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For Immediate Release

Contact: Dan Wilkes, National Chair
(620) 235-4147 or dwilkes@pittstate.edu

Hill Trophy Winner Bell, Upshaw Award Winner Staggs Headline 2009 *Football Gazette* All-America Team

PITTSBURG, Kan. —Harlon Hill Trophy winner **Joique Bell** of Wayne State (Mich.) and Gene Upshaw Award winner **Ben Staggs** of West Liberty State headline a talented 2009 *Don Hansen's Football Gazette* NCAA Division II All-America team.

Bell, who captured the Division II National Player of the Year honors, earned Offensive Back of the Year honors. **Jake Soy** of Division II National Champion NW Missouri State was named the Receiver of the Year, while Staggs garnered Offensive Lineman of the Year accolades. **Jack Hiett** of Nebraska-Kearney received the seventh annual NCAA-II Rimington Award as the division's top offensive center. †

On defense, **Drew Berube** of Hillsdale claimed Lineman of the Year honors, while **Mike Johnson** of North Alabama earned Linebacker of the Year. **Quintez Smith** of Shaw earned Defensive Back of the Year. Punter **Justin Hinson** of UNC-Pembroke and return specialist **Jerome Hewitt** of Southeastern Oklahoma shared the Specialist of the Year award.

Northwest Missouri State's **Mel Tjeerdsma**, who led the Bearcats to their fifth straight appearance in the NCAA-II National Championship Game and the school's third national championship, earned National Coach of the Year honors for the second time in as many seasons. Tjeerdsma shared the honors with Minnesota Duluth's Bob Nielson in 2008.

Bell, a senior from Detroit, rushed for 2,084 yards and 29 touchdowns to capture the Harlon Hill Trophy as the national player of the year. He led Division II in rushing (189.5 ppg), all-purpose yards (217.5 ypg) and scoring (17.5 ppg) on the season.

This marks the 22nd year *Don Hansen's Football Gazette*, a recognized authority on small college football, has selected an NCAA Division II All-America team. The national publication selected All-Region teams with the first-team and second-team All-Region players from each of the four geographic regions (Super Region One – former Northeast; Super Region Two – former Southeast; Super Region Three – former Northwest; Super Region Four – former Southwest) comprising the national ballot, which was voted upon by a select national panel.

A total of 157 players earned some form of *Football Gazette* All-America honors. Players from 83 of the 150 football-playing schools in Division II earned *Football Gazette* All-America accolades. National Champion NW Missouri State and national quarterfinalist West Liberty State led the way by placing seven players apiece on All-America squad, while national semifinalist California (Pa.) had six honorees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact *Football Gazette* National Coordinator Dan Wilkes, Asst. AD/Media Relations at Pittsburg State University, at 620-235-4147 (dwilkes@pittstate.edu).

† The Boomer Esiason Foundation, which established the Dave Rimington Trophy in 2000 to honor the outstanding NCAA BCS center, expanded that award in 2003 to include the top center on each of the Don Hansen's Football Gazette NCAA FCS, DII, DIII and NAIA All-America squads. The Rimington Trophy web site is located at www.rimingtontrophy.com. Esiason, a high-octane Maryland quarterback, and Rimington, a nonpareil center for Nebraska, were NFL teammates at Cincinnati in the mid-1980s.

In 1993, Esiason created the New York City based foundation that bears his name to raise funds for the treatment and research of cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease his son Gunnar has battled since infancy.

First Team Offense

POS	NAME	HT	WT	YR	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
QB	Zach Amedeo	6-0	190	JR	West Liberty State	Moundville, W. Va.
RB	Joiqye Bell	6-1	233	SR	Wayne State (Mich.)	Benton Harbor, Mich.
RB	Isaac Odum	6-0	215	JR	Minnesota Duluth	Rochester, Minn.
FB	Marcus Sims	6-0	223	SO	North Alabama	Tallahassee, Fla.
WR	Jake Soy	6-3	210	SO	NW Missouri State	Durant, Iowa
WR	Kashif Walls	6-3	205	JR	West Liberty State	Camden, N.J.
TE	Ryan Travis	6-3	245	JR	West Liberty State	Massillon, Ohio
C	Jack Hiatt	6-2	255	SR	Nebraska-Kearney	Arvada, Colo.
OG	Brett Grozinger	6-4	280	JR	NW Missouri State	Chillicothe, Mo.
OG	Andy Schoonover	6-3	302	SR	Minnesota State	Boyceville, Wis.
OT	Ben Staggs	6-4	275	SR	West Liberty State	Wooster, Ohio
OT	Tony Washington	6-7	305	SR	Abilene Christian	New Orleans, La.
AP	Frantz Simeon	5-10	180	SR	Arkansas Tech	Belle Glade, Fla.
PK	Travis Atter	5-7	190	SR	Chadron State	Buffalo, Wyo.

