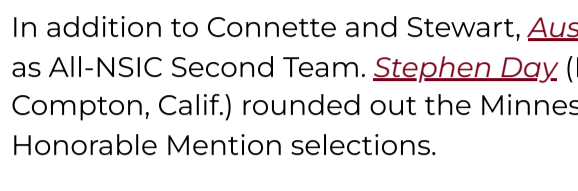




Football | 11/15/2017 1:52:00 PM | Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Media Relations

Golden Eagles Set Program High Since 2004 with Five Players Earning Six Awards on NSIC Teams Headlined by Connette and Stewart on First Team



CROOKSTON, Minn. – The University of Minnesota Crookston football program had the most conference honorees since 2004 with five players earning six All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) awards as released Wednesday afternoon by the conference office.

The Golden Eagles had two players honored as All-NSIC North First Team recipients with [Adam Connette](#) (Sr., WR, Corona, Calif.) named as a wide receiver, and [Rod Stewart](#) (Jr., WR, Fort Worth, Texas) earning the award as a return specialist. Stewart was also named All-NSIC North Second Team as a wide receiver. The two All-NSIC First Team selections marks the first time since 2001 that the Golden Eagles had multiple players earn All-NSIC First Team. In 2001, the Golden Eagles had Derek Dehn, Paul Detloff, Phil Hatcher and Neil Austin all garner All-NSIC First Team accolades. Connette and Stewart are the first All-NSIC First Team picks since Greg Lofquist was selected All-NSIC [Austin Howard](#) as a linebacker in 2014.

In addition to Connette and Stewart, [Austin Howard](#) (Sr., DL, New Albany, Miss.) was selected as All-NSIC Second Team. [Stephen Day](#) (R-Jr., P, Eveleth, Minn.) and [Will Cole](#) (Jr., DB, Compton, Calif.) rounded out the Minnesota Crookston contingent as All-NSIC North Honorable Mention selections.

Connette is a three-time All-NSIC honoree, earning All-NSIC Second Team honors as a sophomore and All-NSIC Honorable Mention accolades as a junior. Connette will go down as one of the best receivers in the history of the NSIC. The native of Corona, Calif., is second all-time in NSIC history for receptions with 242. In addition, his 2,781 yards ranks eighth all-time in conference history for receiving yards. Connette's marks are the best in Minnesota Crookston history as he shattered records set by Golden Eagle greats Mark Olsonawski and Carl Aho last season. He tied the receiving touchdowns mark of 23 receptions, set by Aho, in his final game of his career. Connette also holds school records for receiving touchdowns in a season, receptions in a season and receiving yards in a season. Connette had 65 catches for 718 yards and nine touchdowns during his final season in the Maroon and Gold.

Stewart is a first-time All-NSIC honoree, having earned first team honors as a return specialist and second team accolades as a wide receiver. Stewart led the league in all-purpose yardage and was second in the conference in kick return average with 28.3 yards per return. Stewart ended the season 18th in the nation for kickoff returns. The highlight of the season for Stewart came on a 94-yard kickoff return to pay dirt against Minnesota State University Moorhead. He also returns of 55 yards, 43 yards and 42 yards on the season. Stewart also had a great season as a wide receiver, as he notched 47 catches for 63 yards and five touchdowns. He continues to move up the charts for Minnesota Crookston. Stewart is fourth all-time for receptions with 115. He needs 21 to surpass Carl Aho for third next season. He is also fourth for receiving yards with 1,478 yards. Stewart needs 152 yards to surpass Mark Olsonawski for third for receiving yards.

Howard had a strong senior season at defensive end for Minnesota Crookston. He led defensive linemen with 59 tackles on the season. In addition, he led the team with 11.5 tackles and 3.5 sacks. Howard also tallied three quarterback hurries. The native of New Albany, Miss., was fifth in the league for tackles for loss. Howard ended his career with 75 tackles, 15 tackles for loss and six sacks.

