

# THE PLAYERS



*Northern Illinois TB Garrett Wolfe (1) / Maxwell Award watch list (2005)*

# HUSKIES AT A GLANCE

## Northern Illinois University 2005 Football Overview

### The Basics

**Offense:** One Back

**Defense:** Attack Four-Three

**Lettermen Returning:** 36

(Offense: 17 / Defense: 17 / Special Teams: 2)

**Starters Returning:** 15

(Offense: 7 / Defense: 6 / Special Teams: 2)

**Lettermen Lost:** 22

(Offense: 11 / Defense: 10 / Special Teams: 1)

**Starters Lost:** 11

(Offense: 5 / Defense: 5 / Starters: 1)

### The Staff

#### Head Coach:

Joe Novak

(Miami, OH, 1967)

#### Career / Northern Illinois Record:

47-55 (.461 Pct.) (Tenth Year)

#### Assistant Head Coach / Offensive Interior Line:

Sam Pittman

(Pittsburg, KS, State, 1986) (Fifth Year)

#### Offensive Coordinator / Quarterbacks:

John Bond

(Arkansas, 1985) (Second Year)

#### Defensive Coordinator / Linebackers:

Denny Doornbos

(Western Michigan, 1978) (Third Year)

#### Tight Ends / Media Coordinator:

Greg Bower

(Loras, 1993) (Sixth Year)

#### Runningbacks:

Thomas Hammock

(Northern Illinois, 2001) (First Year)

#### Defensive Interior Line:

Derrick Jackson

(Duke, 1993) (First Year)

#### Wide Receivers:

Marquis Mosely

(Illinois, 1998) (Second Year)

#### Secondary:

Steve Bernstein

(Occidental, 1967) (Second Year)

#### Defensive Ends / Recruiting Coordinator:

Mike Sabock

(Baldwin-Wallace, 1977) (22nd Year)

(July 23, 2005)

### The Personnel

#### Team Captains (4):

A.J. Harris, TB (6-1, 221, Sr.)-###

Javan Lee, LB (6-2, 222, Sr.)-###

Ray Smith, SS (6-2, 185, Sr.)-###

Brian Van Acker, C (6-4, 287, Sr.)-##

#### Returning Starters (15):

##### Offense (7):

Sam Hurd, SE (6-2, 187, Sr.)-###@

Jake Nordin, TE (6-4, 253, Jr.)-#

Doug Free, OT (6-6, 290, Jr.)-##@

Ben Lueck, OG (6-4, 310, Sr.)-##

Brian Van Acker, C (6-4, 287, Sr.)-##

Garrett Wolfe, TB (5-7, 174, Jr.)-#

A.J. Harris, TB (6-1, 221, Sr.)-###

##### Defense (6):

Quince Holman, DE (6-3, 261, Sr.)-##

Ken West, DE (6-3, 235, Jr.)-##

Adam Schroeder, DT (6-4, 277, So.)-#

Javan Lee, LB (6-2, 222, Jr.)-###@

Adriel Hansbro, CB (5-10, 174, Jr.)-##

Ray Smith, SS (6-2, 185, Sr.)-###

##### Special Teams (2):

Chris Nendick, PK (5-11, 160, So.)-#

Jason Labus, C (6-1, 240, Sr.)-#

##### Departed Starters (11):

###### Offense (5):

Dan Sheldon, WR (5-10, 180, Sr.)-####

Brad Cieslak, TE (6-5, 257, Sr.)-###

Jake VerStraete, OT (6-6, 305, Sr.)-####

Matt McGhghy, OG (6-3, 302, Sr.)-###

Josh Haldi, QB (6-2, 216, Sr.)-###

###### Defense (5):

Travis Moore, DE (6-1, 257, Sr.)-####

Brian Atkinson, LB (6-1, 235, Sr.)-####

Jason Hawkins, LB (6-2, 218, Sr.)-####

Rob Lee, CB (6-2, 193, Sr.)-###

Lionel Hickenbottom, FS (5-11, 197, Sr.)-###

##### Special Teams (1):

Anthony Gallagher, P (6-0, 194, Sr.)-##

@—2003 Starter

#—Indicates number of varsity letters won

### The Schedule (TV Games)

Sept. 3 at Michigan, 3:30 p.m.  
(ABC Regional)

Sept. 10 at Northwestern, 3 p.m.  
(ESPN Classic)

**Sept. 17 Tennessee Tech, 3:05 p.m.**  
**(Comcast SportsNet Chicago)**

Sept. 24 at Akron, 6 p.m.-%

**Oct. 5 Miami (OH), 6:35 p.m.-%**  
**(ESPN2)**

**Oct. 15 Eastern Michigan, 3:05 p.m.-%**  
**(Comcast SportsNet Chicago)**

Oct. 22 at Kent State, 1 p.m.-%

**Oct. 29 Ball State, 3:05 p.m.-%**  
**(Comcast SportsNet Chicago)**

Nov. 5 at Central Michigan, 1 p.m.-%

Nov. 16 at Toledo, 7:30 p.m.-%  
(ESPN2)

**Nov. 23 Western Michigan, 12:35 p.m.-%**  
**(ESPN2)**

**Home Games in Bold Type** / All Times Local  
%—Mid-American Conference Games

### Important Dates

July 25 — Mid-American Conference Media Day  
(at Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit)

Aug. 7 — NIU Players Report

Aug. 10 — NIU Media Day

Aug. 13 — First Practice in Full Pads

Aug. 22 — NIU Fall Semester Opens

Oct. 15 — NIU's 99th Homecoming Game  
(Eastern Michigan)

Dec. 1 — Ninth Mid-American Conference  
Championship Game, 7:30 p.m. (EST)  
(at Ford Field, Detroit, MI)  
(ESPN)

Dec. 21 — GMAC Bowl  
(at Mobile, AL)  
7 p.m. (CST) (ESPN2)

Dec. 26 — Motor City Bowl  
(at Detroit, MI)  
5 p.m. (EST) (ESPN)

April 19 — Joe Novak's birthday

# 2005 ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown (High School)
70	Chris Acevedo	OT	6-5	305	So.	2Sq	Lyons (Chicago Curie)
50	Eddie Adamski	C	6-4	240	Fr.	HS	Kildeer (Mundelein Carmel)
13	Evans Adonis	WR	5-11	161	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Miami, FL (Southwest)
9	Josh Allen	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	HS	North Chicago
21	Justin Anderson	FS	6-3	205	Fr.	HS	Chicago (Steinmetz)
97	Anthony Antonacci	DE	6-2	235	Fr.	HS	Naperville (Neuqua Valley)
46D	Luke Athans	LB	6-1	196	So.	1Sq	Manhattan (New Lenox-Lincoln Way Central)
45	Jason Baez-a	P	5-9	168	So.	Tr	Muskego, WI (Waukesha Catholic Memorial)
88	Brandon Beal	TE	6-1	230	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Kirkwood, MO (Vianney)
49	Brad Benson-##	NT	6-3	251	Jr.	2L	Sycamore
55	Erek Benz	DE	6-1	214	So.	1Sq	Park Ridge (Chicago Lane Tech)
56	Brandon Bice	DE	6-4	225	Fr.	HS	McCook (LaGrange Lyons Township)
10	Luke Biondi-b	PK	5-11	185	Jr.	Tr	Sioux Falls, SD (O'Gorman)
74	Matt Biondi	OG	6-4	323	So.	2Sq	Geneseo (J. D. Darnall)
33	Keenan Blalark	LB	5-10	221	Jr.	3Sq	Elgin (Larkin)
60	Jon Brost	OG	6-5	300	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Maple Grove, MN
41	Phil Brown	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	HS	Chicago (Morgan Park)
38	David Bryant	TB	6-0	195	Fr.	HS	St. Louis, MO (Ladue Horton Watkins)
14	Jarret Carter-#	WR	6-2	205	Jr.	1L	Florissant, MO (Hazelwood Central)
33D	Foster Chambers	TB	5-8	207	Jr.	3Sq	Bellwood (Melrose Park Walther Lutheran)
20	Montell Clanton	TB	5-7	176	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Rockford (Guilford)
82D	Troy Cogdill	DT	6-3	260	Fr.-RS	1Sq	East Moline (United Township)
89	Reed Cunningham	TE	6-5	240	Fr.	HS	Cambria, WI (Pardeeville)
58	George Daglas-#	OT	6-4	286	Sr.	1L	Palos Heights (Stagg)
39	Adrian Davis-##	TB	5-5	181	Sr.	2L	Kenosha, WI (St. Joseph)
87	Brandon Davis	TE	6-3	260	So.	2Sq	Broadview (Riverside-Brookfield)
7	Britt Davis	QB	6-3	187	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Broadview (Riverside-Brookfield)
18	Andy Dittbenner	P	6-1	180	Fr.	HS	Bloomington (Normal University)
16	Keafta Dokes	CB	5-10	188	Jr.	3Sq	Hazel Crest (Homewood-Flossmoor)
97D	Grant Dungan	DE	6-5	208	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Elmhurst (York)
68	Jake Ebenhoch-##	OG	6-4	295	Sr.	2L	Sussex, WI (Hamilton)
64D	Jon Ellison	OG	6-5	280	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Rockford (East)
51	Larry English	DE	6-2	231	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Aurora (Marmion Academy)
32	Jeff Fontana	SS	5-11	185	Fr.	HS	Libertyville
62	Doug Free-##	OT	6-6	290	Jr.	2L	Manitowoc, WI (Lincoln)
73	Ethan Gill	OT	6-4	265	Fr.	HS	Sun Prairie, WI
43	T. J. Griffin	LB	6-0	218	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Carol Stream (Wheaton North)
71	Adam Grimm	DT	6-3	230	Fr.	HS	Mequon, WI (Homestead)
12	Adriel Hansbro-##	CB	5-10	174	Jr.	2L	Madison, WI (Edgewood)
11	Alvah Hansbro-##	CB	5-10	175	Jr.	2L	Madison, WI (Edgewood)
26	Cory Hanson	LB	6-1	195	Fr.	HS	Minneapolis, MN (DeLaSalle)
24	A. J. Harris-###	TB	6-1	221	Sr.	3L	Wheaton (North)
94	Bryan Holicek	NT	6-0	370	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Waupaca, WI
96	Quince Holman-##	DE	6-3	261	Sr.	2L	Woodridge (Downers Grove South)
66	Tony Holmes	OT	6-7	310	Fr.	HS	Woodbury, MN (Senior)
63	Zack Holycross-#	DT	6-5	268	So.	1L	Georgetown (Ridge Farm)
53D	Dan Holzapfel	C	5-10	200	So.	2Sq	Coral Springs, FL (Christian Academy)
3	Phil Horvath-#	QB	6-2	200	Jr.	1L	Naperville (Central)
84	Sam Hurd-###	WR	6-2	187	Sr.	3L	San Antonio, TX (Brackenridge)
85	Jason Hutton-###	LB	6-1	239	Sr.	3L	Chicago (Whitney Young)
23	Saul Ibarra	SS	5-11	198	So.	2Sq	Elmwood Park (Chicago St. Patrick)
37	Bill Ikegwuonu	SS	5-11	194	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Madison, WI (Memorial)
12D	Dossie Jennings	WR	5-11	187	So.	2Sq	University City, MO (St. Louis University)
78	Dan Keller	OG	6-4	291	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Racine, WI (St. Catherines)
90D	Tom Kelly	TE	6-3	230	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Elgin (Larkin)
91	David Koronkiewicz	TE	6-3	240	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Goshen, IN
69	Alex Krutsch	DT	6-3	255	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Schaumburg
46	Jason Labus-#	C	6-1	240	Sr.	1L	Park Ridge (Chicago Gordon Tech)
57	Zach Larsen	LB	6-2	230	Fr.	HS	Northfield, MN
47	Javan Lee-###	LB	6-2	222	Sr.	3L	Michigan City, IN



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No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown (High School)
79	Ben Lueck-##	OG	6-4	310	Sr.	2L	Oswego
6	Vincent Matthew	CB	5-10	173	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Miami, FL (Palmetto)
77	Tim Mayerbock	OG	6-4	285	Fr.	HS	Chicago (St. Patrick)
53	Tim McCarthy	LB	6-0	217	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Neenah, WI
54	Bob McLearn	LB	6-1	232	So.	2Sq	Wheaton (North)
18D	Sylvester McNutt	CB	5-7	180	So.	HS	Palatine
	Brian Mitz	WR	6-2	175	Fr.	HS	Cary Grove
36	Orlando Moore	WR	5-10	175	Fr.	HS	Chicago (Morgan Park)
28	Andre Morris-#	CB	5-8	172	Jr.	1L	Chicago (Simeon)
	Ryan Morris	QB	6-0	180	Fr.	HS	West Chicago
25	Chris Nendick-#	PK	5-11	160	So.	1L	Naperville (Central)
19	Dan Nicholson	QB	6-2	187	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Chicago (Brother Rice)
86	Jake Nordin-#	TE	6-4	253	Jr.	1L	Lake Lillian, MN (Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City)
95	Robert Oruche-#	DE	6-2	241	So.	1L	Bensenville (Fenton)
93	Zach Osburn	DE	6-5	240	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Holland, MI (West Ottawa)
5	Marcus Perez-#	WR	5-10	170	So.	1L	Elkhart, IN (Central)
98	Eric Pittman-##	DT	6-2	272	Jr.	2L	Milwaukee, WI (Vincent)
83	Shatone Powers-###	WR	6-0	183	Sr.	3L	Broadview (Riverside-Brookfield)
22	Cas Prime	TB	6-0	229	So.	2Sq	Janesville, WI (Parker)
30	Bradley Pruitt	CB	6-1	175	Fr.	HS	Chicago (Hyde Park)
80	Pat Raleigh-##	TE	6-4	239	Sr.	2L	Evergreen Park
8	Mark Reiter-#	FS	6-1	192	So.	1L	New Lenox (Providence)
31	Melvin Rice	CB	5-10	175	Fr.	HS	Chicago (Morgan Park)
15	Edgar Rodriguez	WR	5-10	177	Sr.	3Sq	Woodstock
61	Matt Rogers-##	OT	6-4	267	Jr.	2L	Lockport (New Lenox Providence)
99	Craig Rusch	DE	6-3	236	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Hilbert, WI
30D	Adam Schlamp	WR	6-2	196	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Freeport
92	Adam Schroeder-#	NT	6-4	277	So.	1L	Loves Park (Rockford Boylan)
2D	Victor Scott	TB	5-9	175	Fr.-RS	HS	East St. Louis (Cahokia)
67	Kevin Serfort	OG	6-4	284	So.	1Sq	Oak Creek, WI
2	Matt Simon-#	WR	6-1	190	So.	1L	Farmington, MN
59	Kevin Skatrud	OT	6-6	295	Fr.	HS	Brodhead, WI (Brodhead-Juda)
29	Deon Smith-###	CB	5-9	183	Sr.	3L	University Park (Crete-Monee)
48	Ray Smith-###	SS	6-2	185	Sr.	3L	Crown Point, IN (St. John Lake Central)
81D	Cole Spencer	TE	6-4	215	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Powell, OH (Lewis Center Olentangy)
21D	Earnest Streeter	TB	5-9	188	Fr.-RS	HS	Chicago (Kenwood)
44	Averill Sutchar-c	LB	5-10	215	So.	Tr	Hanover Park (Bartlett)
40D	William Tsutsumi	LB	6-0	190	So.	HS	Arlington Heights (Mt. Prospect Prospect)
75	Ryan Tuggle	C	6-4	258	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Bartlett
17	Greg Turner	WR	6-1	176	Fr.-RS	HS	Glendale Heights (Addison Driscoll)
4	Zach Ullrich	QB	6-0	190	So.	2Sq	Winfield (Wheaton North)
35	Dustin Utschig-##	FS	5-11	189	Jr.	2L	Winneconne, WI (Fox Valley Lutheran)
65	Brian Van Acker-##	C	6-4	287	Sr.	2L	Crystal Lake (Prairie Ridge)
	Derek Watson	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	HS	Mequon, WI (Homestead)
64	Jake Wertz	OG	6-5	315	Fr.	HS	Prairie View (Lincolnshire Stevenson)
34	Ken West-##	DE	6-3	235	Jr.	2L	Calumet City (South Holland Thornwood)
81	Justin Williams	WR	6-1	180	Fr.	HS	Elkhart, IN (Central)
82	Preston Williams	WR	5-11	170	Fr.	HS	Urbana
27	Spencer Williamson	FS	6-3	185	Fr.	HS	Elkhart, IN (Central)
90	Martin Wilson-###	NT	6-1	279	Sr.	3L	Lisle
1	Garrett Wolfe-#	TB	5-7	174	Jr.	1L	Chicago (River Grove Holy Cross)

**KEY:** #—Indicates number of varsity letters won  
 Sq—Squad member  
 a—Transfer from Bemidji State University  
 b—Transfer from Augustana (SD) College  
 c—Transfer from Augustana (IL) College

Fr.-RS—Freshman red-shirt  
 HS—High School

L—Letterman  
 Tr—Transfer

D—Duplicate number

(Roster current as of July 23, 2005)

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No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown (High School)
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2	Matt Simon-#	WR	6-1	190	So.	1L	Farmington, MN
2D	Victor Scott	TB	5-9	175	Fr.-RS	HS	East St. Louis (Cahokia)
3	Phil Horvath-#	QB	6-2	200	Jr.	1L	Naperville (Central)
4	Zach Ullrich	QB	6-0	190	So.	2Sq	Winfield (Wheaton North)
5	Marcus Perez-#	WR	5-10	170	So.	1L	Elkhart, IN (Central)
6	Vincent Matthew	CB	5-10	173	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Miami, FL (Palmetto)
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54	Bob McLearen	LB	6-1	232	So.	2Sq	Wheaton (North)



