



Football | 7/17/2018 10:07:00 AM | Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Media Relations

Cross Nominated for AFCA Good Works Team



NORTHBROOK, Ill. – Minnesota Crookston football player [Will Cross](#) (R-Jr., LB, Turtle Lake, Wis.) is among 169 nominees for the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Team.

Cross is a leader on and off the field for the Golden Eagle football team. The redshirt junior has also volunteered his time in the Crookston community and at various football camps, as well as the Mark Olsonawski Scholarship Golf Tournament in Hallock, Minn. Cross also is a stand-out in the classroom, maintaining a 3.89 GPA in management. On the field, he has been a staple at middle linebacker for the Golden Eagles. Cross was a 2016 All-NSIC North Honorable Mention selection. He has notched 169 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, a sack, and an interception in two seasons on the gridiron for the Golden Eagles.

The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® has been one of the most esteemed honors in college football for more than 25 years. The student-athletes who are nominated for this award not only demonstrate a unique dedication to community service and desire to make a positive impact on the lives around them, but they also show tremendous perseverance as well as the ability to overcome personal struggles and come out victorious against all odds.

"Each nominee has an inspiring story to tell – often times about how they have prevailed over hardships and adversity only to turn around and pour their hearts into helping others," said David Prendergast, president of the Eastern Territory at Allstate Insurance Company and a member of the 2018 voting panel. "It is our privilege at Allstate to come together with the AFCA for the 11th consecutive year to shine a light on these exceptional nominees who set the highest standards of community service and serve as role models for generations to come."

The college football players who have been nominated make it a priority to find time in their busy schedules to volunteer in meaningful ways. Of the nominees, many players dedicate time to reading, mentoring and playing sports with disadvantaged children when they are not in the classroom or on the field. Other players make frequent visits to hospitals to spend one-on-one time with ill patients. One student-athlete even went as far as donating bone marrow in order to save the life of a child in need.

A special voting panel consisting of former Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® members and prominent college football media members will review submissions from sports directors across the nation to select the 2018 Good Works Team®. Tim Tebow, two-time national champion, Heisman Trophy winner and 2009 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® member, will once again headline the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® voting panel.

"I've seen the value of this team firsthand since I was selected as a member of the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team my senior year, and I love seeing the influx of players year after year who truly embody everything this program stands for," said Tebow. "These kids have so much character, strength, and honor. To excel on the field, in the classroom and be a leader in community service - that is the ultimate accomplishment."


The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® is comprised of 11 players from the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision and 11 players from the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision, Divisions II, III and the NAIA and one honorary head coach. To be in consideration by Allstate and the AFCA for a nomination, each player must be actively involved with a charitable organization or service group while maintaining a strong academic standing.


The final roster of 22 award recipients and honorary head coach will be unveiled in September.


"There are always a lot of great stories that we can learn from. It's important to recognize the things that they do on a daily basis," Todd Berry, AFCA Executive Director said. "The stories of these players live on and help others should be a motivation to everyone. We will continue to work with Allstate to publicize the great works that our players do each year."


In addition to Tebow and Prendergast, the 2018 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® selection panel members includes: former Good Works Team® members Zaid Abdu-Aleem (Duke, 1994 team), Matt Stinchcomb


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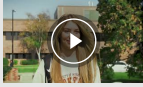
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(Georgia, 1997, 1998 teams), Brian Brenberg (St. Thomas, 2001 team), Mike Provan (Amherst, 2002 team) and Wes Counts (Middle Tennessee State, 1999 team); media members Kirk Herbstreit (ESPN), Blair Kerkhoff (Kansas City Star) and Paul Myerberg (USA TODAY); Georgetown College head coach Bill Cronin; 2001 AFCA President and current athletic director at Virginia Union University Joe Taylor.

After the final team members are announced in September, college football fans can visit the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® official page on ESPN.com to view profiles and images of the players and honorary head coach, and vote for the 2018 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® Captain. Fans are also encouraged to follow along and join in on the conversation by searching and using #GoodWorksTeam on their social media channels throughout the season.