Cole is also a first-time All-NSIC honoree having earned honorable mention accolades. The product of Compton, Calif., was second on the team with 85 tackles. He also notched 3.5 tackles for loss and had a team-leading three interceptions on the season. Cole added four pass break-ups on the season to his repertoire.

Day is also a first-time All-NSIC honoree having earned honorable mention accolades, as well. The native of Eveleth, Minn., is the school's all-time leading punter. Day had 77 punts for an average of 38.3 yards per punt. He had a long punt of 77 against University of Mary. He also had a punt of 71 yards versus Minnesota State University. Day had 16 punts inside the 20 and 11 punts over 50 yards. He was eighth in the league for punting average.

Shane Zylstra of Minnesota State University was named NSIC Offensive Player of the Year. Andrew Spencer of Winona State University earned NSIC Defensive Player of the Year. Nate Gunn of Minnesota State was named the NSIC Offensive Newcomer of the Year. Dennis Gardeck of University of Sioux Falls was named NSIC Defensive Newcomer of the Year. Tom Sawyer, the head coach of Winona State, rounded out the award winners by taking home NSIC Coach of the Year honors.

The Golden Eagles are slated to return three All-NSIC recipients for the 2018 season as they look to build on the 2017 campaign.

NORTH DIVISION				
NSIC North Division All-Conference First Team				
Offense				
7	Jordan Hein	QB Sr.	Bemidji State	Perham, Minn.
63	Jacob Krause	OL Sr.	Bemidji State	Wadena, Minn.
33	Andrew Lackowski	RB Jr.	Bemidji State	Rocklin, Calif.
75	Brandon Schindler	OL Sr.	Bemidji State	Waterford, Wis.
11	Adam Connette	WR Sr.	Minnesota Crookston	Corona, Calif.
67	Dason Anderson	OL Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Brooklyn Park, Minn.
13	Dason Balts	WR Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Barron, Minn.
71	Nolan Folkert	OL Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Elgin, Minn.
82	Keynon Phillips	TE Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Eagan, Minn.
9	Damon Gibson	WR Sr.	MSU Moorhead	Beardsley, Minn.
53	Nick Truen	RB Sr.	Northern State	White Bear Lake, Minn.
71	Bryce Johnson	OL Sr.	St. Cloud State	Beaver Dam, Wis.
NSIC North Division All-Conference First Team				
Defense				
44	Niko Daniello	LB Sr.	Bemidji State	Addison, Ill.
36	Gunner Olszewski	DB Jr.	Bemidji State	Alvin, Texas
4	John Vogeler	DB Jr.	Bemidji State	Alexandria, Minn.
32	Zach Bassuener	LB Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
92	Karl Finkel	DL Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Lakeville, Minn.
31	A.J. Naatz	LB Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Menomonie, Wis.
90	Nick Thorpe	DL Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Cold Spring, Minn.
93	Dake Busse	DL Sr.	MSU Moorhead	Waseca, Minn.
43	Miles Baggett	DL Sr.	MSU Moorhead	Chicago, Ill.