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60	Jon Brost	OG	6-5	300	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Maple Grove, MN
61	Matt Rogers-##	OT	6-4	267	Jr.	2L	Lockport (New Lenox Providence)
62	Doug Free-##	OT	6-6	290	Jr.	2L	Manitowoc, WI (Lincoln)
63	Zack Holycross-#	DT	6-5	268	So.	1L	Georgetown (Ridge Farm)
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81	Justin Williams	WR	6-1	180	Fr.	HS	Elkhart, IN (Central)
81D	Cole Spencer	TE	6-4	215	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Powell, OH (Lewis Center Olentangy)
82	Preston Williams	WR	5-11	170	Fr.	HS	Urbana
82D	Troy Cogdill	DT	6-3	260	Fr.-RS	1Sq	East Moline (United Township)
83	Shatone Powers-###	WR	6-0	183	Sr.	3L	Broadview (Riverside-Brookfield)
84	Sam Hurd-###	WR	6-2	187	Sr.	3L	San Antonio, TX (Brackenridge)
85	Jason Hutton-###	LB	6-1	239	Sr.	3L	Chicago (Whitney Young)
86	Jake Nordin-#	TE	6-4	253	Jr.	1L	Lake Lillian, MN (Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City)
87	Brandon Davis	TE	6-3	260	So.	2Sq	Broadview (Riverside-Brookfield)
88	Brandon Beal	TE	6-1	230	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Kirkwood, MO (Vianney)
89	Reed Cunningham	TE	6-5	240	Fr.	HS	Cambria, WI (Pardeeville)
90	Martin Wilson-###	NT	6-1	279	Sr.	3L	Lisle
90D	Tom Kelly	TE	6-3	230	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Elgin (Larkin)
91	David Koronkiewicz	TE	6-3	240	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Goshen, IN
92	Adam Schroeder-#	NT	6-4	277	So.	1L	Loves Park (Rockford Boylan)
93	Zach Osburn	DE	6-5	240	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Holland, MI (West Ottawa)
94	Bryan Holicek	NT	6-0	370	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Waupaca, WI
95	Robert Oruche-#	DE	6-2	241	So.	1L	Bensenville (Fenton)
96	Quince Holman-##	DE	6-3	261	Sr.	2L	Woodridge (Downers Grove South)
97	Anthony Antonacci	DE	6-2	235	Fr.	HS	Naperville (Neuqua Valley)
97D	Grant Dungan	DE	6-5	208	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Elmhurst (York)
98	Eric Pittman-##	DT	6-2	272	Jr.	2L	Milwaukee, WI (Vincent)
99	Craig Rusch	DE	6-3	236	Fr.-RS	1Sq	Hilbert, WI
	Brian Mitz	WR	6-2	175	Fr.	HS	Cary Grove
	Ryan Morris	QB	6-0	180	Fr.	HS	West Chicago
	Derek Watson	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	HS	Mequon, WI (Homestead)

**KEY:** #—Indicates number of varsity letters won  
 Sq—Squad member  
 a—Transfer from Bemidji State University  
 b—Transfer from Augustana (SD) College  
 c—Transfer from Augustana (IL) College

Fr.-RS—Freshman red-shirt  
 HS—High School

L—Letterman  
 Tr—Transfer

D—Duplicate number

(Roster current as of July 23, 2005)

# PLAYER PROFILES

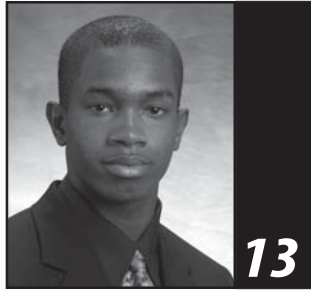


70

## Chris Acevedo

Lyons / Chicago Curie  
Offensive Tackle  
6-5 ● 305 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** AYSS-ah-veh-doh. **Scoop:** Ready to contribute. **NIU:** Opens camp as No. 2 LT (2005). **Chart:** Posted 375-pound back squat and 250-pound power clean in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Played 40 snaps in four appearances. Went career-high 24 snaps in 1-A debut vs. Akron (10-2-04). Notched nine snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04), six vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04), and one vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Made travel squad in last six road games. Produced 63 percent blocking grades and two knockdown blocks. Listed as No. 2 LT in last nine games of year. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Started college career as No. 3 LT. **Prep:** Considered top O-line prospect in city. Two-time All-Chicago Public League pick. Named team captain and Offensive Lineman of the Year, First-Team All-Section, preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Area Top 100 Player, preseason All-Public League defender, and First-Team All-Public League, plus preseason *Chicago Tribune* Area Top 100 and Player to Watch as a senior (2002). Earned team Offensive Lineman of the Year Award, plus All-Section and First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League plaudits on 6-6 state Class 6A playoff unit as a junior (2001). Picked team MVP on 11-1 Class 6A playoff entry as a soph (2000). Played center and long snapper. Lettered in football (3). Coached at Currie by uncle Louie Acevedo. **Nickname:** "Ace." **Personal:** Doug Flutie fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 1-3-85 (20). **Major:** Physical Education.



13

## Evans Adonis

Miami, FL / Southwest  
Wide Receiver  
5-11 ● 161 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Legit All-Name Team material? **NIU:** Listed at No. 4 WR slot (r) on August deeps (2005). Missed spring game (4-23-05) due to right knee sprain. **Chart:** Produced 190-pound bench press and 28-inch vertical jump in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Reported to camp as No. 4 WR (r). **Prep:** No. 1 rated Class 4A-6A (Large Schools) receiver in Dade County (2003). Caught 71 passes for 1,285 yards (18.1 ypc. average) and 17 TDs in final two years. Two-time All-County pick (2002-03). Named team captain and MVP, First-Team *Miami Herald* Class 4A-6A All-County, and Second-Team All-State on 2-8 squad as senior for coach David Gray. Made 46 receptions for 682 yards (14.8 ypc.) and seven TDs as a senior. Caught four passes for 102 yards and season-long 68-yard TD in opener vs. North Miami (9-7-03). Posted season-best seven catches for 78 yards and two TDs (11 and 12 yards) vs. Varela (10-25-03) and seven grabs for 107 yards and one TD (31 yards) vs. Sunset (11-1-03). Selected team captain and MVP, two-time *Miami Herald* Player of the Week and Second-Team All-County as a junior. Produced 26 catches for 603 yards (23.2 ypc.) and 10 TDs (2002). Set school record with 234 catch yards on eight receptions vs. Sunset (2002) and five TD grabs vs. Coleman (2002). Picked for Dade-Broward All-Star Game (2004). Lettered in football (3) and track (3). Won three District outdoor titles in track—110HH, 300IH, and triple jump—as a junior (2003). **Birthdate (Age):** 1-23-86 (19). **Major:** Accountancy.



46

## Luke Athans

Manhattan / Lincoln-Way Central  
Linebacker  
6-1 ● 196 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Walk-on depth. **NIU:** Reports to August drills as No. 2 SLB. Posted four tackles—including one TFL—and blocked third quarter punt that led to FG in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Logged 330-pound back squat, 295-pound bench press, and 30-inch vertical jump in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. **Prep:** Lettered in football (2). Named team co-captain and Honorable Mention All-SICA Blue at LB on 7-4 state Class 8A playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Rob Glielmi (2002). Produced 122 tackles, five QB sacks, and four interceptions in final year. Won first letter on 8-3 Class 8A playoff unit as a junior. Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Lance Armstrong fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 5-3-85 (20). **Major:** Engineering.

# ALPHABETICAL PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

No.	Name, Pos.	Pronunciation	No.	Name, Pos.	Pronunciation	No.	Name, Pos.	Pronunciation
70	Chris Acevedo, OT	AYSS-ah-vey-doh	94	Bryan Holicek, DT	HOOL-ah-chek	95	Robrt Oruche, DE	OH-rew-shay
50	Eddie Adamski, C	AH-dam-skee	23	Saul Ibarra, SS	EYE-berra	83	Shatone Powers, WR	SHA-tone
97	Anthony Antonacci, DE	AN-tah-notch-ee	37	Bill Ikegwuonu, SS	IKE-ah-ee-gwano	22	Cas Prime, TB	Cass
56	Brandon Bice, DE	BYE-sss	91	David Koronkiewicz, TE	KORN-ah-ka-vich	8	Mark Reiter, SS	RY-ter
33	Keenan Blalark, LB	BLAY-lark	46	Jason Labus, C	LAY-buss	99	Craig Rusch, DE	Rush
60	Jon Brost, OG	BROH-sst	47	Javan Lee, LB	JAY-ven	92	Adam Schroeder, NT	SHROW-der
16	Keafta Dokes, CB	KEE-haff-ta	79	Ben Lueck, OG	LEW-ick	40	William Tsutsumi, LB	Toot-sue-mee
68	Jake Ebenhoch, OG	EEE-ben-hoke	54	Bob McLearn	Mac-CLARE-enn	4	Zach Ullrich, QB	ULL-rich
12	Adriel Hansbro, CB	AY-dree-al	86	Jake Nordin, TE	NOR-deen	35	Dustin Utschig, FS	UT-shick
11	Alvah Hansbro, CB	AL-va						

# PLAYER PROFILES



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## Jason Baez

Muskego, WI / Waukesha Cath. Memorial  
Punter  
5-9 • 168 • Sophomore

**Scoop:** Mini-Terminator in weight room. **NIU:** Rates as No. 2 punter on preseason depth chart (2005). Punted eight times for 190 yards (23.8 yards-per-punt average) and 33-yard long-gainer in spring game (4-23-05). Transferred from Bemidji State. **Chart:** Posted 255-pound bench press and 380-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **BSU:** Won letter as true frosh and No. 1 punter on 7-4 squad for head coach Jeff Tesch (2003). Booted 45 punts for 1,742 yards (38.7 ypp. average), 59-yard long-gainer, and 13 kicks inside opposition 20-yard line. Posted sixth-best single-season punting average in school history. Doubled as back-up PK and hit 1-of-1 PATs. Credited with two tackles in 10 games. **Prep:** Lettered in football (3) and wrestling. Named team captain and Second-Team All-Classic Eight Conference as P-PK for coach Bill Young as a senior. Converted 15-of-15 PATs and 3-of-4 FGs for 24 points (2002). Earned letter on 10-4 WIAA Division 2 state playoff runner-up as a junior. Kicked eight punts for 295 yards (36.9 ypp.) and 53-yard long-gainer vs. Ashwaubenon (11-16-01) in state title game. **Hobby:** Snowboarding. **Birthdate (Age):** 4-7-85 (20). **Major:** Pre-Communications.

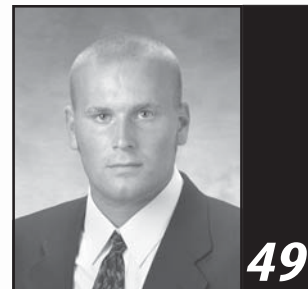


88

## Brandon Beal

Kirkwood, MO / Vianney  
Tight End  
6-1 • 230 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Traded jersey No. 6 for 88 (2005). **NIU:** Listed as No. 2 "R" (TE-FB hybrid) on August deeps (2005). Started as TE for No. 2 Offense and caught two passes for 22 yards in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 225-pound power clean and 30-inch vertical jump in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Opened summer camp as No. 4 TE (2004). **Prep:** Two-sport All-Metro performer. Lettered in football (4) and basketball (3). Ranked No. 19 on *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Super 30 Recruits list (2004). Named First-Team All-Metro Catholic Conference, Third-Team *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* All-Metro, and Second-Team All-State on gridiron as a senior for coach Gene Gladstone. Made 34 receptions for 453 yards (13.3 ypc.) and three TDs at TE, plus added 77 tackles, five QB sacks, and four pass defections on defense for 6-4 Class 5 state playoff entry (2003). Led team in receiving and finished No. 3 in scoring (20 points) in final year. Matched season-best five catches three times—vs. Fox (9-12-03), vs. St. Louis University (10-3-03), and vs. Glendale (11-7-03). Caught 56-yard TD pass vs. Rolla (10-24-03). Picked Second-Team All-MCC and made 10 catches for 118 yards and two TDs as a junior on 8-2 loop and District champs (2002). Ranked among area Large School basketball stats leaders in scoring (18.1 ppg.) and rebounding (9.1 rbp.), plus won *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Honorable Mention All-Metro honors on 22-7 quintet that ranked No. 7 among state's Class 5 teams (2003-04). Scored 1,000-plus career points on hardwood. Dean's List and National Honor Society student. **Nickname:** "B." **Birthdate (Age):** 10-28-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



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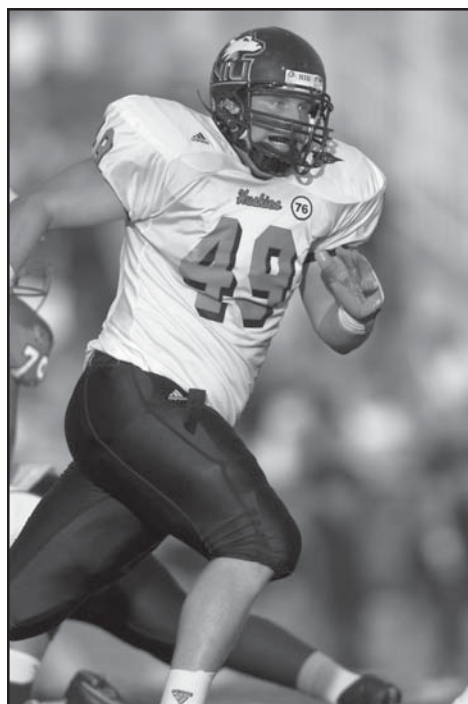
## Brad Benson - ☆☆

Sycamore  
Nose Tackle  
6-3 • 251 • Junior

**Scoop:** Rare 3-D man (NT-FB-Special Teams). Blue collar liftholic. **NIU:** Reports to August drills as No. 2 NT (2005). Won start at NT for No. 2 Defense in spring game (4-23-05). Rates No. 2 in team reps with 225 pounds, No. 7 in team bench press, and No. 8 in team back squat (2005). **Chart:** Posted 25 reps with 225 pounds, 285-pound power clean, 380-pound bench press, and 455-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Own 362 snaps—234 on special teams—and nine tackles in 24 appearances (2003-04). **2004:** Made First-Team MAC All-Academic squad with 3.59 cumulative gpa. Earned second letter with 285 snaps (160 on special teams) in 12 games. Tied for No. 7 in team QB hurries-pressures (six) and wound up No. 21 in stops (nine). Totalled career-high three stops vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Notched season-best five QB hurries-pressures and two tackles vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Collected first career sack (12-yard loss) vs. Troy (12-30-04) in Silicon Valley Football Classic. Performed on placement, KOR, punt, and punt return units. **2003:** Won first letter with 77 overall snaps—74 on placement and punt units—plus three on offense in 12 contests. Went season-high 12 snaps vs. Ball State (11-1-03). **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Walk-on Scout Team performer. **Prep:** Three-time all-league grid standout, three-time Academic All-State pick, and one-time All-Stater with 363 career tackles (1999-2001). Named team captain, Defensive MVP, MVP, First-Team Suburban Prairie Conference All-White Division and loop Defensive Player of the Year by league coaches, plus First-Team IHSFCA Class 5A All-State and Academic All-State on an 8-2 division titlist and state playoff unit—the school's first since 1985—for coach Daryl Graves as a senior (2001). Registered 141 stops at LB as a senior and rushed for 434 yards on 78 carries (5.6 ypc.) at FB as a junior. Lettered in football (3) and baseball (4). Made all-loop baseball at 1B and DH. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-14-83 (21). **Major:** Marketing.

### Statistics

Year	Defense					Fum	
	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.	Int.
2003	12	0	0	0	0/0	0	0/0
2004	12	8	1	9	1/12	0	1/6
<b>Career</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1/12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1/6</b>



Brad Benson (49), NT

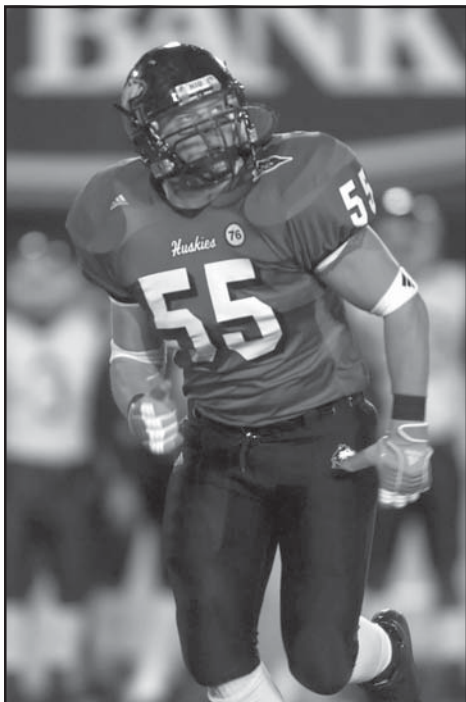
# PLAYER PROFILES



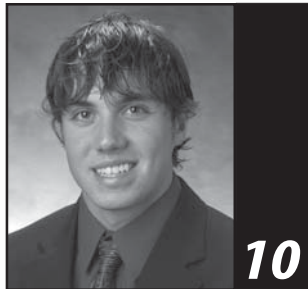
## Erik Benz

Park Ridge / Chicago Lane Tech  
Defensive End  
6-1 • 214 • Sophomore

**Scoop:** Moved from LB in spring. **NIU:** Opens August camp as No. 2 LE (2005). Earned start at LE for No. 2 Defense and notched game-high seven stops, plus three TFL for 15 yards in spring game (4-23-05). Ranks No. 10 in team bench press **Chart:** Posted 17 reps with 225 pounds, 31-inch vertical jump, 265-pound power clean, 365-pound bench press, and 400-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Participated in three games on special teams (11 snaps on kickoff returns). Went season-high six plays vs. Toledo (11-9-04), four vs. Troy (12-30-04), and one vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). **Prep:** Named team Defensive MVP, First-Team All-Section, and First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League on 10-2 loop kingpin and state Class 8A playoff entry as a senior for coach Rich Rio (2002). Made 121 tackles (43 solo), 14 sacks, seven fumble-cause hits, three fumble recoveries, four pass deflections, three pass thefts, and one blocked kick in final year. Won letter on 10-3 Section champ and playoff unit for coach Charlie Bliss (2001). **Personal:** Brian Urlacher fan. **Nickname:** "Benzito."  
**Birthdate (Age):** 9-25-84 (21). **Major:** Business Administration.



