



## TOWSON'S FLACCO, JMU'S MORELAND HEADLINE 2018 CAA FOOTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS

RICHMOND, Va. (November 20, 2018) – CAA Football announced its 2018 post-season award winners on Tuesday, headlined by Towson junior quarterback **Tom Flacco** being selected as the league's Offensive Player of the Year and James Madison senior cornerback **Jimmy Moreland** being chosen as the conference's Defensive Player of the Year.

Other major award recipients included Maine's **Joe Harasymiak** as CAA Coach of the Year, Towson junior kick/punt returner **Shane Simpson** as Special Teams Player of the Year, Elon freshman running back **Jaylan Thomas** as Offensive Rookie of the Year and Villanova freshman cornerback **Christian Benford** as Defensive Rookie of the Year. Stony Brook senior offensive lineman **Chris Infantino** was honored with the Chuck Boone Leadership and Excellence Award.

CAA Football's all-conference awards are voted on by the league's 12 head coaches. James Madison led all teams with 14 selections, while CAA champion Maine had 12 players named to the squad.

Flacco made an immediate impact in his first season with the Tigers. The junior completed 259-of-406 passes for 3,124 yards and 27 touchdowns and also ran for a team-high 704 yards and four scores. He leads CAA Football and ranks third in FCS in total offense (348.0 ypg) and is fifth nationally in passing TD's, seventh in passing yards per game (284.0 ypg) and 19<sup>th</sup> in passing efficiency (145.0). Flacco threw for over 300 yards six times and had multiple TD passes in 10 of his 11 contests. He ran for over 100 yards in a game twice. A finalist for the STATS Walter Payton Award as the top offensive player in FCS, Flacco is Towson's first Offensive Player of the Year since Terrance West in 2013.

Moreland had a record-setting season for a JMU defense that ranks in the top 10 nationally. The senior cornerback tied for the CAA lead and was eighth in FCS with five interceptions. He set a CAA record by returning three interceptions for touchdowns and his 217 interception return yards broke the Dukes' single-season mark. Along with the interception numbers, Moreland contributed 40 tackles, 3.5 TFL, a team-high nine pass breakups, a fumble recovery and a blocked punt. He owns JMU's career interceptions record with 18 and his six career interceptions for TD's is a CAA record. A finalist for the STATS Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in FCS, Moreland is JMU's second straight Defensive Player of the Year honoree.

Picked to finish eighth in the league's preseason poll, Harasymiak guided Maine to its first CAA Football championship since 2013 with a 7-1 league mark. The Black Bears went 8-3 overall, earned a berth in the FCS playoffs for the first time in five years and were ranked No. 12 in the final regular-season STATS FCS Top 25 poll. Maine was a perfect 5-0 against nationally ranked opponents this season and recorded a victory over FBS foe Western Kentucky despite playing a rigorous schedule that included seven road games. Harasymiak is a finalist for the STATS Eddie Robinson Award, which is presented to the top head coach in FCS football.

Simpson ranked fifth in the CAA in kickoff return average (24.0) and third in punt return average (7.5) this season. His 992 combined kick return yards were the third-most in FCS. The multi-talented junior, who also

earned first-team All-CAA honors at running back, ranked second in the nation in all-purpose yards (177.6 ypg). Simpson's 12 total touchdowns were the most in the CAA this season and included a 96-yard kickoff return for a score against Stony Brook.

Thomas took over as Elon's starting running back at mid-season due to injuries and rushed for a team-high 723 yards and four touchdowns in just seven games. He ran for 222 yards on 18 carries in a win over Rhode Island, which was the most by a CAA player this season and the 9<sup>th</sup>-best effort in Elon history. He also had 150 yards rushing against Richmond and averaged 7.3 yards per carry for the season. Thomas is the second Elon player in as many seasons to be named Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Benford tied for the CAA lead with five interceptions in nine contests and ranked sixth in FCS in interceptions per game (0.6). The freshman cornerback picked off three passes in a win at Richmond, becoming the first Villanova player to do that since 2011. He also contributed 49 tackles, 2.0 TFL and six pass breakups, which tied for the team lead. Benford is a finalist for the STATS Jerry Rice Award, which is given to the top freshman player in FCS.