37	Bryce Broome	DB Sr.	Minot State	Port Orchard, Wash.
7	Carvel Graham	DB Sr.	St. Cloud State	Kenosha, Wis.
17	Brady Westart	LB Sr.	St. Cloud State	Brimfield, Ill.
NSIC North Division All-Conference First Team Special Teams				
1	Rod Stewart	RS Jr.	Minnesota Crookston	Fort Worth, Texas
4	Jose Luis Moreno	P So.	Minot State	San Lorenzo, Calif.
46	Adam Stage	K Fr.	St. Cloud State	Appleton, Wis.
NSIC North Division All-Conference Second Team				
Team Offense				
1	Rod Stewart	WR Jr.	Minnesota Crookston	Fort Worth, Texas
2	Dominic Bonner	WR Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Santa Cruz, Calif.
9	John Larson	QB Fr.	Minnesota Duluth	Braham, Minn.
69	Trapper Ward	OL Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Rice Lake, Wis.
34	Anthony Wood	RB Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Bakersfield, Calif.
4	Hunter Braaten	WR Sr.	MSU Moorhead	Westhope, N.D.
66	Andrew Erickson	OL Jr.	MSU Moorhead	St. Croix Falls, Wis.
75	Mitch Brockhaus	OL Sr.	Northern State	Hartford, S.D.
77	Austin Nath	OL Sr.	Northern State	Marshall, Minn.
76	Grant Lewis	OL Sr.	St. Cloud State	Sioux Falls, S.D.
3	Cregory Lewis	RB Jr.	St. Cloud State	Milwaukee, Wis.
86	Sam Hartman	TE Jr.	St. Cloud State	West Des Moines, Iowa
NSIC North Division All-Conference Second Team				
Team Defense				
9	Cabe Ames	LB Fr.	Bemidji State	Rosemount, Minn.
6	Alex Olszewski	DL Sr.	Bemidji State	Hudson, Wis.
31	EJ Burszewski	DB Sr.	Bemidji State	Alvin, Texas
45	Trysten Ross	LB Sr.	Bemidji State	Little Falls, Minn.
9	Austin Howard	DL Sr.	Minnesota Crookston	New Albany, Miss.
98	Dre Greer	DL Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Dolton, Ill.
1	Bishop McDonald	DB So.	Minnesota Duluth	Oakdale, Minn.
20	Albe Roehrich	LB Sr.	MSU Moorhead	Stanley, N.D.
14	Michael Strand	DB Jr.	MSU Moorhead	Barnesville, Minn.
13	Kiante Coudeau	DB Jr.	Minot State	Huntington Beach, Calif.
47	Noah Macpherson	LB Jr.	Northern State	Park Rapids, Minn.
44	Craig Szymanski	DL Sr.	St. Cloud State	Farmington, Minn.
NSIC North Division All-Conference Second Team Special Teams				
28	Isaac Aanerud	K Jr.	Bemidji State	Otsego, Minn.
36	Gunner Olszewski	RS Jr.	Bemidji State	Alvin, Texas
82	Bailey Meyer	P So.	University of Mary	Sheboygan, Wis.
NSIC North Division All-Conference Honorable Mention Team				
39	Jamison Evans	LB Sr.	Bemidji State	Deer River, Minn.
48	Matt Gross	TE So.	Bemidji State	Napoleon, N.D.
19	Christian Lunde	WR Sr.	Bemidji State	St Thomas, N.D.
22	Tahi Nomane	RB Sr.	Bemidji State	Maple Grove, Minn.
93	Dake Wirsching	DL Sr.	Bemidji State	Waterford, Wis.
25	DeShawn Gay	RB Fr.	University of Mary	Dayton, Ohio
2	Noah Krebs	DB So.	University of Mary	Bismarck, N.D.
56	Brock Pittsley	DL Sr.	University of Mary	Killdeer, N.D.
25	Will Cole	DB Jr.	Minnesota Crookston	Compton, Calif.
37	Stephen Day	P Jr.	Minnesota Crookston	Eveleth, Minn.
22	Dames Conner	WR Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Cottage Grove, Minn.