First Team Defense

POS	NAME	HT	WT	YR	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
DE	Drew Berube	6-4	261	SR	Hillsdale	Hillsdale, Mich.
DE	Jashawn Williams	6-2	230	SR	American International	Roosevelt, N.Y.
DG/DT	William Green	5-10	290	SR	Texas A&M-Commerce	Dallas, Texas
DG/DT	Cedric Thornton	6-5	266	JR	Southern Arkansas	Star City, Ark.
LB	John Jacobs	6-2	230	SR	Saginaw Valley State	Prudenville, Mich.
LB	Mike Johnson	6-4	250	SR	North Alabama	Panama City, Fla.
LB	Anthony Smith	5-9	227	SR	Bloomsburg	Pottstown, Pa.
CB	Rodney Mitchell	6-0	180	SR	Eastern New Mexico	Sarasota, Fla.
CB	Quintez Smith	6-1	195	SR	Shaw	Dublin, Ga.
S	Josh Jones	5-10	185	SR	Harding	Carson, Calif.
S	Ron Parker	6-1	210	JR	Newberry	St. Helena Island, S.C.
P	Justin Hinson	6-2	215	JR	UNC-Pembroke	Monroe, N.C.
RS	Jerome Hewitt	5-5	170	SR	Southeastern Oklahoma	Gainesville, Texas

Second Team Offense

POS	NAME	HT	WT	YR	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
QB	Nick Graziano	6-2	227	SR	Arkansas Tech	Moraga, Calif.
RB	Jonas Randolph	5-10	185	SO	Mars Hill	Daleville, Ala.
RB	Buck Wakefield	5-8	187	SR	Carson-Newman	Drummonds, Tenn.
FB	Kevin Herrod	6-1	224	FR	Shippensburg	Allentown, Pa.
WR	A.J. Jackson	6-6	230	SR	California (Pa.)	Lehigh Acres, Fla.
WR	Adam Sauer	6-3	200	SR	Colorado Mines	Centennial, Colo.
TE	Mike Higgins	6-5	241	JR	Nebraska-Omaha	Pickrell, Neb.
C	Brandon Fusco	6-5	300	JR	Slippery Rock	Cranberry Twp., Pa.
OG	Tim Ickes	6-3	280	SR	West Liberty State	Wooster, Ohio
OG	Zach Meints	6-2	275	SR	Colorado Mines	Cortland, Neb.
OT	Nick McDonald	6-5	310	SR	Grand Valley State	Sterling Heights, Mich.
OT	Michael Tribue	6-3	240	JR	Carson-Newman	Antioch, Tenn.
AP	Frederick Bruno	5-8	210	JR	Wayne State (Neb.)	Miami, Fla.
PK	Steve Ivanisevic	5-11	195	SR	Washburn	Darien, Ill.

Second Team Defense

POS	NAME	HT	WT	YR	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
DE	Danny Richard	6-4	255	JR	Grand Valley State	W. Bloomfield, Mich.
DE	Willie Walker	6-3	250	SR	California (Pa.)	Aliquippa, Pa.
DG/DT	Chris Almonte	6-4	265	SR	Charleston	Miami, Fla.
DG/DT	Junior Galette	6-2	255	SR	Stillman	Philadelphia, Pa.
LB	Zach Watkins	6-0	235	SR	Washburn	Independence, Mo.
LB	Buddy Wood	6-3	214	SR	Central Washington	Chattaroy, Wash.
LB	Matt Zahoruiko	6-0	240	SR	Bentley	N. Andover, Mass.
CB	Pierre Desir	6-1	187	FR	Washburn	St. Peter's, Mo.
CB	Terrance Johnson	6-0	190	SR	California (Pa.)	Braddock, Pa.
S	Quinton Andrews	5-11	206	SR	North Alabama	Miami, Fla.
S	Myles Burnside	5-11	195	SR	NW Missouri State	Maryville, Mo.
P	Joe Kok	6-2	220	SR	Northeastern State	Broken Arrow, Okla.
RS	Perry Floyd	5-8	165	JR	Wingate	Gastonia, N.C.

Third Team Offense

POS	NAME	HT	WT	YR	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
QB	J.J. Harp	6-2	180	SO	Eastern New Mexico	Argyle, Texas
RB	LaRon Council	5-10	210	SR	NW Missouri State	Kansas City, Mo.
RB	Anthony Smalls	5-8	170	SO	Merrimack	Dorchester, Mass.
FB	Jimmy Parsons	5-9	190	JR	Northwood	Midland, Mich.
WR	Landon Turner	6-3	209	SR	Arkansas Tech	Destrehan, La.
WR	Doug Williams	6-5	200	JR	Panhandle State	New Orleans, La.
TE	Jerrell NeSmith	6-2	215	SR	Tusculum	Russellville, Ark.
C	Torrence Wright	6-3	280	SR	Arkansas Tech	Sulphur Springs, Texas
OG	Dan Jordan	6-3	305	JR	California (Pa.)	Tionesta, Pa.
OG	Markeith Wesley	6-8	325	SR	Texas A&M-Kingsville	Navasota, Texas
OT	Jared Veldheer	6-9	321	SR	Hillsdale	Grand Rapids, Mich.
OT	JMarcus Webb	6-8	325	SR	West Texas A&M	Mesquite, Texas
AP	Alfonso Hoggard	5-4	150	JR	Clarion	Philadelphia, Pa.
PK	Garrett Lindholm	5-9	190	SR	Tarleton State	Pflugerville, Texas