Infantino was the recipient of the prestigious Chuck Boone Leadership and Excellence Award, an honor that embodies the highest standards of leadership, integrity, teamwork and sportsmanship in academics and athletics. The senior offensive lineman started every game this season and helped Stony Brook rush for 208.1 yards per game, which ranks second in the CAA and 27<sup>th</sup> nationally. He graduated last May with a double major in biology and psychology and is currently pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences. He is an ambassador for the Concussion Legacy Foundation and participates in Uplifting Athletes, a fundraising event to raise awareness for rare disease research. The Boone Award is selected by the CAA Football athletics directors.

**2018 CAA Football First Team Offense**

<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Tom Flacco, Towson	QB	Jr.	Voorhees, N.J.
Donald Liotine, Stony Brook	RB	Sr.	Medford, N.Y.
Shane Simpson, Towson	RB	Jr.	Easton, Pa.
Cal Daniels, Stony Brook	FB/HB	Sr.	Bethel, Conn.
Shane Leatherbury, Towson	WR	Jr.	Salisbury, Md.
Neil O'Connor, New Hampshire	WR	Sr.	Leominster, Mass.
Aaron Parker, Rhode Island	WR	Jr.	Brandywine, Md.
Charles Scarff, Delaware	TE	Sr.	Lancaster, Pa.
Mario Farinella, Delaware	OL	Sr.	Bloomfield, N.J.
Kyle Murphy, Rhode Island	OL	Jr.	Attleboro, Mass.
Matt Kauffman, Towson	OL	Sr.	York, Pa.
CJ Toogood, Elon	OL	Sr.	Holly Springs, N.C.
Ollie Udoh, Elon	OL	Sr.	Fayetteville, N.C.
Aidan O'Neill, Towson	PK	Jr.	New Paltz, N.Y.
Earnest Edwards, Maine	KR	Jr.	Rochester, N.Y.
D'Angelo Amos, James Madison	PR	So.	Richmond, Va.

**2018 CAA Football First Team Defense**

<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Ron'Dell Carter, James Madison	DL	Jr.	Baltimore, Md.
Andrew Clyde, Richmond	DL	Sr.	Dallas, Texas
Maurice Jackson, Richmond	DL	Jr.	Levittown, Pa.
Kayon Whitaker, Maine	DL	Jr.	Washington, D.C.
Shayne Lawless, Stony Brook	LB	Sr.	Moorestown, N.J.
Warren Messer, Elon	LB	Sr.	Garner, N.C.
Troy Reeder, Delaware	LB	Sr.	Hockessin, Del.
Sterling Sheffield, Maine	LB	Sr.	Mullica Hill, N.J.
Jimmy Moreland, James Madison	CB	Sr.	Royal Palm Beach, Fla.
Manny Patterson, Maine	CB	Jr.	Baltimore, Md.
Nasir Adderley, Delaware	S	Sr.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Adam Smith, James Madison	S	Jr.	Charlotte, N.C.
Nick Pritchard, Delaware	P	Jr.	New Egypt, N.J.
Robert Carter, Jr., James Madison	SPEC	Sr.	Baltimore, Md.