Erik Benz (55), DE



## Luke Biondi

Sioux Falls, SD / O'Gorman  
Placekicker  
5-11 • 185 • Junior

**Scoop:** Cousin of Northern Illinois OG Matt Biondi. **NIU:** Ranks as No. 2 PK on August deeps (2005). Booted 53-yard field goal in spring game (4-23-05). Transferred from Augustana (SD) College. **Chart:** Posted 29-inch vertical jump, 255-pound bench press, and 305-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **AC:** Lettered at Augustana (2002-03). Handled No. 1 punting duties and kicked 65 punts for 2,297 yards, 35.3-yard average with long kick of 63 yards and nine boots inside opposition 20-yard line, plus added three tackles in 11 games (2003). **Prep:** Lettered in football (3). Named team captain, First-Team All-Greater Dakota Conference and First-Team All-City on 6-3 squad as a senior for coach Steve Kueter (2001). **Birthdate (Age):** 11-24-83 (22). **Major:** Pre-Communications.

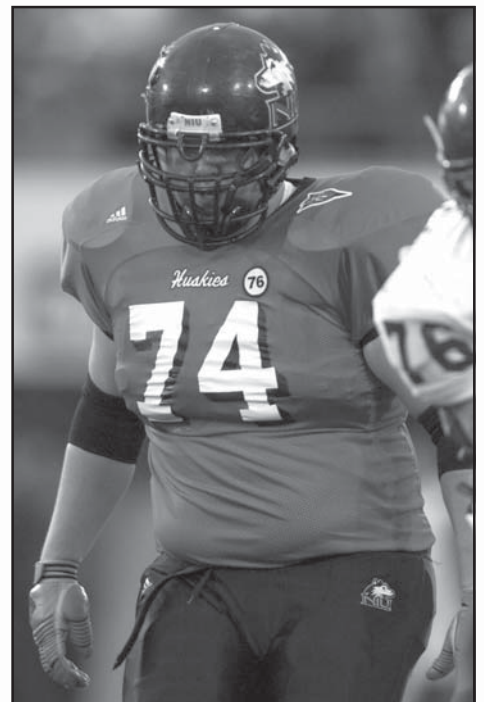
Between the Yard Lines...	
<b>Wisest Huskies</b>	
Football's honorees at the 2004 Academic Excellence banquet:	
<b>Victory Scholars (3.50 or higher cumulative GPAs)</b>	
Brad Benson (3.63)	Marketing
Matt Biondi (3.50)	Management
Josh Haldi (3.89)	Accountancy
Rob Lee (3.64)	Political Science
Andy Lothson (3.79)	Political Science
Jeremy Pugh (3.55)	Management
Mark Reiter (3.70)	Management
<b>Huskie Scholars (3.00-3.49 cumulative GPAs)</b>	
Brent Blaschka (3.14)	Management
Brandon Davis (3.30)	Physical Ed.
Jake Ebenhooch (3.43)	Physical Ed.
P.J. Fleck (3.48)	Elementary Ed.
Doug Free (3.05)	Technology
Joe Hilby (3.37)	Electrical Eng.
Phil Horvath (3.02)	Marketing
Robert Oruche (3.07)	Art
Brian Peterson (3.11)	Marketing
Pat Raleigh (3.11)	Elementary Ed.
Adam Schroeder (3.28)	Physical Ed.
Harlan Sheldon (3.25)	Communications
Joe Stamm (3.45)	History
Zach Ullrich (3.17)	Marketing
Jake VerStraete (3.45)	Engineering Tech.



## Matt Biondi

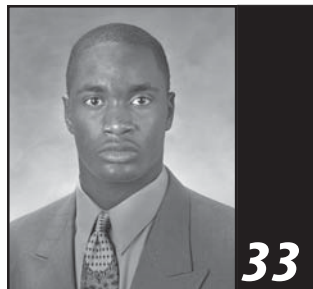
Geneseo / J.D. Darnall  
Offensive Guard  
6-4 • 323 • Sophomore

**Scoop:** The man with the tape-measure chest—team-best 56 inches (2005). **NIU:** Opens camp as No. 2 LG (2005). Two-year squad member (2003-04). **Chart:** Logged 22 reps with 225 pounds, 26-inch vertical jump, 370-pound bench press, and 405-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Participated in 29 snaps and three games. Made 1-A debut with 14 plays vs. Akron (10-2-04). Played nine snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04) and six vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Made 75 percent on blocking grades with one knockdown block. Started at RG for No. 2 Offense in spring game (4-15-04). Moved from OT in off-season. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. **Prep:** Lettered on three straight loop champs and state playoff units (2000-02). Named team captain, First-Team NCIC All-North Division, First-Team All-Metro, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, and Second-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State on 7-4 division co-titlist and state Class 5A playoff squad as a senior for coach Denny Diericx. Tabbed Second-Team NCIC All-North on 7-4 squad as a junior and Honorable Mention NCIC All-North on 11-1 state Class 4A playoff quarterfinalist as a soph. Honor Roll student and National Honor Society member. **Personal:** Cousin of Northern Illinois junior PK Luke Biondi. **Birthdate (Age):** 7-9-85 (20). **Major:** Management.



Matt Biondi (74), OG

# PLAYER PROFILES



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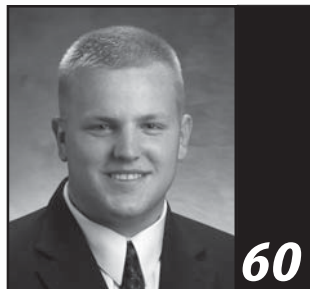
## Keenan Blalark

Elgin / Larkin  
Linebacker  
5-10 • 221 • Junior

**Pronunciation:** BLAY-lark. **Scoop:** Ex-Brian Atkinson back-up at MLB (2004). **NIU:** Arrives in camp as No. 3 MLB (2005). Rates No. 10 in team back squat lifts. **Chart:** Posted 18 reps with 225 pounds, 29-inch vertical jump, 350-pound bench press, and 435-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Three-year squad member with three jersey numbers—No. 57, No. 51 and No. 33. **2004:** Wound up No. 9 in team tackles for loss (one) and No. 20 in overall stops (10). Appeared in seven games and 65 overall snaps (38 on special teams). Notched career-high five tackles in 15 snaps vs. Akron (10-2-04). Added four hits in career-high 20 plays vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Made 1-A debut with seven snaps on KO return duty vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Notched TFL vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Made travel squad seven times. Performed on KO, KOR, punt, and kick block units. Opened year at No. 2 MLB. **2003:** Played on Scout Team. Began year at No. 4 MLB. Missed spring game due to left shoulder dislocation. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Walk-on Scout Team member. **Prep:** Two-time All-Area pick and three-year grid regular. Named First-Team All-Upstate Eight Conference, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, First-Team *Elgin Courier-News* All-Area, and First-Team *Daily Herald* Fox Valley All-Area as senior for coach Dale Schabert (2001). Recorded 82 overall stops, three fumble recoveries and fumble-cause hits, and 12 tackles for loss in final season. Lettered in football (3). **Hobby:** Plays saxophone. **Birthdate (Age):** 6-29-84 (21). **Major:** Psychology.

### Statistics

Defense	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Fum Rec.	Int.
2004	7	7	3	10	1/2	0	0/0
Career	7	7	3	10	1/2	0	0/0



60

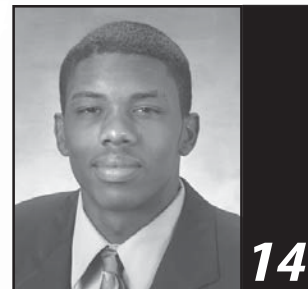
## Jon Brost

Maple Grove, MN  
Offensive Guard  
6-5 • 300 • Freshman

**Pronunciation:** BRO-sst. **Scoop:** One of club's most diligent workers in weight room. **NIU:** Opens camp as No. 2 RG (2005). Started at RG for No. 2 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 25-inch vertical jump and 375-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted at true frosh. Began career as No. 3 LG. **Prep:** Consensus All-Stater and three-year O-line regular. Top graded (90 percent) blocker on team that averaged 344.1 yards-per-game total offense (2003). Lettered in football (3). Named team captain, First-Team All-Northwest Suburban Conference, league Most Valuable Lineman in balloting done by coaches, First-Team KARE-TV All-Metro, First-Team *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* All-Metro, First-Team Minnesotaprep.com All-State, and First-Team Associated Press All-State on 6-4 Class 5A (Large Schools) playoff entry as a senior for coach Craig Hansen. Played D-line in short yardage situations (2003). Won First-Team All-NSC honors on 7-5 playoff outfit as a soph. Played junior-varsity basketball as a soph and junior. Carried 3.99 cumulative gpa on 4.00 scale and scored a 27 on ACT. Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Joe Montana and Johnny Unitas fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 11-11-85 (20). **Major:** Electrical Engineering.



Jarrett Carter (14), WR



14

## Jarret Carter - ☆

Florissant, MO / Hazelwood Central  
Wide Receiver  
6-2 • 205 • Junior

**Scoop:** No longer waiting in WR wings. Skill position specimen. **NIU:** Moved to No. 1 FLK last spring (2005). Won start at FLK on No. 1 Offense and caught four passes for 102 yards and one TD (30 yards) in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted .0455 speed in 40, 14 reps with 225 pounds, 33-inch vertical, 300-pound bench press, and 345-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Played 72 snaps in 12 appearances (2003-04). **2004:** Won first letter with 47 snaps in seven games as Sam Hurd back-up at SE and special teams performer (hands team). Tied for No. 10 in receiving (one reception for five yards). Made catch in four-snap stint vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Played career-high 27 snaps vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Began year as No. 2 SE. **2003:** Participated in 25 snaps in five games. Made first 1-A catch (nine-yarder) vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Made travel squad five times. Bulkied up 17 pounds from frosh campaign. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Opened career as No. 4 SE. **Prep:** Named team co-captain, recipient of Hawk Award as top worker, Second-Team All-Suburban North Conference, Second-Team *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* All-Aea, and First-Team All-District on 6-4 squad for coach John Pukala as a senior. Led team in scoring (30 points) and ranked No. 2 in receiving (28 catches for 449 yards—a 16.0 ypc. average—and five TDs in 2001). Made season-high seven receptions for 147 yards and 62-yard TD vs. Hazelwood West (10-20-01). Caught four passes for 69 yards and two TDs (47 and two yards) vs. Belleville Althoff (9-8-01). Added four catches for 62 yards and one TD (20 yards) vs. Normandy (9-28-01). Returned kickoff 45 yards vs. Pattonville (10-27-01). Lettered in football (2). Honor Roll student. **Nickname:** "J.C." **Birthdate (Age):** 4-12-84 (21). **Major:** Kinesiology.

### Statistics:

Receiving	Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
	2003	5	1	9	9.0	0	9
	2004	7	1	5	5.0	0	5
	Career	12	2	14	7.0	0	9

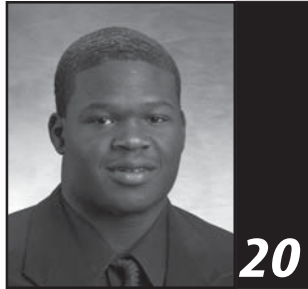
# PLAYER PROFILES



## Foster Chambers

Bellwood / Melrose Park Walther Lutheran  
Tailback  
5-8 ● 207 ● Junior

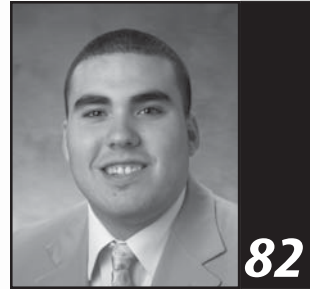
**Scoop:** Ready for Mr. Bod photo shoot. Owns fifth-best back squat on team. **NIU:** Reports to August drills as No. 7 TB (2005). Wound up No. 2 rusher (27 yards on seven carries) in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 19 reps with 225 pounds, 32-inch vertical jump, 275-pound power clean, 350-pound bench press, and 485-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Began year as No. 5 TB. Rushed for 145 yards on four attempts in spring game (4-15-04). **2003:** Carried four-times for nine yards on No. 2 Offense in spring finale (4-17-03). **Prep:** Named Second-Team All-Private League RB on 10-1 conference champion and state Class 2A playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Bo Flowers (2001). **Birthdate (Age):** 8-23-84 (21). **Major:** General Studies.



## Montell Clanton

Rockford / Guilford  
Tailback  
5-7 ● 176 ● Freshman

**Scoop A:** Moved up TB depth chart in December bowl practice (2004). **Scoop B:** Went from No. 32 jersey to No. 20 (2005). **Scoop C:** Made verbal commitment to program (9-17-03) after sitting in Huskie Stadium stands during Maryland OT win (8-28-03). **NIU:** Listed as No. 4 TB on preseason deeps (2005). Started at TB for No. 2 Offense, led all rushers (39 yards and one TD on 11 attempts), and made one catch in spring game (4-23-05). Recruited by Minnesota and Ball State. **Chart:** Logged :04.52 timing in 40, 29-inch vertical jump, 305-pound bench press, and 345-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Made travel squad vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04) and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Started year as No. 9 TB. **Prep:** Ranked No. 4 on all-time NIC-9 career rushing list. Two-time All-State performer and team MVP. Rushed for 2,805 yards and 35 TDs in 438 attempts (6.4 ypc. average) as upperclassman. Set GHS records in single-season rushing (1,488 yards in 2002), career rushing (2,806 yards in 2002-03), career TDs (35), and career scoring (236 points). Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-NIC-9, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, and First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 7A All-State for coach Mel Gilfillan as a senior. Finished No. 2 in NIC-9 rushing with 1,318 yards on 221 carries (5.9 ypc.) and 13 TDs (2003). Captured NIC-9 rushing crown with school-record 1,488 yards and 20 TDs on 217 plays (6.9 ypc.) as a junior. Picked team MVP, First-Team All-NIC-9, and Honorable Mention IHSFCA All-State (2002). Lettered in football (2). Three-year Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Barry Sanders fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 5-10-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



## Troy Cogdill

East Moline / United Township  
Defensive Tackle  
6-3 ● 260 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Played prep football for DeKalb native Mark Kaczmarek (whose late father Claude Kaczmarek worked on Northern Illinois football press box stats crew). **NIU:** Reports to August practice as No. 4 DT (2005). Won start at DT on No. 2 Defense in spring game (4-23-05). Sidelined in summer with mono. **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh walk-on. **Prep:** Two-time all-league pick. Lettered in football (3) and basketball. Named team co-captain and Second-Team All-Western Big Six Conference on gridiron as a senior. Made Second-Team All-WBS as a junior. Earned first letter on 8-2 league runner-up and state Class 6A playoff entry as a soph. Scored 10 career TDs as TE, MLB, and DE. Tabbed Second-Team All-Pontiac Tournament on hardwood as a junior and senior. Played in Iowa-Illinois Shootout All-Star Game. **Personal:** Walter Payton fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 10-30-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

# NUMERICAL PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

No.	Name, Pos.	Pronunciation	No.	Name, Pos.	Pronunciation	No.	Name, Pos.	Pronunciation
4	Zach Ullrich, QB	ULL-rich	40	William Tsutsumi, LB	Toot-sue-mee	79	Ben Lueck, OG	LEW-ick
8	Mark Reiter, SS	RY-ter	46	Jason Labus, C	LAY-buss	83	Shatone Powers, WR	SHA-tone
11	Alvah Hansbro, CB	AL-va	47	Javan Lee, LB	JAY-ven	86	Jake Nordin, TE	NOR-deen
12	Adriel Hansbro, CB	AY-dree-al	50	Eddie Adamski, C	AH-dam-skee	91	David Koronkiewicz, TE	KORN-ah-ka-vich
16	Keafta Dokes, CB	KEE-haff-ta	54	Bob McLearn	Mac-CLARE-enn	92	Adam Schroeder, NT	SHROW-der
22	Cas Prime, TB	Cass	56	Brandon Bice, DE	BYE-sss	94	Bryan Holicek, DT	HOOL-ah-chek
23	Saul Ibarra, SS	EYE-berra	60	Jon Brost, OG	BROH-ssst	95	Robrt Oruche, DE	OH-rew-shay
33	Keenan Blalark, LB	BLAY-lark	68	Jake Ebenhoch, OG	EEE-ben-hoke	97	Anthony Antonacci, DE	AN-tah-notch-ee
35	Dustin Utschig, FS	UT-shick	70	Chris Acevedo, OT	AYSS-ah-vey-doh	99	Craig Rusch, DE	Rush
37	Bill Ikegwuonu, SS	IKE-ah-ee-gwano						

# PLAYER PROFILES



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## George Daglas - ☆

Palos Heights / Stagg  
Offensive Tackle  
6-4 ● 286 ● Senior

**Scoop:** Unheralded addition to O-line front (2004). **NIU:** Reports to preseason practice as No. 2 RT (2005). Earned start at RT on No. 2 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). Moved from center to OT last spring. **Chart:** Posted 16 reps with 225 pounds, 26-inch vertical jump, 265-pound power clean, 320-pound bench press, and 400-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Valuable back-up to First-Team All-MAC center Brian Van Acker. Earned first letter with 128 snaps (125 O-line plays and three on placement kick unit) in eight appearances. Ranked No. 7 in team knockdown blocks (12) and posted 76 percent season blocking grade. Made 1-A debut with four snaps vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Finished regular-season with season-high 44 plays vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Recorded 24 snaps vs. Akron (10-2-04). **2003:** Red-shirt season. Transferred from Joliet Junior College. **JJC:** Performed on top-ranked JC program that won 21 of 22 games and two NJCAA Championships for coach Bob MacDougall (2001-02). Picked First-Team All-N4C Conference and First-Team All-Region IV on 11-0 league, Golden Isle Bowl Classic, and national champions as a soph (2002). Lettered on 10-1 powerhouse that ranked No. 4 in country and won Pepsi-Sigler Printing Bowl as a frosh (2001). **Prep:** Named team Most Valuable Offensive Lineman Award winner, First-Team All-SICA Gray, and First-Team *Daily Southtown* All-Area as senior on 6-4 squad (2004). Lettered in football (2). **Hobby:** Watching movies. **Nickname:** "Dags." **Birthdate (Age):** 5-7-83 (22). **Major:** General Studies.