Third Team Defense

POS	NAME	HT	WT	YR	SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
DE	Eugene Sims	6-6	235	SO	West Texas A&M	Mount Olive, Miss.
DE	Aston Whiteside	6-2	255	SO	Abilene Christian	Vernon, Texas
DG/DT	Tyler Roach	6-2	315	SR	NW Missouri State	Elkhorn, Neb.
DG/DT	Marc Schiechl	6-3	225	JR	Colorado Mines	Lakewood, Colo.
LB	Jake Anderson	6-2	250	SR	Bemidji State	Karlstad, Minn.
LB	Robbie Aurich	5-11	240	JR	Minnesota Duluth	Spring Lake, Minn.
LB	Andrew Eggleton	5-11	215	SR	West Virginia State	St. Albans, W.Va.
CB	Anthony Fields	5-10	195	SR	Findlay	Ft. Wayne, Ill.
CB	Justin Hannah	5-9	175	SR	Tuskegee	Birmingham, Ala.
S	Giorgio Durham	6-0	190	SO	Central Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
S	Jacob McGuckin	6-3	218	SR	Harding	Allen Park, Mich.
P	Kyler Ford	5-11	180	SR	Shippensburg	Bedford, Pa.
RS	Akwasi Owusu-Ansah	6-1	205	SR	Indiana (Pa.)	Columbus, Ohio

Honorable Mention

ALPHABETICAL, BY SCHOOL — Abilene Christian: Royland Tubbs, OG; **Adams State:** Josh Teeples, DG/DT; **Albany State:** Mario Fuller, S; **Assumption:** Herbert Woodward, RB; **Benedict:** Marquez Gibson, S; **Bentley:** Chris Carroll, S; Daryl Laforest, DG/DT; **Bloomsburg:** Stefan Adams; **Brevard:** Stanley Jones, LB; **California (Pa.):** Dontay Brown, LB; ChaMar Jones, OT; **Carson-Newman:** Brian Brown, LB; Mario Russell, S; **Catawba:** Melquan Fair, DG/DT; **Central Missouri:** Anthony Stewart, AP; **Central Washington:** Eugene Germany, DG/DT; Tony Quirk, OT; Garrett Rolsma, PK; **Chadron State:** Kevin Berg, P; Benjamin Puffer, OT; Isaac Stockton, TE; **Clarion:** Matt Foradora, TE; Nick Sipes, S; **Clark Atlanta:** Zimier McCloud, LB; **Colorado Mines:** David Pesak, QB; **Concord (W.Va.):** Brian Kennedy, RB; Thomas Mayo, WR; **Delta State:** Trevar Deed, AP; **Dixie State:** Mike Langston, P; **East Stroudsburg:** Matt Freed, LB; **Eastern New Mexico:** Nathan Uland, LB; **Edinboro:** Trevor Harris, QB; **Elizabeth City State:** Malcolm Jenkins, DE; **Fayetteville State:** Jeff Gowdy, S; **Fort Hays State:** C.J. Lovett, RS; **Grand Valley State:** Cameron Bradfield, OT; **Harding:** Jermaine Blanchard, DE; Terence Crosby, OT; **Hillsdale:** Mark Petro, PK; **Mars Hill:** Josh Sims, OG; **Midwestern State:** Lance Calloway, C; Zack Eskridge, QB; Andy Tanner, WR; **Miles:** Justin Hill, CB; WR; **Minnesota State:** Kelvin Rodgers, RS; **Missouri Southern:** Jairius Jarvis, DE; **Missouri Western:** Nathan Martin, C; **Morehouse:** Ian Mullin, PK; **Nebraska-Kearney:** Rustin Dring, TB; Kyle Kaiser, WR; **Nebraska-Omaha:** Levi Terrell, RB; **North Alabama:** Will Batson, P; Harrison Beck, QB; **UNC-Pembroke:** Keith Broderick, C; Hivera Green, OG; **North Greenville:** Andre Bernardi, DE; **NW Missouri State:** Blake Bolles, QB; Chad Kilgore, LB; **Ouachita Baptist:** Jerry McNeil, DE; **Panhandle State:** Daryl Brister, AP; **St. Augustine's:** Marcus Crump, DE; **Saginaw Valley State:** Galen Stone, TE; **Shepherd:** Deante Steele, RS; **Shippensburg:** Mike Harris, WR; **Stillman:** Quinn Porter, RB; **Texas A&M-Commerce:** Israel Hughes, CB; **Tuskegee:** Brandon Anderson, LB; **Valdosta State:** Carlos Anderson, CB; **Wayne State (Neb.):** Silas Fullen, QB; Ryan Reeves, LB; **West Alabama:** Jason Hawkins, TE; **West Liberty State:** Clay Beeler, LB; Kevon Calhoun, RB; **Western New Mexico:** Salvador Garcia, AP; **Western Oregon:** Kalani Zoller, DG/DT; **Winona State:** Jason Enos, OG.