2026 OVC FOOTBALL TEAMS AND AWARD WINNERS

Offensive Player of the Year: Kennedy McGill (QB, 5th Year), Western Illinois
Defensive Player of the Year: Tre Yanez (LB, Jr.), Gardner-Webb
Special Teams Player of the Year: Justin Keller (K, Grad.), Southeast Missouri
Offensive Freshman of the Year: Tate Surber (QB, R-Fr.), UT Martin
Defensive Freshman of the Year: Zalen Watkins (DL, R-Fr.), Gardner-Webb
Coach of the Year: Joe Davis, Western Illinois

FIRST-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

QB – Kennedy McGill, 5th Year, Western Illinois
RB – Khyair Spain, Jr., Southeast Missouri
RB – Hakeem Watters, So., Charleston Southern
RB – Chris Franklin, R-Jr., UT Martin
WR – Cam Bulluck, Jr., Tennessee State
WR – Kory Jones, Jr., Gardner-Webb
WR – Jalen Smith, Sr., Lindenwood
WR – Christian Anaya, 5th Year, Western Illinois
TE – David Hargro, Sr., Western Illinois
OL – Dolapo Egunjobi, Grad., UT Martin
OL – James Durand, Sr., Western Illinois
OL – Jalen Nettles, Grad., Southeast Missouri
OL – Tyler Sulsberger, So., Western Illinois
OL – Rashad Turner, 5th Year, Southeast Missouri
OL – Ryan McCombs, So., Western Illinois

DEFENSE

DL – Trey Weems, Sr., Gardner-Webb
DL – Jaylon Price, Sr., Tennessee State
DL – AJ Mebane, R-Jr., Gardner-Webb
DL – Zalen Watkins, R-Fr., Gardner-Webb
DL – Preston Hamilton, R-Sr., Gardner-Webb
LB – Tre Yanez, Jr., Gardner-Webb
LB – Steve Zayachkowsky, Sr., Charleston Southern
LB – Nick Reinicke, Sr., Western Illinois
LB – Justin Buckner, So., Western Illinois
LB – Ja'wuan Nickson, Sr., Eastern Illinois
DB – Jouvenson Romulus, Sr., Western Illinois
DB – DJ Delmore, Sr., Southeast Missouri
DB – David Jones, Sr., Southeast Missouri
DB – DonPaul Keith, So., Western Illinois
DB – Jerry Addo-Boateng, R-Sr., Eastern Illinois

SPECIALISTS

PK – Justin Keller, Grad., Southeast Missouri
P – Max Zuluaga, R-So., UT Martin
LS – Hayden King, R-Jr., UT Martin
KR – Khylen Harris-Norman, So., Southeast Missouri
PR – Hakeem Watters, So., Charleston Southern
AP – Ihson Jackson-Anderson, 5th Year, Western Illinois

SECOND-TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

QB – Pops Battle, Jr., Lindenwood
RB – Ihson Jackson-Anderson, 5th Year, Western Illinois
RB – Jaydon Peete, Fr., UT Martin
RB – Jared Rhodes, 5th Year, Lindenwood
WR – Drew Krobath, 5th Year, Lindenwood
WR – Israel Hiraldo, So., Western Illinois
WR – John Anthony Jr., 5th Year, Southeast Missouri
WR – Brock Montgomery, Jr., Tennessee State
TE – Kaleb Costner, Grad., UT Martin
OL – Will Fitzpatrick, R-Jr., Gardner-Webb
OL – Andrew Smithberger, Jr., UT Martin
OL – Rahfeeq Katumbusi, R-So., Eastern Illinois
OL – Garrett Smith, Grad., UT Martin
OL – Andrew Swingle, Jr., Lindenwood
OL – Justin Joe, R-So., Charleston Southern

DEFENSE

DL – Cidney Johnson, Sr., Western Illinois
DL – Andrew Baumgart, Jr., Lindenwood
DL – Josiah Wyatt, R-Sr., Charleston Southern
DL – Duston Chavis, R-Jr., UT Martin
DL – Aidan Archibald, R-So., Eastern Illinois
LB – LJ Minner Jr., 5th Year, Southeast Missouri
LB – Tristan Lennon, So., Charleston Southern
LB – Cahari Haynes, R-Jr., Gardner-Webb
LB – Epoki Fakaosi, Sr., Tennessee State
LB – Caleb Jacobmeier, Sr., Lindenwood
DB – Jayden Hancock, So., Charleston Southern
DB – Jalen LaBranche, So., Tennessee State
DB – Joel Castleberry, R-Jr., UT Martin
DB – Avery Dixon, R-Sr., Charleston Southern
DB – Taylor Smallwood, R-Sr., Gardner-Webb

SPECIALISTS

PK – Ronan Culkin, Jr., Western Illinois
P – Cade Cox, Grad., Eastern Illinois
LS – Zach Ely, Jr., Lindenwood
KR – Quay Kindell, R-Jr., Charleston Southern
PR – Jobe Bryant, So., Southeast Missouri
AP – Hakeem Watters, So., Charleston Southern

HONORABLE MENTION ALL-CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

QB – Cole LaCrue, R-Jr., Eastern Illinois
QB – Cole Pennington, R-Sr., Gardner-Webb
RB – Tyrell Reed Jr., Sr., Southeast Missouri
RB – Charles Kellom, R-Sr., Eastern Illinois
WR – Jeremy Reeves, R-So., Eastern Illinois
WR – Elijah Roy, So., Lindenwood
WR – Quay Kindell, R-Jr., Charleston Southern
WR – Mekhi Campfield, Sr., Charleston Southern
TE – Clayton Leonard, Grad., Southeast Missouri
OL – Sam Reynolds, Jr., Southeast Missouri
OL – Ethan Hunt, Grad., Charleston Southern
OL – Nate Compere, Sr., Lindenwood
OL – Quandre Brooks, Fr., Charleston Southern
OL – Panayiotis Mihalopoulos, R-Jr., Eastern Illinois
OL – Michael Forney, Sr., Western Illinois

DEFENSE

DL – Bryce Gray, So., Tennessee State
DL – Jamesly Jean Louis, So., Western Illinois
DL – Mason Burke, Jr., Lindenwood
DL – Jeremy Walton, Grad., Southeast Missouri
DL – CJ Landrum, Jr., Charleston Southern
LB – LeBron Morgan, Sr., Western Illinois
LB – Lonnie Burt, Jr., Eastern Illinois
LB – Jacob Waller, 5th Year, Lindenwood
DB – Nehemiah Scott, Grad., Southeast Missouri
DB – DeVonta Owens, 5th Year, Lindenwood
DB – Rodney McNeil Jr., Jr., Western Illinois
DB – Jake Kruger, Jr., Western Illinois
DB – Adrian Patterson, 5th Year, Southeast Missouri

SPECIALISTS

PK – Brandon Sims, So, UT Martin
P – Baxter Pearce, Fr., Charleston Southern
LS – Ben Bergfeld, 5th Year, Western Illinois
KR – Daion Gaston, Jr., Tennessee State
PR – Joel Salien, So., Western Illinois