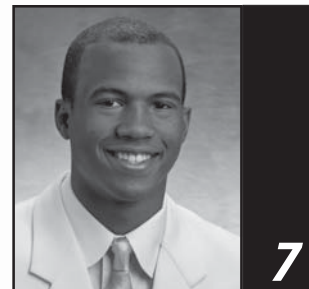


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## Brandon Davis

Broadview / Riverside-Brookfield  
Tight End  
6-3 ● 260 ● Sophomore

**Scoop:** Tight end of the future. **NIU:** Rates No. 3 at TE on August depth chart (2005). **Chart:** Produced 30-inch vertical jump, 275-pound power clean, and 400-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Opened year in jersey No. 88 and finished in current No. 87. Played 16 total snaps (15 at back-up TE and one on hands team) in five appearances. Made major-college debut on special teams vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Performed in season-high nine snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Went four snaps vs. Akron (10-2-04). Opened year as No. 3 TE. Missed spring game (4-15-04) due to right knee and right ankle sprains. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began season as No. 4 TE. **Prep:** Cited on preseason Midwest Region unit by *PrepStar* magazine and Senior to Watch by *Street & Smith's* (2002). Recruited by Illinois, Indiana, and Bowling Green State. Three-sport captain. Made 65 receptions for 928 yards (14.3 ypc. average) and 11 TDs in last two seasons on state playoff units (2001-02). Named team captain, First-Team Suburban Prairie Conference All-White Division, First-Team *Suburban Life Newspapers* All-Area, preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Area Top 100 Players, All-Area Offense, and Special Mention All-Area, plus preseason *Chicago Tribune* Top 20 Recruits, Area Top 100 Players, and loop Player to Watch on 7-4 Class 5A state playoff unit for coach Otto Zeman as a senior. Caught 30 passes for 504 yards (16.8 ypc.)—with 88-yard long-gainer—and six TDs in final year. Lettered on 11-1 Class 5A state playoff quarterfinalist with current Northern Illinois WR Shatone Powers as a junior. Earned letters in football (2), basketball (3), and track (3). Averaged 19.0 ppg. and 9.0 rbpg. on 19-9 quintet as a senior. Named team cage captain and MVP, First-Team Suburban Prairie Conference All-Blue Division and league Player of the Year, First-Team *Pioneer Press* All-Area, and First-Team All-Area (2002-03). Placed in four events on league title team at Suburban Prairie Conference Blue Division track meet (2003). Honor Roll student. **Nickname:** "B." **Personal:** Older brother of Northern Illinois QB Britt Davis. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-2-84 (20). **Major:** Physical Education.



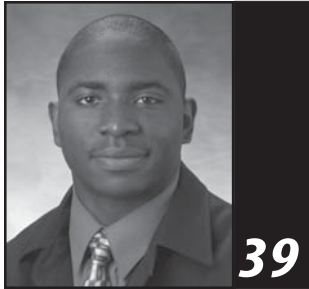
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## Britt Davis

Broadview / Riverside-Brookfield  
Quarterback  
6-3 ● 187 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Quarterback of the future with major-league athleticism and big play potential. Changed from No. 18 jersey to No. 7 (Stacey Robinson?) during off-season. **NIU:** Shares No. 3 QB spot on August depth chart (2005). Topped all passers by hitting 10-of-17 passes for 145 yards and one TD (20 yards) in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced :04.6 speed in 40, 33-inch vertical jump, and 290-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted in true frosh year. Reunited with former R-BHS teammates—older brother and TE Brandon Davis plus WR Shatone Powers. Began year as No. 8 QB. Recruited by Indiana and New Mexico. **Prep:** Known as "King of the Spread" or the five-receiver offense at R-BHS. Made *PrepStar* Midwest All-Region (January, 2004). Ranked by Rivals.com as No. 18 recruit in state and No. 23 dual-threat QB in nation (2004). Rated among Top 100 players in Midwest and No. 9 QB in region by *The Sporting News* in preseason (2003). Listed under "Other Prep Seniors to Watch" in *Street & Smith's* College Football (2003). Ranked as No. 3 recruit in MAC by *Athlon Sports* (2004). Repeat All-State pick (2002-03). Produced 7,700 career yards total offense and 90 TDs in 22 starts on two state Class 5A playoff units that won 15 of 22 games. Completed 461-of-766 passes (.602 pct.) for 6,266 yards, 21 interceptions, and 39 TDs, plus rushed for 17 TDs and 1,434 yards on 163 attempts (8.8 ypc. average). Averaged 350.0 ypg. career total offense. Posted nine career 300-yard passing games. Lettered in football (3), basketball (2), and track (1). Named First-Team Suburban Prairie Conference All-East Division and division MVP, First-Team *Suburban Life Newspapers* All-Area and Area Player of the Year, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and postseason Top 100 Area Player, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and First-Team IHSFCA Class 5A All-State on 8-3 playoff qualifier for coach Otto Zeman as a senior. Hit 199-of-341 passes (.584 pct.) for 3,237 yards, 10 interceptions, and 31 TDs, and 97-yard long-gainer, plus ran for 615 yards and eight TDs on 88 attempts (7.0 ypc.) (2003). Threw for career-high 559 air yards on 32-of-59 passes vs. Yorkville (2003). Put up 506 passing yards and six TDs vs. Morris (2003). Picked First-Team SPC All-Blue Division, First-Team *Suburban Life Newspapers* All-Area, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, and Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State on 7-4 playoff entry as a junior. Connected on 262-of-425 passes (.616 pct.) for 3,029 yards, 11 interceptions, 39 TDs, and 80-yard long-gainer, plus added 819 rushing yards (10.9 ypc.) and nine TDs (2002). Threw for six TDs and 507 yards vs. Sycamore (2002). Started at DB and notched 80 tackles, eight deflections, and four "picks" on 11-1 loop champ and state playoff quarterfinalist as a soph (2001). Qualified for Class AA (Large Schools) state track meet in 200 meters (2003). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Peyton Manning and Michael Vick fan. **Nickname:** "Brittski." **Birthdate (Age):** 4-23-86 (20). **Major:** Management.

# PLAYER PROFILES



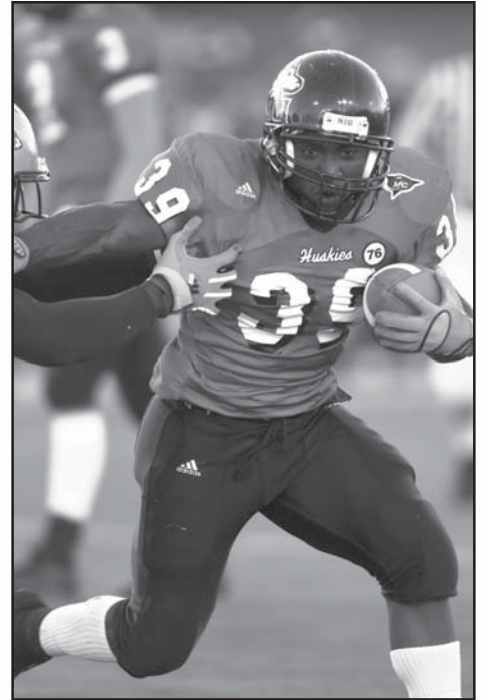
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## Adrian Davis - ☆☆☆

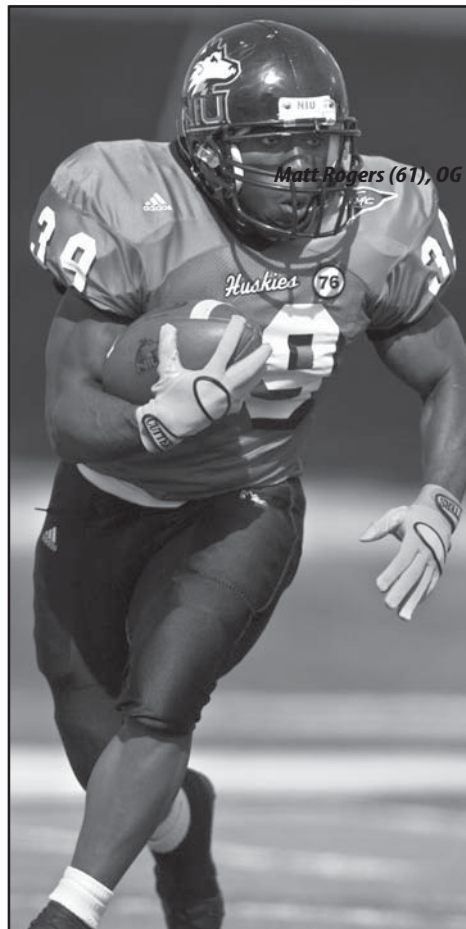
Kenosha, WI / St. Joseph  
Tailback  
5-5 ● 181 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Most Productive No. 3 Northern Illinois TB since A.J. Harris (171 ground yards on 45 carries in 2002). **Scoop B:** Mini-Arnold Schwarzenegger in weight room. **Joe Novak:** "And I've said this all along that Adrian was a quality back, too." **NIU:** Reports to August drills as No. 3 TB (2005). Earned start at TB on No. 1 Offense, rushed for 12 yards on ten carries, and made 14-yard reception in spring game (4-23-05). Owns team No. 3 225-pound rep figure, No. 4 bench press, and No. 6 back squat. **Chart:** Posted :04.5 timing in the 40, 23 reps with 225 pounds, 31-inch vertical jump, 265-pound power clean, 390-pound bench press, and 465-pound back squat at 5-foot-5 and 181 pounds in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Strength & Conditioning Coach Matt Mangum:** "Yeah, bench pressing two times your body weight is very good." **Career:** Owns 163 snaps, 316 rushing yards and three TDs in 86 carries (3.7 ypc. average) in 20 appearances (2002-04). **2004:** Earned second letter with 64 snaps (58 on offense and six plays on punt team) in eight games. Wound up No. 3 in team rushing (159 yards and three TDs on 37 attempts), No. 7 (tie) in scoring (18 points), and No. 10 (tie) in receiving (one). Gained career-high 104 yards and one TD (one-yard run) on 20

carries, posted career 44-yard long-gainer in fourth quarter, and added first career catch (22-yarder) in all-time high snaps (29) vs. Akron (10-2-04). Produced second-best single-game rushing total with 48 yards on 12 attempts vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Rushed twice for eight yards vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Began year as No. 2 TB. **2003:** Finished No. 3 in team rushing (76 yards on 24 carries). Played 47 total snaps (35 on offense and 12 on kickoff return unit) in seven appearances. Gained season-high 42 yards—including 29-yard long-gainer—on seven attempts vs. Western Michigan (10-18-03). Added 27 ground yards on 11 rushes vs. Buffalo (11-8-03). Produced 10 yards on four plays vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Opened season as No. 3 TB. Topped all rushers with 116 yards and two TDs in 20 carries for No. 1 Offense in spring game (4-17-03). **2002:** Won first letter with 52 snaps in five games as true frosh. Wound up No. 5 in team rushing (81 yards on 25 attempts). Missed last six contests due to right wrist fracture suffered in practice. Underwent wrist surgery (10-23-02). Returned to "home" state and rushed for 18 yards on six carries vs. No. 22 (AP) Wisconsin (9-14-02). Posted frosh-best 20 ground yards in seven attempts vs. Ball State (10-5-02). Gained 16 yards on five runs vs. Western Illinois (9-21-02). **Prep:** Unanimous First-Team All-State and Wisconsin Player of the Year. Set state single-season rushing record (3,422 yards) as a senior. Rushed for school, county, and league career record 5,742 yards on 768 carries (a 7.5 ypc. average) and 74 TDs (1999-2001). Scored 16 TDs 50 yards or longer. Graduated with 12 school rushing marks. Rated No. 12 college prospect in state by *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (2002). Named team MVP, First-Team All-Lakeshore Conference and loop Offensive



Player of the Year, First-Team *Kenosha News* All-County, First-Team Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Region, All-State, and state Offensive Player of the Year, First-Team AP All-State, First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-Area and All-State, plus Gatorade state Player of the Year in 11-3 Division 5 state playoff runner-up for coach Bob Freund as a senior. Ran for 3,422 yards and 42 TDs on 440 attempts (7.8 ypc. average) (2001). Gained game-high 120 yards on 33 rushes in state title game vs. Edgar (11-15-01). Tabbed team MVP, First-Team All-LC and league Offensive Player of the Year, First-Team *Kenosha News* All-County, First-Team WFLA All-Region and Honorable Mention All-State, plus Second-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-Area and Honorable Mention All-State on 7-3 playoff entry as a junior. Carried 274 times for 2,001 yards (7.3 ypc.) and 29 TDs (2000). Picked for Wisconsin Shrine Game (2002). Lettered in football (3) and track (3). Placed second (2000) and sixth (1999) in 400-meter relay at WIAA state finals. Dean's List student. **Personal:** No relation to Brandon or Britt Davis. **Nickname:** "Train." **Birthdate (Age):** 9-5-84 (21). **Major:** Management.



Matt Rogers (61), OG

Adrian Davis (39), TB

### Statistics:

Rushing						
Year	GP	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	5	25	81	3.2	0	11
2003	7	24	76	3.2	0	29
2004	8	37	159	4.3	3	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>

Receiving						
Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	5	0	0	0	0	0
2003	7	0	0	0	0	0
2004	8	1	22	22.0	0	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

### Between the Yard Lines....

#### Huskie Time Tunnel

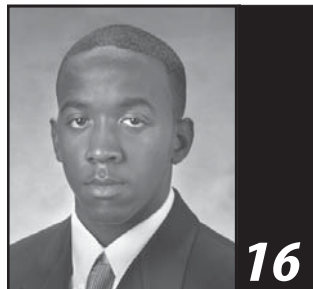
##### "Old Dogs":

Ben Lueck, OG	11-7-81
Pat Raleigh, TE	10-2-82
Martin Wilson, NT	10-1-82
Matt Rogers, OT	12-30-83
Brad Benson, NT	12-14-83
Keafta Dokes, CB	11-29-83
Adriel Hansbro, CB	11-18-83
Alvah Hansbro, CB	11-18-83
Phil Horvath, QB	10-4-83
Andre Morris, CB	9-19-83

##### "Young Pups":

David Bryant, TB	8-7-87
Adam Grimm, DT	5-26-87
Ethan Gill, OT	5-3-87
Spencer Williamson, FS	4-6-87
Jeff Fontana, SS	3-2-87
Jake Wertz, OG	3-20-87
Andy Dittbenner, P	3-16-87
Bradley Pruitt, CB	3-15-87
Phil Brown, LB	2-20-87
Josh Allen, LB	2-17-87

# PLAYER PROFILES



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## Keafta Dokes

Hazel Crest / Homewood-Flossmoor  
Cornerback  
5-10 • 188 • Freshman

**Pronunciation:** KEE-haff-tah. **Scoop:** New jersey number. New position. Moved from WR to CB and No. 87 to No. 16 last spring. **NIU:** Rates as No. 4 WSCB on August deeps (2005). Started at WSCB on No. 2 Defense in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted 11 reps with 225 pounds, 32-inch vertical jump, 300-pound bench press, and 300-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Made 1-A debut with two snaps at WR vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Began year as No. 3 FLK. **2003:** Participated on Scout Team. Opened season at No. 4 SE. **2002:** True frosh walk-on. Started career as No. 5 FLK. **Prep:** Lettered in football (2) and track. Contributed at WR, RB, and S, plus served as team captain in senior campaign for coach Todd Wernet (2001). **Personal:** Movie buff. **Birthdate (Age):** 11-29-83 (21). **Major:** Economics.