The following players have been nominated for consideration to be named to the 2018 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®:

Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS)

Arizona State University – Manny Wilkins
Auburn University – Derrick Brown
Boston College – Michael Walker
Brigham Young University – Tanner Mangum
Clemson University – Sean Pollard
Colorado State University – Adam Prentice
Duke University – Johnathan Lloyd
East Carolina University – Alex Turner
Eastern Michigan University – Jeremy Hickey
Florida State University – Fredrick Jones
Indiana University – Ricky Brookins
Iowa State University – D'Andre Payne
Kansas State University – Dalton Risner
Kent State University – Matt Bahr
Louisiana State University – Blake Ferguson
Marshall University – Chase Hancock
Miami University – James Gardner
Michigan State University – Khari Willis
Middle Tennessee State University – Matt Bonadies
Mississippi State University – Nick Fitzgerald
Northern Illinois University – Max Scharping
Old Dominion University – Oshane Ximines
Penn State University – Nick Scott
Purdue University – David Blough
Rutgers University – Zack Heeman
Southern Methodist University – Jordan Wyatt
Syracuse University – Kielan Whitner
TCU – Ben Banogu
Texas A&M University – Erik McCoy
Texas State University – A.J. Krawczyk
Tulane University – Brian Newman
UCF – Jordan Johnson
UNC-Charlotte – Juwan Foggie
United States Air Force Academy – Brody Bagnall
University of Akron – Brian Reinke
University of Alabama – Jamey Mosley
University of Arkansas – Hjalte Froholdt
University of California, Berkeley – Patrick Laird
University of Cincinnati – Garrett Campbell
University of Florida – Fred Johnson
University of Georgia – Rodrigo Blankenship
University of Hawaii – Dakota Torres
University of Illinois – Nick Allegretti
University of Iowa – Parker Hesse
University of Kansas – Joe Dineen
University of Kentucky – C.J. Conrad
University of Louisville – Dae Williams
University of Michigan – Chase Winovich
University of Minnesota – Emmitt Carpenter
University of Missouri – Corey Fatony
University of Nebraska – Freedom Akinmoladun
University of Nevada – Ty Gangi
University of Notre Dame – Nic Weishar
University of Oklahoma – Caleb Kelly
University of Pittsburgh – Darrin Hall
University of South Alabama – Sean Grayer
University of Southern California – Jordan Austin
University of Southern Mississippi – Picasso Nelson Jr.
University of Tennessee – Kyle Phillips
University of Texas – Chase Moore
University of Texas at San Antonio – Jalen Rhodes
University of Toledo – Cody Thompson
University of Tulsa – Willie Wright
University of Utah – Chase Hansen
University of Virginia – Lester Coleman
University of Wisconsin – D'Cota Dixon
Utah State University – Jacoby Wildman
Vanderbilt University – Khari Blasingam
West Virginia University – Will Grier
Western Michigan University – Jamauri Bogan

Combined Divisions (FCS, II, III & NAIA)

Alabama State University – Carl Thompson
Alma College – Hunter Hoffman
Angelo State University – Connor Flanagan
Arkansas Tech University – Tremel Glasper
Ashland University – Travis Downing
Aurora University – Kurtis Chione
Bemidji State University – Jared Hennin
Berry College – Justen Booket
Bethel University (Minn.) – Kyle Kilgore
Black Hills State University – Zane Lindsley
Butler University – Drew Bevelhimer
Capital University – Cory Heeter
Carthage College – Jeremy Behnke
Chapman University – Elias Deeb