**2018 Offensive Player of the Year:** Tom Flacco, Towson

**2018 Defensive Player of the Year:** Jimmy Moreland, James Madison

**2018 Coach of the Year:** Joe Harasymiak, Maine

**2018 Special Teams Player of the Year:** Shane Simpson, Towson

**2018 Offensive Rookie of the Year:** Jaylan Thomas, Elon

**2018 Defensive Rookie of the Year:** Christian Benford, Villanova

**2018 Chuck Boone Leadership and Excellence Award:** Chris Infantino, Stony Brook

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<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
JaJuan Lawson, Rhode Island	QB	Sr.	Petaluma, Calif.
Jordan Gowins, Stony Brook	RB	Sr.	Bellport, N.Y.
Aaron Forbes, Villanova	RB	Sr.	Newburgh, N.Y.
Tyler Burke, Rhode Island	FB/HB	Sr.	Coatesville, Pa.
Earnest Edwards, Maine	WR	Jr.	Rochester, N.Y.
Cortrelle Simpson, Richmond	WR	Jr.	Indian Head, Md.
Riley Stapleton, James Madison	WR	Jr.	Indiana, Pa.
Drew Belcher, Maine	TE	Sr.	Reading, Mass.
Ethan Greenidge, Villanova	OL	Sr.	Flanders, N.Y.
Liam Dobson, Maine	OL	So.	Ottawa, Ontario
Liam Fornadel, James Madison	OL	So.	Ramsey, N.J.
Kyle Nunez, Stony Brook	OL	Fr.	East Islip, N.Y.
John Yarbrough, Richmond	OL	Sr.	Homewood, Ala.
Ethan Stark, UAlbany	PK	Sr.	Erie, Pa.
Shane Simpson, Towson	KR	Jr.	Easton, Pa.
Ahmere Dorsey, Rhode Island	PR	Jr.	Wilmington, Del.

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<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Charles Mitchell, Maine	DL	Jr.	Piscataway, N.J.
Bill Murray, William & Mary	DL	Jr.	Millington, N.J.
Sam Kamara, Stony Brook	DL	Jr.	Carteret, N.J.
Jae'Wuan Horton, New Hampshire	DL	Sr.	Stafford, Va.
Quinlen Dean, New Hampshire	LB	Jr.	Greenbelt, Md.
Dimitri Holloway, James Madison	LB	Jr.	Newport News, Va.
Robert Heyward, Towson	LB	Jr.	Savannah, Ga.
Deshawn Stevens, Maine	LB	So.	Toronto, Ontario
Gavin Heslop, Stony Brook	CB	Jr.	Yonkers, N.Y.
Greg Liggs, Jr., Elon	CB	Jr.	Greensboro, N.C.
Pop Lacey, New Hampshire	S	Jr.	Reading, Pa.
Isaiah Laster, William & Mary	S	Jr.	Cary, N.C.
Harry O'Kelly, James Madison	P	So.	Wynnum, Queensland, Australia
Mozai Nelson, Maine	SPEC	Sr.	Uniondale, N.Y.

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<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Ben DiNucci, James Madison	QB	Jr.	Wexford, Pa.
Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks, UAlbany	RB	Jr.	Newark, N.J.
Malcolm Summers, Elon	RB	Sr.	Mebane, N.C.
Tyler Crist, William & Mary	FB	So.	Hampton, Va.
DeVonte Dedmon, William & Mary	WR	Sr.	Williamsburg, Va.
Joe Walker, Delaware	WR	Sr.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Micah Wright, Maine	WR	Sr.	Newark, N.Y.
Nick Muse, William & Mary	TE	So.	Belmont, N.C.
Noah Beh, Delaware	OL	Sr.	Moscow, Pa.
Cody Levy, Maine	OL	Sr.	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Mac Patrick, James Madison	OL	Jr.	Mechanicsville, Va.
Mark Williamson, William & Mary	OL	Jr.	Greene County, Va.
Aaron Grzymkowski, Towson	OL	So.	Stevensville, Md.
Ethan Ratke, James Madison	PK	So.	Mechanicsville, Va.
Jawon Hamilton, James Madison	KR	So.	Miami, Fla.
Shane Simpson, Towson	PR	Jr.	Easton, Pa.

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<b>Player, School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
John Daka, James Madison	DL	Jr.	Upper Marlboro, Md.
Cam Kitchen, Delaware	DL	Jr.	Trenton, N.J.
Marcus Willoughby, Elon	DL	Jr.	Durham, N.C.
John Haggart, Stony Brook	DL	Sr.	Sayville, N.Y.
Matt Baker, Elon	LB	Sr.	Raleigh, N.C.
Noah McGinty, Stony Brook	LB	Sr.	Carlsbad, Calif.
Ray Jones, Delaware	LB	Sr.	Wilmington, Del.
Diondre Wallace, Towson	LB	Sr.	Baltimore, Md.
Christian Benford, Villanova	CB	Fr.	Randallstown, Md.
T.J. Morrison, Stony Brook	CB	So.	Yonkers, N.Y.
Tyler Campbell, Elon	S	Sr.	Suwanee, Ga.
Corey Parker, William & Mary	S	Jr.	Haymarket, Va.
Drew Sanborn, New Hampshire	P	Jr.	Amherst, N.H.
Yeedee Thaenrat, Towson	SPEC	Jr.	Philadelphia, Pa.