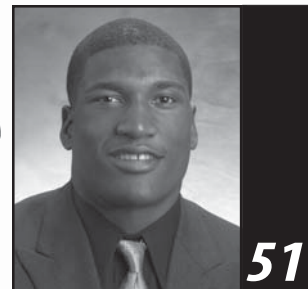


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## Jake Ebenhoch-☆☆

Sussex, WI / Hamilton  
Offensive Guard  
6-4 • 295 • Senior

**Pronunciation:** EEE-ben-hoke. **Scoop A:** No. 4 in current team career O-line snaps. **Scoop B:** Self-made blue collar plunger. **Scoop C:** Opens camp as No. 1 RG for third straight year. **Scoop D:** CoSIDA Academic All-America candidate with 3.43 cumulative gpa (2005). **NIU:** Listed as No. 1 RG on August deeps (2005). Started at RG on No. 1 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). Boasts sixth-best back squat on roster. **Chart:** Produced 17 reps with 225 pounds, 345-pound bench press, and 465-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns 16 starts (14 at RG and two at LG) and 955 overall snaps in 22 games (2002-04). Nominated for Academic All-America twice (2003-04). **2004:** Awarded second letter, won five starts (three at RG and two at LG), and played 345 overall snaps in nine games. Posted 79 percent season blocking grades, finished No. 6 in team knockdown blocks (15), and earned 237 "plus" marks on 336 O-line plays. Went career-high 76 snaps vs. Central Florida (10-9-04) and nine plays on placement unit vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). **2003:** Won first letter with 11 starts at RG and 595 total snaps (527 on offense and 68 on special teams) in 12 games. Played season-high 75 snaps in first start vs. No. 15 (AP) Maryland (8-28-03). Rated No. 7 in team knockdown blocks (29). Made "plus" grades on 327 O-line plays. **2002:** Rated as No. 2 RG in final four games of year. Made 1-A debut and lone appearance with 15 snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-19-02). Began year as No. 4 RG. Switched jersey number from No. 74 to No. 68. **2001:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Started career at No. 4 RG. **Prep:** Played on teams that won 24 of 35 games during career. Named team captain and Offensive Lineman of the Year, First-Team Greater Metro Conference, First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-Area and All-State on 11-3 Division 2 state runner-up for coach Steve Grove as a senior. Contributed 30 tackles and one blocked kick on "D" in final year. Earned Second-Team All-GMC honors on 7-4 playoff unit as a junior. Won initial letter on 6-4 playoff team as a soph. Tabbed for WFCAs Shrine Bowl (2001). Honor Roll student and National Honor Society member. **Birthdate (Age):** 2-14-83 (21). **Major:** Physical Education.



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## Larry English

Aurora / Marmion Academy  
Defensive End  
6-2 • 231 • Freshman

**Scoop A:** Made travel unit and two-deeps in 1-A debut at Maryland as true frosh (2004). **Scoop B:** Gained medical red-shirt year from NCAA. **NIU:** Reports to camp as No. 2 RE (2005). Won start at RE on No. 1 Defense and made three tackles in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Logged 37-inch vertical jump, 285-pound power clean, and 400-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Strength & Conditioning Coach Matt Mangum:** "This kid is a machine. A great worker." **2004:** Went from preseason No. 5 LE to No. 2 RE in August. Collected four tackles in 34 snaps (seven on punt unit) in first game vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Missed final 11 games due to left ankle sprain. **Prep:** Described as a "man among boys" for his days in Suburban Catholic Conference. Recruited by Iowa, Bowling Green State, and Toledo. Won letters in football (3), basketball (3), and track (1). Named team co-captain and MVP, First-Team All-SCC, preseason *Chicago Tribune* league Player to Watch, First-Team *Aurora Beacon-News* All-Area, First-Team *Daily Herald* Tri-City All-Area, and Honorable Mention IHSFCA All-State as a senior. Rebounded from early-season injuries to both ankles to record 98 tackles and six QB sacks at ILB, plus rushed for 312 yards on 38 carries (8.2 ypc.) at FB in seven games for coach Tony Tinerella (2003). Tabbed as team MVP, First-Team All-SCC, First-Team *Aurora Beacon-News* All-Area, and First-Team *Daily Herald* Tri-City All-Area as a junior. Led Tri-City area with 100 tackles (60 solo), plus added two "picks" and two fumble recoveries (2002). Selected team captain, All-SCC, and All-Area as a junior on hardwood (2002-03). Threw discus as a frosh in track (2001). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Uncle Charles Richardson lettered as FB at Wisconsin and carried ball seven times for 31 yards vs. Northern Illinois (9-16-72). **Birthdate (Age):** 1-22-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

### Statistics

Defense Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Fum Rec.	Int.
2004	1	3	1	4	0/0	0	0/0
Career	1	3	1	4	0/0	0	0/0



Jake Ebenhoch (68), OG

# PLAYER PROFILES

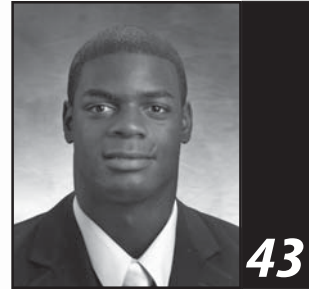


## Doug Free-☆☆

Manitowoc, WI / Lincoln  
Offensive Tackle  
6-6 ● 290 ● Junior

**Scoop A:** The next Ryan Diem. Serious 2007 National Football League draft material. **Scoop B:** All-America candidate with unique combination of athleticism, quick feet, and work ethic. **Scoop C:** Best all-around athlete on top-notch Northern Illinois O-line front that featured four All-MAC performers (2004). **Scoop D:** Went from zero 1-A snaps to Frosh All-America in five months (2003). **Joe Novak:** "No question, Doug has the talent to play on Sundays. He has a great future in football. Our kids call him 'Doug Freak' because he runs so well. Remember now, he's 6-foot-6. Doug is so athletic I think he could be a tight end. Watch him block at the point of attack and then run downfield to block a safety. He has an amazing motor." **NIU:** Heads into second straight August camp as No. 1 LT (2005). Started at LT on No. 1 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). Boasts second-best squat lift on roster. **Chart:** Produced 14 reps with 225 pounds, 29-inch vertical jump, 335-pound power clean, 355-pound bench press, and 565-pound squat lift in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns active string of 24 consecutive starts (22 at LT and two at TE), 107 knockdown blocks, and 1,481 snaps (2003-04). Blocked for 1,000-yard rushers and All-America TB

Michael "The Burner" Turner (1,648 yards in 2003) and Garrett Wolfe (1,656 yards in 2004). **2005 Preseason:** Tabbed on Honorable Mention All-America by *Street & Smith's* College Football, No. 45 OT in nation by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*, plus at least six First-Team All-MAC units (*Street & Smith's*, *CollegeFootballNews.com*, *Phil Steele's*, *CBS SportsLine.com College Football*, *The Sporting News*, and *Lindy's Big Ten*). **2004:** Named Third-Team CollegeSportsReport.com Sophomore All-America and coaches' Second-Team All-MAC. Earned second letter with 878 total snaps (806 on offense and 72 on placement kick unit) in 12 starts. Led O-line in blocking grades (91 percent) and flatback blocks (17), plus rated No. 2 in O-line snaps (806) and No. 4 in team knockdown blocks (67). Earned "plus" grades on 654 of 806 O-line plays. Went career-high 99 snaps (92 on offense) vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Tied for No. 37 in team tackles (one). Credited with stop vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). **2003:** Named Third-Team Frosh All-America by *The Sporting News*. Blocked for one of only two 1-A offenses with 2,500-yard passer, 1,500-yard rusher, and 1,000-yard receiver. Won first letter with 12 starts (10 at LT and two at TE) and 603 overall snaps (595 on offense and eight on special teams). Earned "plus" grades on 477 plays at OT and wound up No. 3 in team knockdown blocks (40). Played season-high 87 snaps vs. Western Michigan (10-18-03). Opened year at No. 2 RT. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career at No. 3 LT. **Prep:** Ranked as No. 9 college prospect in state by *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (2002). Named team captain and Defensive Lineman of the Year, First-Team All-Fox Valley Conference on both offense and defense, First-Team *Herald Times Reporter* All-Area, and First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State on 7-3 playoff entry and league runner-up as a senior for coach John Dixon. Recorded 64 tackles, eight sacks, seven blocked kicks, six fumble-cause hits, five deflections, and two fumble recoveries at DT, plus made six receptions for 141 yards and one TD at TE (2001). Named First-Team All-FVC as a junior. Lettered in football (3). Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 1-16-84 (21). **Major:** Technology.



## T.J. Griffin

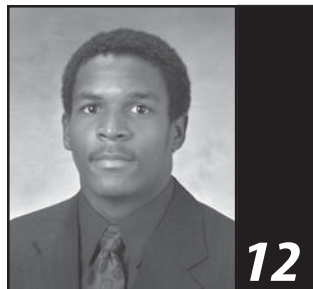
Carol Stream / Wheaton North  
Linebacker  
6-0 ● 218 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Platoon Switch of the Year (TB to LB). **Given Name:** Terrence Jermaine. **Joe Novak:** "T. J. played both ways in high school. With all the depth at tailback, we felt we could get another good athlete on the field by moving T. J. to linebacker instead of having him standing on the sidelines next to me." **NIU:** Rated as No. 1 SLB on August deeps (2005). Started at SLB on No. 1 Defense and produced four tackles, one fumble-cause hit, and one pass deflection in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted 19 reps with 225 pounds, 30-inch vertical jump, 300-pound power clean, 350-pound bench press, and 405-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2005 Preseason:** Cited as one of two Mid-Am "Newcomers to Watch" by *The Sporting News*. **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Made travel squad at TB vs. Maryland (9-4-04), vs. Iowa State (9-18-04), and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Began year as No. 8 TB. **Prep:** Ex-football and track teammate of Northern Illinois TB A. J. Harris. Lettered in football (2) and track (3). Voted team Comeback Player of the Year (2003) after returning from anterior cruciate ligament tears in both knees in junior preseason. Earned 12 career team Player of the Week awards. Named team captain, Hardest Hitter, Best Back, and Most Desire awards recipient, Second-Team All-DuPage Valley Conference, Honorable Mention *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area, and Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area for coach Matt Foster as a senior. Selected preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* loop Top Five Player and Area Top 100 Players, plus postseason Area Top 100 Players, and preseason *Chicago Tribune* league Player to Watch and Area Top 100 Players (2003). Rushed for 720 yards and four TDs on 122 carries (5.9 ypc.) and made seven catches for 68 yards at TB, plus contributed 40 tackles and five deflections at CB on 5-5 state Class 8A playoff unit in final year. Ran for 586 yards and five TDs on 86 attempts (6.8 ypc.), caught 30 passes for 201 yards and two TDs at slotback, plus posted 57 stops at CB on 9-4 state Class 8A playoff semifinalist as a soph. Won DuPage Valley Conference outdoor 110HH crown (2003). **Personal:** Walter Payton and Jim Brown fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 10-5-85 (20). **Major:** Pre-Communications.



Doug Free (62), OT

# PLAYER PROFILES



12

## Adriel Hansbro-☆☆

Madison, WI / Edgewood  
Cornerback  
5-10 ● 174 ● Junior

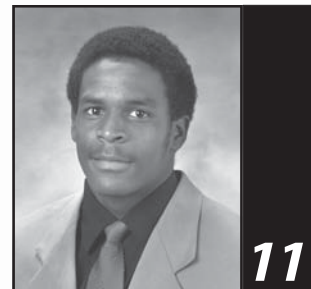
**Pronunciation:** AY-dree-ah. **Scoop A:** Identical twin to fellow soph CB Alvah Hansbro. **Scoop B:** Oldest of twins by 60 seconds. **Scoop C:** First set of identical Northern Illinois football twins since FS Kevin and SE Kurt Cassidy (1987-90). **Scoop D:** Wears gold jewelry in civilian duds. **Nickname:** "Twin." **NIU:** Heads into August drills as No. 1 SSCB for second straight year. Won start at SSCB on No. 1 Defense, plus posted game-high seven tackles and three pass deflections in spring finale (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced :04.51 timing in 40, 33-inch vertical jump, 290-pound bench press, and 355-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Credited with at least one tackle in last 19 consecutive games (2003-04). Owns four interceptions for 31 yards, 14 starts at SSCB, 123 tackles, and 1,317 overall snaps in 24 appearances (2003-04). **2005 Preseason:** Tabbed Second-Team All-Mid-American Conference by CollegeFootballNews.com and Third-Team All-MAC by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. **2004:** Won second letter with 11 starts at SSCB and 928 overall snaps (809 on defense and 119 on special teams) in 12 appearances. Finished No. 2 (tie) in interceptions (two), No. 3 in defensive snaps, No. 4 in deflections (seven), No. 5 in solo tackles (63), and No. 6 in overall hits (81). Made career-high 14 stops and three deflections in 112-snap outing vs. Ball State (10-30-04). Recorded nine hits and "pick" vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Collected eight stops, two



deflections, and interception vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Added eight tackles vs. Akron (10-2-04). Notched seven hits and deflection vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Posted six stops apiece vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04), vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04), vs. Toledo (11-9-04), and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Played on placement, hands, KO, punt, and punt return units. **2003:** Awarded first letter, played 389 overall snaps (324 on defense and 65 on special teams) in 12 games, and won three late-season starts at SSCB. Wound up No. 4 (tie) in team interceptions (two) and No. 14 in overall tackles (42). Registered 33 of 42 stops in final six games. Led team frosh in stops and made most freshman Northern Illinois tackles since DE Travis Moore (47 in 2001). Collected season-high nine hits and two deflections vs. No. 23 (AP) Bowling Green State (10-25-03). Notched eight stops and QB hurry vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Posted six tackles vs. Buffalo (11-8-03). Made first 1-A tackles (three) vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Set up fourth-period field goal with 30-yard pass theft and added two hits vs. Central Michigan (10-18-03). Opened year at No. 1 SSCB. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career at No. 3 LCB. **Prep:** Rated No. 13 college prospect in state by *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (2002). Named First-Team All-City, unanimous First-Team All-Badger South Conference, First-Team *Capital Times* All-Area, Honorable Mention AP All-State, First-Team WFCB All-Region and First-Team All-State, plus First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State on 6-5 Division 3 playoff entry as a senior for coach Alan Minnaert. Produced 945 all-purpose yards and seven TDs, plus caught 29 passes for 459 yards at WR and led team in tackles at FS (2001). Made All-City on 7-3 playoff unit as a junior. Lettered in football (3) and basketball (4). **Birthdate (Age):** 11-18-83 (22). **Major:** Communications.

### Statistics:

Defense							Fum	Int.
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.		
2003	12	28	14	42	1/4	0	2/30	
2004	12	63	18	81	3/6	0	2/1	
<b>Career</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>4/10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4/31</b>	



11

## Alvah Hansbro-☆☆

Madison, WI / Edgewood  
Cornerback  
5-10 ● 175 ● Junior

**Pronunciation:** AL-vah. **Scoop A:** Identical twin to fellow junior CB Adriel Hansbro. **Scoop B:** Youngest of twins by 60 seconds. **Scoop C:** First set of identical Northern Illinois football twins since FS Kevin and WR Kurt Cassidy (1987-90). **Scoop D:** Wears silver jewelry in civilian duds. **Nickname:** "Twin." **NIU:** Reports to camp as No. 1 WSCB (2005). Earned start at WSCB on No. 1 Defense and collected two tackles and one pass deflection in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted 33-inch vertical, 240-pound power clean, and 290-pound bench press in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns one start, 50 tackles, and 492 snaps in 24 appearances (2003-04). **2004:** Won second letter with one start and 388 overall snaps (238 on defense and 150 on special teams) in 12 games. Finished No. 8 (tie) in tackles (38) and No. 9 (tie) in deflections (one). Contributed as back-up to Rob Lee at WSCB and on special teams (punt, punt return, KO, and kick block units). Produced NIU-best nine stops in first start (and career-high 74 snaps)—subbing for brother Adriel—at SSCB vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Added six hits apiece vs. Iowa State (9-18-04) and vs. Ball State (10-30-04). Notched four tackles vs. Akron (10-2-04) and vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Began year as No. 2 WSCB. **2003:** Earned first letter with 104 overall snaps (93 on special teams and 11 on defense) in 12 games. Wound up No. 22 overall in team tackles (12). Produced first 1-A stop vs. No. 21 (AP) Alabama (9-20-03). Posted frosh-best four hits vs. Western Michigan (10-18-03). Added two tackles vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Went season-high 25 snaps vs. Buffalo (11-8-03). Contributed on KO and punt return units. Rated as No. 2 WSCB in August. Switched jersey numbers from No. 19 to No. 11 in spring. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Started career at No. 5 RCB. **Prep:** Three-sport man. Rated among Top 65 college prospects in state by *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (2002). Named First-Team All-City, unanimous First-Team All-Badger South Conference, First-Team *Capital Times* All-Area, First-Team WFCB All-Region, and Honorable Mention *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State on 6-5 Division 3 playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Alan Minnaert. Accumulated 1,070 all-purpose yards and 10 TDs—including 632 yards on 101 rushes—at RB in final season. Completed 7-of-11 passes for 127 yards and one TD (2001). Lettered in football (3), basketball (4), and baseball (4). **Birthdate (Age):** 11-18-83 (22). **Major:** Communications.