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Colorado State University-Pueblo – Quinn Vandekoppel
Concord University – Brandon Plyler
Concordia University, Nebraska – Vince Beasley
Dakota State University – Brandon Schmit
DePauw University – Hunter Sego
Drake University – Nathan Clayberg
East Stroudsburg University – Levi Murphy
Eastern Kentucky University – LJ Scott
Eastern New Mexico University – Wyatt Strand
Eastern Washington University – Sam McPherson
Ferris State University – Travis Russell
Franklin and Marshall College – Tanner Erisman
Frostburg State University – Riley Hartman
Furman University – Avery Armstrong
Guilford College – Jeremiah Hedrick
Harvard University – Jake McIntyre
Hope College – Mason Dekker
Howard University – John Petricca
Illinois State University – Jake Kolbe
Jacksonville University – Jake Dempsey
James Madison University – Grant Westbrook
Johns Hopkins University – Luke McFadden
Kennesaw State University – Nicolas Snowden
Lewis & Clark College – Pete Lahti
Lindenwood University – Jonathan Harris
Macalester College – Ethan Levin
Manchester University – Brady Nyland
Marist College – Kyle Hamrick
Mercer University – Isaiah Buehler
Millikin University – Matthew Brown
Millsaps College – Andrew Cassidy
Minot State University – Parker Franzen
Monmouth University – Ryan Wetzel
Montana State University – Wilson Brott
Montana Tech – Clay Dean
Moravian College – Nick Zambelli
Morgan State University – Deontaye White
Morningside College – Trent Solsma
North Carolina Central University – Nick Leverett
North Dakota State University – Easton Stick
Northern State University – Zach Mohs
Ohio Dominican University – Cory Contini
Ohio Wesleyan University – Cameron Smith
Peru State College – Daniel Boshart
Princeton University – Kurt Holuba
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – Sean Egan
Rowan University – Kevin Stokes
Saint Augustine's University – Zack Jenkins
Saint John's University (Minn.) – Jackson Erdmann
Samford University – Kevin Marion
South Dakota School of Mines – Jake Sullivan
South Dakota State University – Taryn Christion
Southeastern Oklahoma State University – Joel Carlos
Southwest Minnesota State University – Jon Dicke
Springfield College – Andrew Papirio
Stephen F. Austin State University – Cody Williams
Stevenson University – Dan Williams
Stony Brook University – Marc Nolan
Texas A&M University-Commerce – Chris Smith
Texas A&M University-Kingsville – Sean Landez
The College of Wooster – Hunter Coia
University of California, Davis – Kooper Richardson
University of Central Missouri – Austin Miller
University of Dubuque – Collin Stefanowski
University of Minnesota-Crookston – [Will Cross](#)
University of Minnesota-Duluth – Trapper Ward
University of Mount Union – Jared Ruth
University of North Dakota – Brady Oliveira
University of Pennsylvania – Sam Philippi
University of Puget Sound – Dwight Jackson
University of Sioux Falls – Logan Dykstra
University of St. Thomas – Jacques Perra
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga – Alex Trotter
University of Wisconsin-Platteville – Mark Johnson
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater – Elliot Kim
Upper Iowa University – Tanner Thompson
Utica College – Malcolm Stowe
Virginia State University – Shakym Peters
Walsh University – Morgan Trust
Wartburg College – Matt Sacia
Washington University in St. Louis – Jason Singer
Wayne State University – Deiontae Nicholas
Westminster College (Pa.) – Bryson Paulinellie
Wingate University – Adam Riley
Youngstown State University – Tevin McCaster

About the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®

The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® was established in 1992 by the College Football Association, recognizing the extra efforts made by college football players and student support staff off the field. AFCA became the governing body of the award in 1997 and continues to honor college football players who go the extra mile for those in need. Allstate worked to present the award starting with the 2008 season.

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The SEC leads all conferences with 71 selections to the Good Works Team since it began in 1992. The SEC is followed by the Atlantic Coast Conference with 57 selections. Georgia is in first place with 18 honorees, followed by Texas Tech with 17 honorees. Peyton Manning were members of the 2002 team.

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About AFCA

The AFCA was founded in 1922 and currently has more than 11,000 members from the high school level to the professional ranks. According to its constitution, the AFCA was formed, in part, to

"maintain the highest possible standards in football and in the coaching profession" and to "provide a forum for the discussion and study of all matters pertaining to football."

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#54 Will Cross

LB / 5' 11" / Redshirt Junior



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CROOKSTON

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