 were seniors, 10 juniors, seven sophomores and one freshman. The first team had 18 seniors, four juniors, three sophomores and one freshman.
- Utah placed the most student-athletes on the two all-conference teams with 10 selections, followed by league-champion BYU and New Mexico with nine apiece. Air Force and TCU were next in line with six student-athletes each, followed by San Diego State and Wyoming with three apiece and Colorado State and UNLV with two each.
- New Mexico had the most first-team selections with eight, followed by BYU with six and Air Force with four.

**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Chad Hall, Sr., RB/WR, Air Force

**DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR**

Beau Bell, Sr., LB, UNLV

**SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYERS OF THE YEAR**

Louie Sakoda, Jr., PK/P, Utah

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**

Harvey Unga, RB, BYU

**COACH OF THE YEAR**

Troy Calhoun, Air Force

**ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST FOOTBALL FIRST-TEAM**

*Offense*

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>School</u>
QB	Max Hall	So.	BYU
WR	Travis Brown*	Sr.	New Mexico
WR	Marcus Smith	Sr.	New Mexico
RB	Chad Hall	Sr.	Air Force
RB	Rodney Ferguson*	Jr.	New Mexico
TE	Dennis Pitta	So.	BYU
OL	Blaine Guenther	Sr.	Air Force
OL	Ray Feinga	Jr.	BYU
OL	Dallas Reynolds	Jr.	BYU
OL	Devin Clark	Sr.	New Mexico
OL	Vince Natali	Sr.	New Mexico
PK	John Sullivan	Sr.	New Mexico
PR/KR	Brian Bonner*	Sr.	TCU

*Defense*

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>School</u>
DL	Jan Jorgensen	So.	BYU
DL	Tyler Donaldson	Sr.	New Mexico
DL	Chase Ortiz**	Sr.	TCU
DL	Martail Burnett	Sr.	Utah
LB	Jon Rabold	Sr.	Air Force
LB	Bryan Kehl	Sr.	BYU
LB	Beau Bell	Sr.	UNLV
DB	Carson Bird	Sr.	Air Force
DB	DeAndre Wright	Jr.	New Mexico
DB	Steve Tate	Sr.	Utah
DB	Julius Stinson	Sr.	Wyoming
P	Louie Sakoda	Jr.	Utah

\*--Two-Time First-Team Selection

\*\*--Three-Time First-Team Selection

## ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST FOOTBALL SECOND-TEAM

### *Offense*

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>School</u>
QB	Kevin O'Connell	Sr.	San Diego State
WR	Austin Collie	So.	BYU
WR	Brett Swain	Sr.	San Diego State
RB	Harvey Unga	Fr.	BYU
RB	Darrell Mack	Jr.	Utah
TE	Wade Betschart	Sr.	Wyoming
OL	Nick Charles	So.	Air Force
OL	Nick Allotta	Sr.	Colorado State
OL	Blake Schlueter	Jr.	TCU
OL	Zane Beadles	So.	Utah
OL	Robert Conley	Jr.	Utah
PK	Louie Sakoda	Jr.	Utah
PR/KR	Derrek Richards	Sr.	Utah

### *Defense*

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>School</u>
DL	Jesse Nading	Sr.	Colorado State
DL	Michael Tuohy	Sr.	New Mexico
DL	Gabe Long	Sr.	Utah
DL	John Fletcher	So.	Wyoming
LB	Drew Fowler	Sr.	Air Force
LB	Kelly Poppinga	Sr.	BYU
LB	Jason Phillips	Jr.	TCU
DB	Stephen Hodge	Jr.	TCU
DB	David Roach	Sr.	TCU
DB	Mil'Von James	Sr.	UNLV
DB	Brice McCain	Jr.	Utah
P	Michael Hughes	Sr.	San Diego State

## ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST FOOTBALL HONORABLE MENTION

<u>Air Force:</u>	Shaun Carney, Sr., QB; Travis Dekker, Jr., TE; Ryan Kemp, Jr., DL; Chris Thomas, So., DB.
<u>BYU:</u>	Austin Collie, So., KR; Quinn Gooch, Sr., DB.
<u>Colorado State:</u>	Jeff Horinek, Jr., LB; Gartrell Johnson, Jr., RB; Jimmie Kaylor, Sr., P; Damon Morton, Sr., WR; Eric Sandie, Sr., DL; LB; Darryl Williams, Sr., DB.
<u>New Mexico:</u>	Glover Quin, Jr., DB; Jordan Scott, Sr., P; O.J. Swift, Sr., DB.
<u>San Diego State:</u>	Russell Allen, Jr., LB; Ray Bass, Sr., DB; Mike Kravtetz, Sr., OL; Nick Osborn, Sr., DL; Will Robinson, Sr., OL.
<u>TCU:</u>	Robert Henson, Jr., LB; Chris Manfredini, Sr., PK; Marshall Newhouse, So., OL; Rafael Priest, So., DB; Derek Wash, Sr., P.
<u>UNLV:</u>	Matt Murphy, Fr., OL; Frank Summers, Jr., RB; Ryan Wolfe, So., WR.
<u>Utah:</u>	Robert Johnson, So., DB; Paul Kruger, Fr., DL; Derrek Richards, Sr., WR; Stevenson Sylvester, So., LB.
<u>Wyoming:</u>	Ward Dobbs, Jr., LB; Kyle Howard, Jr., OL; Mitch Unrein, So., DL; Billy Vinnedge, Sr., P.