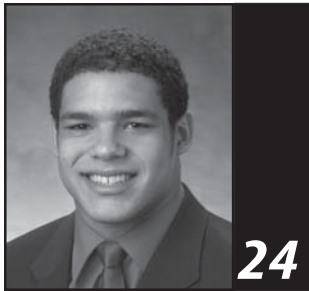
### Statistics:

Defense							Fum	Int.
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.		
2003	12	9	3	12	0/0	0	0	
2004	12	27	11	38	0/0	0	0	
<b>Career</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	



Alvah Hansbro (11), CB and Adriel Hansbro (12) interviewed prior to ESPN2 game vs. Toledo

# PLAYER PROFILES



24



## A.J. Harris - ★★☆☆

Wheaton / North  
Tailback  
6-1 ● 221 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Older half of nation's top returning 1-A rushing duo. **Scoop B:** Faster than All-America TBs Michael "The Burner" Turner and Garrett Wolfe with :04.39 speed in the 40. **Scoop C:** Check out No. 24—the receiver—in the flat this fall. **Scoop D:** Most productive No. 2 Northern Illinois TB rusher (822 yards) since "The Burner" (983 yards in 2000). **Scoop E:** Set school 1-A era bowl rushing record at Silicon Valley Football Classic. **Joe Novak:** "What a great performance he had in our bowl game. That will tell you what kind of team player A. J. is, to step into such a situation where Garrett (Wolfe) had been the man most of the season. A. J. is actually faster than Garrett. He's a big, strong, physical runner who has improved each year. A. J. pass protects well and can catch the ball, too." **NIU:** Heads into August camp as No. 2 TB (2005). Sat out spring game (4-23-05) due to left shoulder sprain. **Chart:** Produced :04.39 speed, 21 reps with 225 pounds, 31-inch vertical jump, 330-pound power clean, 345-pound bench press, and 425-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** No. 23 rusher in Northern Illinois history (1,265 yards). Owns three 100-yard games, six starts, 882 snaps, and 1,430 all-purpose yards (plus three tackles) in 35 appearances (2002-04). **2005 Preseason:** Projected as Second-Team All-Mid-American Conference choice by



A.J. Harris (24), TB

CollegeFootballNews.com and Fourth-Team All-MAC pick by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview* for second year in a row. Ranks as Mid-Am's No. 6 and NCAA's No. 44 returning rusher (74.7 ypg. average). **2004:** Made Third-Team CDS All-Underappreciated America. Combined with Wolfe (1,656 yards) as nation's No. 1 rushing tandem (2,538 yards). Wound up No. 9 in MAC and No. 66 in NCAA rushing. Rewrote school single-game bowl rushing record (119 yards by FB Lou Wicks vs. Cal State Fullerton in 1983 California Bowl) with 120 yards (119 yards on 21 second-half attempts) and one TD (three yards) on 23 carries vs. Troy (12-30-04) in Silicon Valley Football Classic. Rushed for career-high 139 yards and 37-yard long-gainer on 24 carries vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Gained 94 yards on 22 attempts in first start vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Added 94 yards on 22 plays vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Sidelined for game and a half after twisting left ankle in first half vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Awarded third letter with six starts at TB and 353 snaps (344 on offense and nine on special teams) in 11 games. Finished No. 2 in rushing, No. 3 in all-purpose yardage (919), No. 4 (tie) in scoring (24 points), No. 5 in KO returns (three for 57 yards), and No. 6 (tie) in receiving (10 catches for 40 yards). Nominated for MAC West Player of the Week vs. SIU and Iowa State. Began year as No. 1 TB and started first six games. **2003:** Won second letter as Turner's back-up and special teams performer with 325 overall snaps (159 on offense and 166 on special teams) in 12 games. Wound up No. 2 in team rushing (272 yards and two TDs on 65 attempts), No. 6 (tie) in scoring (12 points), and No. 8 in receiving (eight for 35 yards). Recorded first 100-yard game with 21-carry, 106-yard and one TD performance vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Ran for 29 yards on eight attempts and caught three passes for 14 yards vs. Central Michigan (10-11-03). Played on punt, placement, and KO return units. Opened year as No. 4 TB. **2002:** Earned first letter with 204 overall snaps (96 on offense and 108 on special teams) in 12 contests. Finished No. 3 in rushing (171 yards and one TD on 45 carries), No. 4 in total offense, No. 8 (tie) in scoring (six points), and No. 10 in receiving (two catches for 25 yards). Nominated for MAC West Player of the Week for spelling the injured Turner (right ankle sprain) vs. Western Michigan (10-26-02). Stepped into game and gained (then) career-high 99 yards on 27 carries—including 37 yards and two key first down runs on 11 rushes during time-consuming, 19-play, 65-yard drive that resulted in insurance field goal with 5:23 left in 24-20 win at WMU. Subbed for Turner (helmet problem) again and ran for third-quarter, 12-yard TD vs. Toledo (11-23-02). Carried 12 times for 52 yards vs. Central Michigan (10-18-02). Made 1-A debut (11 snaps) vs. Wake Forest (8-29-02) and gained first ground yards (eight) vs. South Florida (9-7-02). Began career as No. 8 TB. **Prep:** Recruited by Illinois. Two-sport team MVP. Named Illinois High School Boys Track & Field Player of the Year by Gatorade Circle of Champions Program (July, 2002). Repeat state Class AA (Large Schools) 110-meter high hurdles champ (2001-02). Selected one of 15 area recipients of *Chicago Tribune* Outstanding Achievement Award (2002). Named team captain and football MVP, Second-Team All-DuPage Valley Conference, preseason *Chicago Tribune* Player to Watch, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and Area Top 100 Prospect, and Honorable Mention *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area on 9-4 state Class 8A playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Matt Foster. Cited No. 25 area prospect by *Chicago Sun-Times* (2002). Gained 960 yards and 14 TDs on 144 attempts, plus caught 16 passes for 197 yards (2001). Ran for 143 yards—and a 58-yard TD on second play of the game—10 carries in playoffs vs. Warren (11-10-01). Lettered in football (2) and track (4). Went unbeaten in 110HH during senior year—with major titles in Wheaton Best Four, DVC,

Sectional, and state meets. Set state record with :13.79 timing in 110HH finals, plus won state 200-meter dash in :21.61 and placed in two relays—second (400) and third (800) (2002). Captured state 110HH title as a junior with a :14.05 time and qualified for state 300IH (2001). **Personal A:** Given name is Albert John. **Personal B:** Younger brother Adam Harris—the 2005 IHSA state champ in the 100, 110HH, and 200 meters—will be a freshman at Michigan on a track scholarship this fall. **Birthdate (Age):** 8-8-84 (21). **Major:** Sociology.

### Statistics:

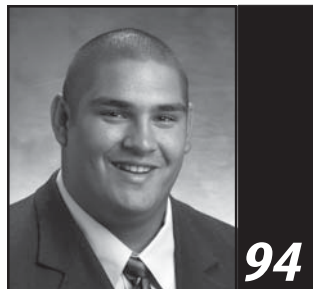
Rushing						
Year	GP	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	12	45	171	3.8	1	12
2003	12	65	272	4.3	2	22
2004	11	174	822	4.7	4	37
<b>Career</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>

Receiving						
Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	12	2	25	12.5	0	15
2003	12	8	35	4.4	0	11
2004	11	10	40	4.0	0	10
<b>Career</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>

### A.J. Harris Rushing Game-by-Game

Opponent (Date)	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Wake Forest (8-29-02)	0	0	—	0
South Florida (9-7-02)	4	8	2.0	0
Wisconsin (9-14-02)	0	0	—	0
Western Illinois (9-21-02)	0	0	—	0
Kent State (9-28-02)	0	0	—	0
Ball State (10-5-02)	0	0	—	0
Miami (OH) (10-12-02)	0	0	—	0
Central Michigan (10-19-02)	12	52	4.3	0
Western Michigan (10-26-02)	27	99	3.6	0
Bowling Green St. (11-9-02)	1	0	0.0	0
Eastern Michigan (11-16-02)	0	0	—	0
Toledo (11-23-02)	1	12	12.0	1
Maryland (8-28-03)	0	0	—	0
Tennessee Tech (9-6-03)	3	14	4.7	0
Alabama (9-20-03)	5	9	1.8	0
Iowa State (9-27-03)	5	15	3.0	0
Ohio (10-4-03)	0	0	—	0
Central Michigan (10-11-03)	8	29	3.6	1
Western Michigan (10-18-03)	6	20	3.3	0
Bowling Green St. (10-25-03)	1	5	5.0	0
Ball State (11-1-03)	21	106	5.1	1
Buffalo (11-8-03)	8	27	3.3	0
Toledo (11-15-03)	4	19	4.7	0
Eastern Michigan (11-22-03)	4	28	7.0	0
Maryland (9-4-04)	22	94	4.3	0
Southern Illinois (9-11-04)	24	139	5.8	0
Iowa State (9-18-04)	29	94	1	13
Bowling Green St. (9-24-04)	13	46	1	8
Akron (10-2-04)	—	—	—	—
Central Florida (10-9-04)	11	44	0	8
Central Michigan (10-16-04)	1	3	0	3
Western Michigan (10-23-04)	17	67	1	32
Ball State (10-30-04)	9	61	0	13
Toledo (11-9-04)	16	95	0	29
Eastern Michigan (11-20-04)	9	59	0	14
Troy (12-30-04)	23	120	1	21

# PLAYER PROFILES



94

## Bryan Holicek

Waupaca, WI  
Nose Tackle  
6-0 ● 370 ● Freshman

**Pronunciation:** HOLL-ah-chek. **Scoop:** Local version of The Incredible Hulk with 36-inch thighs, 20-inch neck, and some of best lifts on roster (2005). **NIU:** Listed as No. 4 NT on summer deeps (2005). Sat out spring game (4-23-05) due to right leg (calf) strain. Leads team in bench press, back squat lifts, and neck size. **Chart:** Posted 26-inch vertical, 340-pound power clean, 430-pound bench press, and 625-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005).

**2004:** Red-shirted as a true frosh. Opened year as No. 3 NT. **Prep:** Huge, strong, athletic, multi-position prospect (OT, OG, C, DT, DE, and, yes, RB). Caught nine passes for 81 yards—including 18-yard long-gainer—as a junior. Produced 700-pound squat lift (2002), 435-pound bench press, and school-record 51-1 1/2 effort in shot put (2002). Lettered in football (4) and track (3). Four-time all-league pick, repeat All-Stater, and team captain on gridiron with 261 tackles and 21 QB sacks in 39 career starts (2000-03). Named team captain, First-Team All-Valley Eight Conference, First-Team **Appleton Post-Crescent** All-Area, and First-Team WFCFA All-State on 11-1 loop champ and Division I playoff qualifier for coach John Koronkiewicz as a senior. Produced 56 tackles, nine fumble-cause hits, and six QB sacks in final seven games (2003). Tabbed for WFCFA Shrine Game (July, 2004). Made team captain, First-Team All-Valley Eight Conference, First-Team All-Area, and First-Team WFCFA All-State on 10-4 league kingpin and state runner-up as a junior. Started first 10 games, collected 77 stops, seven sacks, five fumble-cause hits, three fumble recoveries (one for TD), and three deflections on defense, plus four carries for eight yards and nine catches as RB prior to season-ending right knee ACL tear (2002). Earned First-Team All-Valley Eight and All-Area honors with 50 hits and five sacks on 11-1 loop titlist and playoff squad as a soph. Made Honorable Mention All-Valley Eight with 32 stops and three sacks on 8-1 VEC champion and playoff unit as a frosh. Won loop outdoor shot put title (2002). Honor Roll student.

**Nickname:** "B-Rock." **Birthdate (Age):** 2-21-86 (19).  
**Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



96

## Quince Holman-☆☆☆

Woodridge / Downers Grove South  
Defensive End  
6-3 ● 261 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Mr. Pass Rush. Shattered single-season Northern Illinois QB hurries-pressures record set by DT Anthony Falbo (21 in 2001) by 17. **Scoop B:** Blocked last opposition PAT kick (vs. Buffalo in 2003) and field goal (vs. Bowling Green State in 2004). **Scoop C:** Can play DE or DT. **Joe Novak:** "Quince is unique. He's a big kid with natural quickness and explosion. Inside, he's quicker. On the edge, he's bigger. I think Quince is one of the better pass rushers in our league." **NIU:** Opens camp as No. 1 RE (2005). Missed spring game (4-23-05) due to right ankle sprain. **Chart:** Logged 19 reps with 225 pounds, 28-inch vertical jump, 310-pound power clean, and 345-pound bench press in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns 10 starts, 43 QB hurries-pressures, 64 tackles, and 987 snaps in 23 appearances (2002-04). **2005 Preseason:** Projected as First-Team All-MAC pick by **Lindy's Big Ten** and **The Sporting News**, plus Second-Team All-Mid-Am by CollegeFootballNews.com. **2004:** Won second letter with nine



Quince Holman (96), DE

starts (eight at DT and one at DE) and 594 snaps (551 on defense and 43 on special teams) in 11 games. Finished No. 1 in team QB hurries (18)-pressures (20), No. 9 in deflections (one), No. 10 in overall stops (34), and No. 11 in TFL (two for six yards). Started last nine games of year. Collected season-high four tackles and eight QB hurries-pressures vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Added four stops and five QB H-Ps vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04) and four hits vs. Troy (12-30-04).

Contributed eight QB H-Ps, made three tackles, and blocked 1st Qt. FG vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Notched three stops and TFL vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Contributed on punt return and kick block units. Missed Maryland game (9-4-04) with right leg hamstring pull. Began year as No. 2 RE. **2003:** Earned first letter with 363 overall snaps (349 on defense and 14 on special teams) as back-up DT in 10 games. Wound up No. 3 (tie) in QB sacks (three), No. 6 in QB hurries-pressures (five), No. 7 in TFL (four), and No. 16 in overall stops (25). Made career-high six tackles in first start vs. No. 23 (AP) Bowling Green State (10-25-03). Recorded four hits apiece vs. Iowa State (9-27-03) and vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Posted three tackles, three QB H-Ps, and sack vs. Western Michigan (10-18-03). Credited with two TFL vs. No. 21 (AP) Alabama (9-20-03). Blocked PAT attempt and made stop vs. Buffalo (11-8-03). Missed two mid-year games with right shoulder sprain. Played on punt, punt return, KOR, and kick block units. **2002:** Went 25 snaps in two of first three games prior to season-ending left knee sprain. Ranked No. 24 in team tackles (five). Posted all five hits—including TFL—in 1-A debut vs. South Florida (9-7-02). Played one snap vs. No. 22 (AP) Wisconsin (9-14-02). Began year as No. 2 RE. **2001:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Started career at No. 4 RE. **Prep:** Played on back-to-back West Suburban Conference Gold Division champs which win 19 of 23 games (1999-2000). Named Honorable Mention WSC All-Gold Division, preseason **Chicago Tribune** Top Area Player and loop Player to Watch, and **Chicago Sun-Times** Area Top 100 Prospect on 10-2 Division kingpin and state Class 6A playoff quarterfinalist for coach John Belskis as a senior. Made 71 tackles, six sacks, and two blocked kicks at DE-OLB and rushed four times for 39 yards at RB (2000). Posted 62 stops, four sacks, and two deflections on 9-2 Gold champ and Class 6A playoff unit as a junior. Lettered in football (2) and track (3). Won WSC All-Gold honors in track as a soph. **Birthdate (Age):** 1-21-83 (22).  
**Major:** Sociology.