47	Regis Henke	DL Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
66	Matt Jueanu	OL Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Brooklyn Park, Minn.
11	Sam Lynch	DB Jr.	Minnesota Duluth	Plymouth, Minn.
21	Kegan Wirtz	DB Sr.	Minnesota Duluth	De Pere, Wis.
3	Grady Bresnahan	RS Fr.	MSU Moorhead	Casselton, N.D.
74	Tyler Lazarz	OL Jr.	MSU Moorhead	Articoh, Ill.
14	Lavante Bushnell	WR So.	Minot State	Stockton, Calif.
36	Matt Marler	LB Fr.	Minot State	Minot, N.D.
1	Larry Overstreet	RB Sr.	Minot State	Fort Meyers, Fla.
50	Cody Braeger	LB Sr.	Northern State	White Bear Lake, Minn.
29	Nathan Shaw	K Sr.	Northern State	Acworth, Ga.
5	Jerry Duckworth III	DB Sr.	St. Cloud State	Milwaukee, Wis.
54	Gary Koehring	LB Sr.	St. Cloud State	Kaneville, Ill.
2	Dwayne Lashorn	QB So.	St. Cloud State	Germanatown, Wis.
SOUTH DIVISION				
NSIC South Division All-Conference First Team				
Offense				
73	Sam Lee	OL Sr.	Augustana	Blue Earth, Minn.
23	Nate Cunn	RB So.	Minnesota State	Minooka, Ill.
69	Evan Heim	OL So.	Minnesota State	DePere, Wis.
86	Tyler Schmidt	TE So.	Minnesota State	Cedar Falls, Iowa
60	Sam Schrauth	OL Jr.	Minnesota State	Campbellsport, Wis.
84	Shane Zylstra	WR So.	Minnesota State	Spicer, Minn.
4	Nate Huot	WR Sr.	SMSU	Dawson, Minn.
76	Quinton Taylor	OL Sr.	Upper Iowa	Atkins, Iowa
10	Zach Osborn	QB Sr.	Wayne State	Harlan, Iowa
11	Nate Rogers	WR Sr.	Wayne State	South Sioux City, Neb.
78	Jake Gronholz	OL Sr.	Winona State	Lake Mills, Wis.
29	Javian Roebuck	RB So.	Winona State	Avondale, Ariz.
NSIC South Division All-Conference First Team				
Defense				
30	Kirby Hora	LB Jr.	Augustana	Sioux Falls, S.D.
31	Brendan Chrystal	LB Sr.	Minnesota State	Crystal Lake, Ill.
90	Zach Dodge	DL Jr.	Minnesota State	Salem, Wis.
4	Larry Moore	DB Sr.	Minnesota State	Calumet, Ill.
29	Derry Nash III	DB Sr.	Minnesota State	Kenosha, Wis.
92	Evan Perrizo	DL Sr.	Minnesota State	Eden Prairie, Minn.
47	Dennis Cardeck	DL Sr.	Sioux Falls	Lake in the Hills, Ill.
93	Dojo Simpson	DL Jr.	Upper Iowa	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
7	Glenn Harris	DB Sr.	Wayne State	Kansas City, Mo.
11	Michael Gomez	DL So.	Winona State	Cary, Ill.
8	Mike Imperiale	LB Sr.	Winona State	Addison, Ill.
23	Andrew Spencer	DB Sr.	Winona State	Lake Villa, Ill.
NSIC South Division All-Conference First Team Special Teams				
15	Casey Bednarski	K Jr.	Minnesota State	Oconomowoc, Wis.
15	Casey Bednarski	P Jr.	Minnesota State	Oconomowoc, Wis.
5	Dake Balliu	RS So.	Winona State	Lake Villa, Ill.
NSIC South Division All-Conference Second Team				
Team Offense				
9	Trevor DeSchepper	WR Sr.	Augustana	Harrisburg, S.D.
11	Ty Dennis	WR Sr.	Minnesota State	Burlington, Wis.
5	Ryan Schlichte	QB So.	Minnesota State	Mankato, Minn.
70	Hunter Toppel	OL Fr.	Minnesota State	DeForest, Wis.
22	Max Mickey	RB Sr.	Sioux Falls	Holden, Mo.
78	Trey Pipkins	OL Jr.	Sioux Falls	Apple Valley, Minn.