### Statistics:

Defense Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Fum	
						Rec.	Int.
2002	2	2	3	5	1/1	0	0/0
2003	10	16	9	25	4/20	1	0/0
2004	11	19	15	34	2/6	0	0/0
<b>Career</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>7/27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0/0</b>

# PLAYER PROFILES



63

## Zack Holycross - ☆

Georgetown / Ridge Farm  
Defensive Tackle  
6-5 ● 268 ● Sophomore

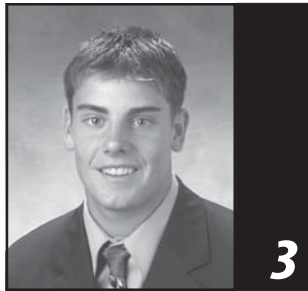
**Scoop:** Impact true frosh walk-on "recruit" who arrived in August, missed 2004 media guide, and played 12 games. **NIU:** Rates as No. 2 DT on August deeps (2005). Awarded full scholarship (Spring, 2005). Underwent left shoulder surgery and missed spring ball. **Chart:** Produced 225-pound power clean and 365-pound back squat in fall conditioning program (2004). **2004:** Moved from O-line duty to defense during two-a-days. Won two early starts vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04) and vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Earned first letter with 287 total snaps (269 on defense and 18 on special teams) in 12 contests. Wound up No. 10 in team QB hurries-pressures (five) and No. 16 in overall tackles (17). Produced season-best three tackles in 1-A debut vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04) and three hits vs. ISU. Collected two stops apiece vs. Akron (10-2-04), vs. Central Florida (10-9-04), vs. Toledo (11-9-04), and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Contributed on punt return and kick block teams. **Prep:** Recruited by Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Penn State, and Purdue. Three-year regular. Named team captain, First-Team All-Sangamon-Illini Alliance on offense and defense, First-Team *Danville Commercial News* All-Area, plus First-Team *Champaign News-Gazette* All-Area and Special Mention All-State as a senior for coach Tom Oliphant (2003). Credited with 54 tackles and 14 QB sacks in final year. Selected captain and All-SIA as a junior. Lettered in football (4) and track. **Personal:** Walter Payton fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-2-85 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

### Statistics:

Defense	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Fum Rec.	Int.
2004	12	11	6	17	1/1	0	0/0
Career	12	11	6	17	1/1	0	0/0



Zack Holycross (63), DT

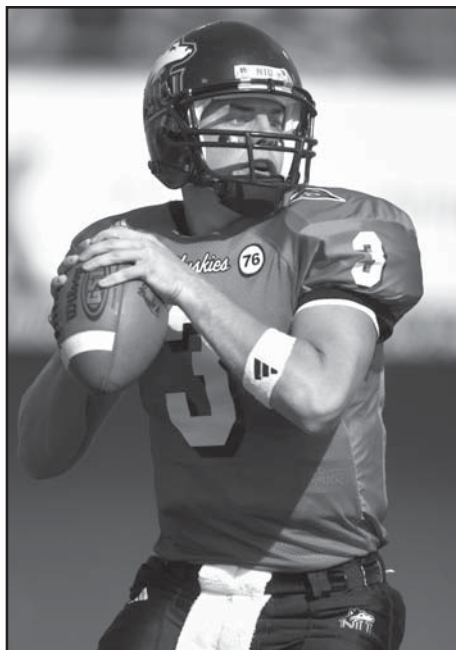


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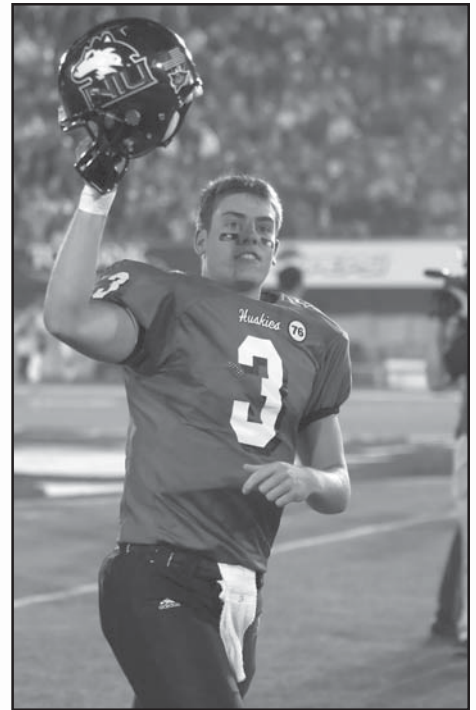
## Phil Horvath - ☆

Naperville / Central  
Quarterback  
6-2 ● 200 ● Junior

**Scoop A:** Can No. 3 go from Relief Man of the Year to starting QB? Went from zero 1-A snaps to 346 last fall. Emergency regular who led Northern Illinois to 2-1 record and victory over Bowling Green State on ESPN2. **Scoop B:** Most productive No. 2 Huskie QB since Pete Genatempo (94-of-171 passes for 916 yards and five TDs in 1984). **NIU:** Heads into camp as No. 1 QB. One of four candidates vying for No. 1 job. Won start at QB for No. 1 Offense and hit 10-of-14 passes for 128 yards and one TD (30-yards) in spring game (4-23-05). **Joe Novak:** "I thought Phil established himself in the Bowling Green game. Horvath played a perfect game. I don't think Josh Haldi could've played any better. That gives him an edge." **Chart:** Posted 31-inch vertical jump, 235-pound power clean, 265-pound bench press, and 325-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Won first letter with three starts and 346 snaps (300 in first four games) in seven games. Made 1-A debut on second series—subbing for injured Josh Haldi—and completed 19-of-36 passes for 219 yards and one TD (four yards) in 74 snaps vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Hit 11-of-22 aerials for 148 yards and one TD (40 yards) in first start vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Threw for career-high 285 yards, four TDs (12, 16, 9, 42 yards), and four interceptions on 20-of-34 passes in second start vs.



Phil Horvath (3), QB



Independence Bowl-bound Iowa State (9-18-04). Generated 483 yards team total offense, completed 16-of-23 passes for 191 yards, and rushed for 32 yards on six carries vs. BGSU (9-24-04). Hit 66-of-114 passes (.579 pct.) for 843 yards, six TDs and six "picks" in four games as "regular" QB. **2003:** Made travel roster five times. Began year year as No. 3 QB. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Opened career as No. 5 QB. **Prep:** Recruited by several Big Ten programs. Posted 21-2 record as varsity QB (2000-01). Set school single-season (2,438 in 2001) and career (3,859 in 2000-01) passing yardage records. Completed 290-of-505 passes (.574 pct.) for 3,859 yards, 35 TDs, and nine interceptions. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-DuPage Valley Conference, First-Team *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area and honorary team captain, Honorable Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, Area Top 100 Prospects, and No. 8 Area Prospect, Second-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and First-Team IHSCFA Class 8A All-State on 13-1 league champ and state playoff runner-up for coach Joe Bunge as a senior. Converted 126-of-209 passes (.603 pct.) for 2,438 yards, 25 TDs, six interceptions, and 67-yard long-gainer (2001). Threw for 310 yards and two TDs on 16-of-25 passes in 34-31 Class 8A state title game loss vs. Downers Grove South (11-24-01). Made Honorable Mention *Daily Herald* All-Area with 89-of-150 passes (.593 pct.) for 1,421 yards, 10 TDs, and three "picks" on 11-1 state Class 6A playoff quarterfinalist (2000). Averaged 36.0 yards per punt as a senior. All-State Academic and High Honor Roll student. **Nickname:** "Flipper." **Birthdate (Age):** 10-4-83 (22). **Major:** Marketing.

### Statistics:

Passing	GP	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.	LG
2004	7	123	72	954	6	7	45
Career	7	123	72	954	6	7	45

Rushing	GP	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2004	7	15	28	1.9	0	20
Career	7	15	28	1.9	0	20



# PLAYER PROFILES



84

## Sam Hurd - ★★

Sam Antonio, TX / Brackenridge  
Wide Receiver  
6-2 ● 187 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Known to peers as (1) the "Birdman" and (2) for WR Big Play capability. **Scoop B:** Averaged 26 receptions per year and made at least one catch in 29 of 34 appearances (2002-04). **Scoop C:** Caught 11 career passes 30 yards or longer (66, 57, 56, 53, 49, 47, 44, 42, 36, 35, and 32 yards). **NIU:** Opens August practice as No. 1 SE for second year in a row (2005). Started at SE on No. 1 Offense and caught four passes for 40 yards in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 34-inch vertical jump, 250-pound bench press, and 300-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Joe Novak:** "Sam Hurd is a real talent, with tremendous potential. He is what I call a playmaker. He just needs to be more consistent." **Career:** Owns three 100-yard catch games, 19 starts, 50 points, 78 receptions for 1,248 yards (16.0 ypc.) and eight TDs, plus 1,702 snaps in 34 contests (2002-04). **2005 Preseason:** Named Fourth-Team All-MAC by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. **2004:** Earned third letter with nine starts at SE and 603 overall snaps (582 on offense and 21 on special teams) in 10 games. Finished No. 3 in team receiving (27 for 298 yards

and three TDs) and No. 6 in scoring (20 points). Pulled in season-high seven receptions for 79 yards and 26-yard long-gainer on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Made four catches for 51 yards and two-point PAT grab vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Tied career-best with two TD receptions (10 and 24 yards) on four-catch-for-52-yards afternoon vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Grabbed four passes for 41 yards vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Made two grabs for 26 yards and one TD vs. Independence Bowl-bound Iowa State (9-18-04). Performed on punt and "hands" teams. **2003:** Won second letter with seven starts at FLK and 609 overall snaps (607 on offense and two on special teams) in 12 games. Ranked No. 2 in team receiving (29 receptions for 438 yards, two TDs, plus 56-yard long-gainer) and No. 7 (tie) in scoring (12 points). Made four receptions for season-high 109 yards vs. Central Michigan (10-18-03). Added four catches for 35 yards vs. Buffalo (11-8-03) and four for 23 yards vs. Toledo (11-15-03). Snared three passes for 85 yards—including season 56-yard long-gainer—vs. Western Michigan (10-18-03). Posted three catches for 57 yards and two TDs (47 and two yards) vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Caught two passes for 20 yards vs. No. 21 (AP) Alabama (9-20-03). Started year at No. 2 SE. **2002:** Earned first letter as true frosh with 490 overall snaps and two starts at FLK in 12 appearances. Led team in catch average (23.3 ypc.) and set two frosh reception records. Ranked No. 2 in team receiving (22 for 512 yards and three TDs), No. 3 in all-purpose yardage (512), and No. 5 in scoring (18 points). Rewrote Northern Illinois single-season frosh catch yardage mark (462 by FLK-TE Keith Perry in 2000) and tied single-game reception record (eight for 119 yards by WR Greg Dentino vs. Ohio in 1976). Made eight catches (32, 20, 19, 11, 13, 5, 8, and 53 yards) for career-best 161 yards in first start vs. No. 22 (AP) Wisconsin (9-14-02)—representing best program receiving yardage since FLK Justin McCareins (189 yards on 11 catches) vs. No. 20 (AP) Auburn (9-23-00). Caught at least one pass in nine of 12 games. Grabbed three balls for 103 yards—including 66-yard career long-gainer and TD—vs. Western Michigan (10-26-02). Made two catches for 39 yards and first career TD (24 yards) vs. South Florida (9-7-02). Caught 15-yard pass in 1-A debut vs. Wake Forest (8-29-02). Reported to college as No. 5 SE. Late National Letter of Intent signee (6-25-02) with recruiting assist from ex-Northern Illinois assistant Jay Boulware (then at Arizona). **Prep:** Recruited by Arizona and Fresno State. Three-sport man. Named team quad-captain, Most Spirited Player Award recipient, and MVP, plus First-Team All-District 28-5A Conference, First-Team *San Antonio Express-News* All-City, and First-Team Texas High School Coaches Association All-State on 5-5 squad as a senior for coach Willie Hall. Made 60 catches for 1,639 yards (27.3 ypc.) and 23 TDs in final year. Caught career-high 10 passes vs. Southwest (2001). Lettered in football (2), basketball (3), and track (2). Played forward on 21-9 quintet as a senior and ran sprints in track. **Personal:** Randy Moss fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 4-24-85 (19). **Major:** Pre-Communications.

### Statistics:

Receiving						
Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	12	22	512	23.3	3	66
2003	12	29	438	15.1	2	56
2004	10	27	298	11.0	3	26
<b>Career</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>66</b>

### Sam Hurd Receiving Game-by-Game

Opponent (Date)	No.	Yds.	TD	LG
Wake Forest (8-29-02)	1	15	0	15
South Florida (9-7-02)	2	39	1	24
Wisconsin (9-14-02)	8	151	0	53
Western Illinois (9-21-02)	1	10	0	10
Kent State (9-28-02)	0	0	0	0
Ball State (10-5-02)	1	36	1	36
Miami (OH) (10-12-02)	2	65	0	57
Central Michigan (10-19-02)	2	53	0	44
Western Michigan (10-26-02)	3	102	1	66
Bowling Green St. (11-9-02)	0	0	0	0
Eastern Michigan (11-16-02)	0	0	0	0
Toledo (11-23-02)	2	31	0	17
Maryland (8-28-03)	0	0	0	0
Tennessee Tech (9-6-03)	3	57	2	47
Alabama (9-20-03)	3	20	0	10
Iowa State (9-27-03)	3	18	0	12
Ohio (10-4-03)	1	11	0	11
Central Michigan (10-11-03)	4	109	0	42
Western Michigan (10-18-03)	3	85	0	56
Bowling Green St. (10-25-03)	3	17	0	9
Ball State (11-1-03)	1	14	0	14
Buffalo (11-8-03)	4	35	0	14
Toledo (11-15-03)	4	23	0	8
Eastern Michigan (11-22-03)	1	49	0	49
Maryland (9-4-04)	4	51	0	22
Southern Illinois (9-11-04)	—	—	—	—
Iowa State (9-18-04)	2	26	1	14
Bowling Green St. (9-24-04)	7	79	0	26
Akron (10-2-04)	1	18	0	18
Central Florida (10-9-04)	3	14	0	7
Central Michigan (10-16-04)	1	10	0	10
Western Michigan (10-23-04)	4	52	2	24
Ball State (10-30-04)	—	—	—	—
Toledo (11-9-04)	0	0	—	0
Eastern Michigan (11-20-04)	4	41	0	20
Troy (12-30-04)	1	7	0	7

### Between the Yard Lines....

#### Huskie Breakdown

##### By Position

Offense (60)	Defense (51)
Wide Receiver (14)	Defensive End (10)
Offensive Guard (9)	Defensive Tackle (4)
Offensive Tackle (7)	Linebacker (13)
Center (5)	Cornerback (9)
Tight End (8)	Nose Tackle (5)
Tailback (9)	Free Safety (4)
Quarterback (6)	Strong Safety (4)
Placekicker (2)	Punter (2)

##### By State

Illinois (68)
Chicago and suburbs (59)
Wisconsin (20)
Indiana (6)
Minnesota (6)
Missouri (4)
Florida (3)
Michigan (1)
Ohio (1)
South Dakota (1)
Texas (1)

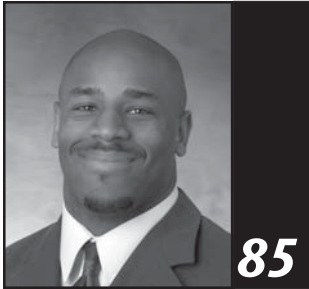
##### By Class

True Freshmen (24)
Red-shirt Freshmen (32)
Sophomores (21)
Juniors (17)
Seniors (17)



Sam Hurd (84), WR

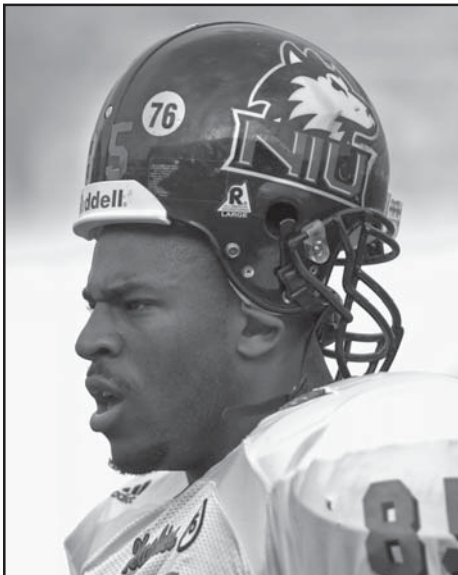
# PLAYER PROFILES



## Jason Hutton - ★★☆☆

Chicago / Whitney Young  
Linebacker  
6-1 ● 239 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Makes the grade as a senior. **Scoop B:** LB turned FB turned LB. **Scoop C:** Ex-"Beast" back-up. **NIU:** Listed at No. 1 MLB (2005). Earned start at MLB on No. 1 Defense and collected five tackles in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 19 reps with 225 pounds, 31-inch vertical jump, 310-pound power clean, 350-pound bench press, and 510-pound back squat in off-season conditioning drills (2005). **Career:** Owns 58 tackles and 799 total snaps in 36 appearances (2002-04). **2004:** Awarded third letter with one start, 38 tackles, and career-high 497 overall snaps (365 on defense and 132 on special teams) in 12 games. Ranked No. 4 (tie) in team interceptions (one), No. 6 in pass deflections (three), and No. 8 in overall tackles (38). Subbed for injured senior Brian Atkinson at MLB and responded with career-high 13 stops, two deflections, two QB pressures, and one TFL in first start and 116-play day vs. Ball State (10-30-04). Produced four stops apiece vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04) and vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Collected three hits vs. Akron (10-22-04). Made two tackles vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04) and vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-05). Played on special teams—punt, punt return KO, and kickoff return units. **2003:** Earned second letter with 194 snaps as Atkinson back-up at SLB (75 snaps on defense) and special teams (119 on punt, punt return, and kick block units) in 12 games. Wound up No. 17 in team tackles (17). Posted season-best six stops in 42



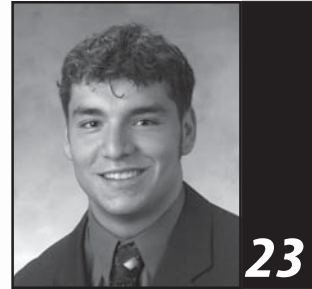
snaps vs. Ohio (10-4-03). Added three hits and six-yard QB sack vs. Central Michigan (10-11-03). Credited with two tackles apiece vs. No. 15 (AP) Maryland (8-28-03), vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03), and vs. Ball State (11-1-03). **2002:** Won first letter with 108 overall snaps (78 on special teams and 30 on defense) in 12 contests. Tied for No. 28 in team tackles (three). Notched stops vs. South Florida (9-7-02), vs. No. 22 (AP) Wisconsin (9-14-02), and vs. Central Michigan (10-19-02). Went frosh-high 18 snaps vs. Wake Forest (8-29-02). Played on punt and KOR units. Started year at No. 1 FB. **Prep:** Named team co-captain and Best LB Award recipient, preseason Honorable Mention *Street & Smith's* All-America, First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League and Special Mention All-Area, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, and Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State as a senior for coach Tim Franken. Two-way regular with 23 catches for 367 yards at TE, plus 52 tackles, two "picks" (one for a 52-yard TD) at OLB on 5-4 squad (2000). Rated No. 13 among Top 30 Chicago area prospects by recruiting analyst Tom Lemming. Caught 22 passes for 218 yards and two TDs, plus made First-Team All-Section and First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League at TE as a junior. Lettered in football (4) and basketball (2). Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 4-8-83 (22). **Major:** Management.