67	Desse Springer	OL Sr.	Sioux Falls	Denver, Colo.
85	Nick Stanke	TE Sr.	Sioux Falls	Eau Claire, Wis.
47	Austin Hilgert	OL Sr.	SMSU	Bloomington, Minn.
61	Ryan Parmely	RB Jr.	Upper Iowa	Delhi, Iowa
77	Mike Milenkovich	OL Jr.	Wayne State	Omaha, Neb.
10	Isaiah Frandsen	WR Jr.	Winona State	Barron, Wis.
NSIC South Division All-Conference Second Team				
Team Defense				
31	Trevor Naasz	DB Sr.	Augustana	Sioux Falls, S.D.
55	Joey Newman	DL Jr.	Augustana	Crooks, S.D.
3	Corey Brent	DB Sr.	Minnesota State	Oak Forest, Ill.
9	Michael Palme	LB Jr.	Minnesota State	West Des Moines, Iowa
31	Michael Antonio	LB Sr.	Sioux Falls	Kodiak, Alaska
5	Josh Butler	DB Sr.	Sioux Falls	Aurora, Colo.
19	Kyle Campiotti	LB Sr.	Sioux Falls	Livermore, Calif.
90	Logan Dykstra	DL Jr.	Sioux Falls	Hull, Iowa
46	Derek Landis	DL Sr.	Sioux Falls	Lakewood, CO
3	Adonis Brown	DB Sr.	Winona State	Rockford, Ill.
6	Michael Ferrante	DL Jr.	Winona State	Rosell, Ill.
7	Nick Pridgeon	LB Jr.	Winona State	Wauwatosa, Wis.
NSIC South Division All-Conference Second Team Special Teams				
1	Dason Towns	RS Sr.	Sioux Falls	Harvey, Ill.
49	Nate Skare	P Sr.	Upper Iowa	Spring Valley, Minn.
36	Carter McCauley	K Sr.	Winona State	Owatonna, Minn.
NSIC South Division All-Conference Honorable Mention Team				
84	Chet Peerenboom	TE Jr.	Augustana	Little Chute, Wis.
36	Matt Wagner	LB Jr.	Augustana	Sioux Falls, S.D.
10	Marcus Gustavson	WR So.	Concordia-St. Paul	Wheaton, Ill.
36	Sam Maedke	P So.	Concordia-St. Paul	Green Bay, Wis.
20	Dian Wallich	DB So.	Concordia-St. Paul	Oakdale, Minn.
17	Jack Curtis	CB So.	Minnesota State	Lombard, Ill.
7	JD Ekowa	QB Fr.	Minnesota State	Plainfield, Ill.
6	Dustin Taormina	TB Fr.	Minnesota State	Geneva, Ill.
91	Brian Mayberry	DL Sr.	Sioux Falls	Littleton, Colo.
12	Stuart Vanden Heuvel	K/P Sr.	Sioux Falls	Watertown, Wis.
26	Ayinde Warren	DB Sr.	Sioux Falls	Silver Spring, Md.
80	Eldridge Joyce	TE Fr.	SMSU	Champlin Park, Minn.
5	Alex Ney	LB Jr.	SMSU	Rochester, Minn.
5	Darred Edmonds	WR Sr.	Upper Iowa	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
12	Brent Lammers	QB Jr.	Upper Iowa	Manchester, Iowa
27	Keith Schwickerath	LB Sr.	Upper Iowa	Carner, Iowa
33	Mitchel Siech	LB So.	Upper Iowa	Denver, Iowa
99	Xavier Gullham	DL Jr.	Wayne State	Omaha, Neb.
55	Tyler Thomsen	LB So.	Wayne State	Fremont, Neb.
23	Rashad Trimble	RB Sr.	Wayne State	Bellevue, Neb.
13	Darren Beenken	QB Sr.	Winona State	Farmington, Minn.
40	Zach Olstad	TE Sr.	Winona State	Harmony, Minn.
45	Luke Teague	LB Sr.	Winona State	Columbus, Ind.
74	Colin Valley	OL Jr.	Winona State	Oconomowoc, Wis.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#11 Adam Connette WR / 5'10" / Sophomore	#90 Stephen Day K/P / 6'1" / Redshirt Freshman
#20 Dion Lalisch DB / 5'11" / Redshirt Freshman	#56 Austin Howard DL / 6'0" / Junior
#25 Will Cole DB / 6'1" / Freshman	#16 Rod Stewart WR / 5'11" / Freshman

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