### Statistics:

Year	GP	Defense-Special Teams			TFL	Fum	
		Solo	Ast	Total		Rec.	Int.
2002	12	1	2	3	0/0	0	0/0
2003	12	14	3	17	2/7	0	0/0
2004	12	30	8	38	2/9	0	1/13
<b>Career</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4/16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1/13</b>



Jason Hutton (85), LB



## Saul Ibarra

Elmwood Park / Chicago St. Patrick  
Strong Safety  
5-11 ● 198 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** EYE-berra. **Scoop:** Success story. From walk-on to two-deep. **NIU:** Reports to August practice as No. 2 SS (2005). Started at SS on No. 2 Defense and made three tackles in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Logged :04.54 timing in 40, 14 reps with 225 pounds, 28-inch vertical jump, 275-pound power clean, and 385-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Two-year squad member (2003-04). **2004:** Performed on 45 special teams snaps in six games. Made travel roster vs. Maryland (9-4-04), vs. Iowa State (9-18-04), and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Went career-high 11 plays vs. No. 22 (AP) UM and eight snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Played on KO, KOR, and punt return units. Began year as No. 4 FS. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. **Prep:** Two-sport all-league performer. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team Catholic Metro League All-Blue Division and Division Player of the Year, plus Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area on loop champion and state Class 7A playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Dan Galante. Led team with five "picks" (2002). Voted Junior MVP and Newcomer of the Year on 7-5 state Class 7A playoff entry as a junior (2001). Lettered in football (2) and track. Named All-CML and All-Area as member of state-qualifying 400-meter relay unit. Transferred from Elmwood Park. **Nickname:** "Scrambles." **Birthdate (Age):** 11-1-84 (21). **Major:** Sociology.

# PLAYER PROFILES

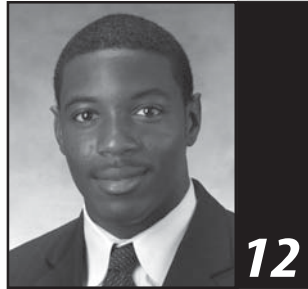


37

## Bill Ikegwuonu

Madison, WI / Memorial  
Strong Safety  
5-11 • 194 • Freshman

**Pronunciation:** IKE-ig-wah-nu. **Scoop:** Ex-LB. **NIU:** Listed as No. 4 SS on August deeps (2005). Blocked 2nd Qt. punt in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 10 reps with 225 pounds and 285-pound bench press in limited off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Reported to camp as No. 4 WLB. **Prep:** Lettered in football (2) and baseball (1). Versatile performer with snaps at OLB, RB, SS, and on special teams. Repeat All-Area grid performer. Collected 200 career tackles and eight QB sacks in two varsity campaigns (2002-03). Named team captain, First-Team All-City, First-Team All-Big Eight Conference, and First-Team *Capital Times* All-Area on 8-1 loop champion and state playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Gary Kolpin. Rushed for 240 yards and four TDs on 30 carries, made four receptions for 100 yards and one TD, returned 11 kickoffs for 325 yards (29.5 ypr.) and one TD, notched 95 stops, and blocked one kick (2003). Selected First-Team All-City, First-Team All-Big Eight, and First-Team All-Area on 6-4 state playoff unit as a junior. Registered 105 tackles and six sacks (2002). Transferred from Madison Edgewood after frosh year. Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Twin brother Jack Ikegwuonu won First-team All-State honors, signed a National Letter of Intent with Wisconsin (2004), and listed as DB on 2005 UW roster. **Birthdate (Age):** 1-7-86 (19). **Major:** Business Administration.



12

## Dossie Jennings

University City, MO / St. Louis University  
Wide Receiver  
5-11 • 187 • Sophomore

**Scoop:** Ex-QB. **NIU:** Ranks No. 4 at SE on summer deeps (2005). Started at FLK on No. 2 Offense and caught one pass for five yards in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 32-inch vertical jump, 260-pound bench press, and 345-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Scout Team performer. Opened year as No. 6 FLK. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Walk-on QB. **Prep:** Named No. 15 on *STCGridReport's* Top 20 Senior Prospects and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Super 30 Football Recruit lists (2002). Lettered in football (3). Three-time all loop pick. Named team captain and First-Team All-Metro Conference as a senior for coach Gary Kornfeld. Threw for 1,300 yards and eight TDs (2002). Won First-Team All-MC, First-Team All-Area, and Third-Team All-Metro status on 10-1 league and district champs as a junior. Passed for 1,709 yards and 18 TDs (2001). Made Honorable Mention All-MC on 7-2 MC loop runner-up as a soph. **Nickname:** "D. J." **Birthdate (Age):** 1-17-85 (20). **Major:** Marketing.

### Between the Yard Lines....

#### Birthday Huskies

By the Month:	By Zodiac Sign:
January (8)	Capricorn (10)
February (11)	Aquarius (11)
March (8)	Pisces (9)
April (8)	Aries (7)
May (8)	Taurus (9)
June (4)	Gemini (4)
July (8)	Cancer (10)
August (8)	Leo (4)
September (8)	Virgo (10)
October (11)	Libra (10)
November (14)	Scorpio (15)
December (11)	Sagittarius (8)

#### Double the Celebration:

July 4 — Justin Anderson  
Dec. 25 — Dan Holzapfel

#### Share the Cake:

Feb. 1 — Cory Hanson & Kevin Skatrud  
Feb. 8 — Earnest Streater & Brian Van Acker  
Mar. 16 — Andy Dittbenner, Cas Prime & Ken West  
April 8 — Jason Hutton & Javan Lee  
April 23 — Tim McCarthy & Eric Pittman  
May 3 — Luke Athans & Ethan Gill  
May 7 — George Daglas & Robert Oruche  
May 26 — Adam Grimm & Averill Sutchar  
Aug. 8 — A.J. Harris & Dustin Utschig  
Aug. 23 — Foster Chambers & Sylvester McNutt  
Oct. 4 — Eddie Adamski & Phil Horvath  
Nov. 5 — Reed Cunningham & Preston Williams  
Nov. 18 — Adriel & Alvah Hansbro  
Dec. 2 — Brandon Davis & Zack Holycross  
Dec. 20 — Tim Mayerbock & Matt Rogers

#### Just Wrap Me Up a "W":

Sept. 17 vs. Tennessee Tech — David Kronkiewicz  
Oct. 5 vs. Miami (OH) — T.J. Griffin  
Oct. 29 vs. Ball State — Zach Ullrich  
Nov. 5 vs. Central Michigan — Reed Cunningham & Preston Williams



Postgame Northern Illinois celebrations have become popular during the Joe Novak era.

# PLAYER PROFILES



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## Dan Keller

Racine, WI / St. Catherines  
Offensive Guard  
6-4 • 291 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Ex-OT. **NIU:** Arrives in camp as No. 3 LG (2005). Earned start at LG on No. 2 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Logged 13 reps with 225 pounds, 240-pound power clean, 325-pound bench press, and 405-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Opened career at No. 3 LT. **Prep:** Recruited by Wisconsin and Minnesota. Played OT, TE, FB, DT, DE, PK, etc. Two-time All-County pick. Recorded 121 tackles and six QB sacks in last two seasons (2002-03). Named team captain, Second-Team All-Lakeshore Conference at DE, and First-Team *Racine Journal Times* All-County for coach Bob Milkie as a senior. Contributed 55 tackles, three fumble recoveries, and two sacks (2003). Warded off eight would-be tacklers on 59-yard winning TD jaunt vs. Union Grove (2003). Booted season-long 44-yard field goal vs. Racine Catholic Central (2003). Selected team captain, First-Team All-Lakeshore Conference, and First-Team *Racine Journal Times* All-County as a junior. Missed seven games due to injury as a soph. Voted grid program's Frosh of the Year (2000). Started at center on Lakeshore Conference cage champion as a soph and as a junior. Two-time WIAA Regional champ in state oratorical contest. **Birthdate (Age):** 9-24-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



91

## David Koronkiewicz

Goshen, IN  
Tight End  
6-3 • 240 • Freshman

**Pronunciation:** KORN-ah-kah-vich. **Scoop:** Mr. Self-Motivation. One of squad's hardest workers in weight room. **NIU:** Listed as No. 1 "R" (hybrid FB-TE) on August deeps (2005). **Chart:** Posted 27-inch vertical jump, 285-pound power clean, 310-pound bench press, and 415-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Prep:** Two-sport All-State pick. Won Indiana High School Athletic Association shot put title (2004). Lettered in football (3), basketball (2), and track (2). Made 20 receptions for 290 yards (14.5 ypc.) at TE on 11-1 Northern Lake Conference kingpin and state Class 5A playoff entry as a junior for coach Andy Strati. Named First-Team All-NLC, First-Team *South Bend Tribune* All-Dream Team and First-Team All-Area, Honorable Mention *Bloomington Herald Times* All-State, and First-Team Indiana Football Coaches Association Class 5A All-State (2002). Selected Most Improved Offensive Player, First-Team *Elkhart Truth* All-Area, and Honorable Mention *Bloomington Herald Times* All-State on 6-5 squad as a sophomore. Caught 24 passes for 390 yards (16.3 ypc.) (2001). Cited as team Outstanding Offensive Lineman and made two catches for 39 yards in injury-shortened senior year (knee bruise). Took IHSAA state (62-0) and Sectional (61-6) shot put crowns, plus finished second at Regional (56-10 3/4) in final year. Placed sixth in shot (56-1) as a junior. Four-year student council representative. **Nickname:** "Korny." **Birthdate (Age):** 9-17-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

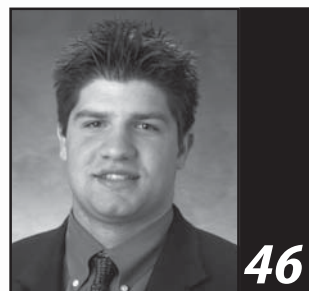


69

## Alex Krutsch

Schaumburg  
Defensive Tackle  
6-3 • 255 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Sat out spring practice with broken right arm (2005). **NIU:** Reports to summer camp as No. 3 DT (2005). **Chart:** Recorded 15 reps with 225 pounds, 30-inch vertical jump, 290-pound power clean, 325-pound bench press, and 405-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. **Prep:** Lettered in football (2). Named Second-Team Mid-Suburban League All-West Division, Honorable Mention *Daily Herald* Northwest All-Area, and preseason *Chicago Tribune* Player to Watch as a senior for coach Tom Cerasani (2003). **Hobby:** Drummer. **Birthdate (Age):** 7-20-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



46

## Jason Labus - ☆

Park Ridge / Chicago Gordon Tech  
Long Snapper  
6-1 • 240 • Senior

**Pronunciation:** LAY-buss. **Scoop A:** Strongest long snapper in Mid-Am? Book it. **Scoop B:** "Retired" FB. **NIU:** Snap specialist on placement kicks and punts. Rates as No. 1 long snapper on August deeps (2005). **Chart:** Produced 23 reps with 225 pounds, 28-inch vertical jump, 270-pound power clean, 390-pound bench press, and 405-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Recorded 120 snaps (63 placement kicks and 47 punts) in 12 appearances. Made career-high 12 snaps five times last fall—vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04), vs. Iowa State (9-18-04), vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04), vs. Ball State (10-30-04), and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Wound up No. 26 in team tackles (five). Produced career-high four stops vs. ISU. **2003:** Walk-on fullback. Transferred from Joliet Junior College. **JJC:** Earned two letters (2001-02). Played FB and long snapper on 11-0 NJCAA National Championship eleven that won N4C Conference and Golden Isles Bowl (2002). Earned letter at LB (2001). **Prep:** Two-year all-league pick. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team Catholic League All-Metro Green Division and loop MVP as a senior for coach Scott Baum (1999). Earned First-Team CL All-Metro as a junior. **Birthdate (Age):** 6-18-82 (23). **Major:** General Studies.



Jason Labus (46), LS



# PLAYER PROFILES



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## Javan Lee - ★★

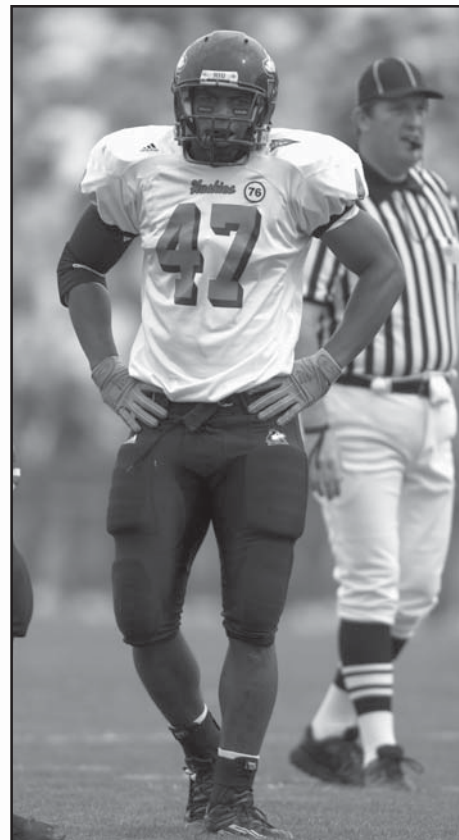
Michigan City, IN  
Linebacker  
6-2 ● 222 ● Senior

**Pronunciation:** JAY-venn. **Scoop A:** The next Northern Illinois LB in the Bob Gregolunas, Frank Lewandowski, Mike Terna, Larry Williams, and Brian Atkinson mold. **Scoop B:** No. 1 returning MAC tackler. **Scoop C:** Named on preseason Rotary Lombardi Award watch list (2005). **Scoop D:** Top active Northern Illinois hitman (212 career tackles). **Scoop E:** Father Willie Lee played RB at Indiana State, won team MVP and Honorable Mention AP All-America honors (1972), and was drafted by the NFL Pittsburgh Steelers (12th round in 1973). **Scoop F:** Late bloomer. **NIU:** Heads into August drills as No. 1 WLB for third year in a row (2005). Started at WLB on No. 1 Defense and posted five tackles in spring game (4-23-05). Voted team quad-captain by peers (5-2-05). **Joe Novak:** "Javan can make a lot of big plays. He has a lot of ability, runs well to the ball, and kind of slithers through seams on defense. Overall, Javan's faster than Brian Atkinson, very instinctive, and just needs to be more consistent." **Chart:** Posted 16 reps with 225 pounds, 33-inch vertical jump, 310-pound power clean, 345-pound bench press, and 400-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns eight twin-digit hit games, 19 starts at WLB, 23 tackles for 70 yards in losses, 212 stops, and 1,373 snaps in 32 appearances (2002-04). **2005 Preseason:** Rated No. 57 OLB in America by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. Projected First-Team All-MAC by *CBS SportsLine.com College Football*, *Lindy's Big Ten*, *The Sporting News*, and *Phil Steele's*. **2004:** Voted coaches' First-Team All-MAC in second year as regular. Won third letter with 11 starts at WLB and 720 overall snaps (683 on defense and 37 snaps) in 12 games. Rated No. 1 in team TFL (16), No. 2 in overall stops (119), No. 5 in pass deflections (four), and No. 11 in QB hurries-pressures (four). Named Mid-Am West Defensive Player of the Week with career-high 18 tackles (team-best 15 solo stops) and one pass deflection on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Posted six double-figure tackle performances. Added 17 hits and two TFL in career-high 93 plays vs. Ball State (10-30-04). Notched 16 stops, two QB pressures, and one TFL vs. Toledo (11-9-04). Produced 13 tackles and one deflection vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Collected 11 stops and one deflection vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Made 10 tackles and one deflection vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Notched five hits and three tackles for eight-yards in losses vs. Troy (12-30-04) in Silicon Valley Football Classic. Contributed on punts and KOR. **2003:** Earned second letter with eight starts at WLB and 413 overall snaps (347 on defense and 66 on special teams) in nine games. Finished No. 4 in team solo stops (45) and No. 5 in overall tackles (68). Recorded 33 hits in final five outings. Capped year with season-high 14 tackles vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Made 11 stops vs. Toledo (11-15-03). Started strong finish with eight stops vs. Buffalo (11-8-03).

Netted nine stops vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Registered seven tackles in first 1-A start vs. No. 15 (AP) Maryland (8-28-03). Added seven more vs. No. 21 (AP) Alabama (9-20-03). Started first four and last four contests. Missed three due to right leg hamstring pull. Played on punt, punt return, KO, and punt return units. **2002:** Awarded first letter as back-up to All-MAC Larry Williams at WLB. Logged 240 overall snaps (167 on special teams and 73 on defense) in 11 games. Finished No. 6 (tie) in team tackles for loss (five) and No. 17 in overall hits (25). Posted frosh-high four hits in 1-A debut vs. Wake Forest (8-29-02). Made three stops and two TFL vs. No. 20 (AP) Bowling Green State (11-9-02) and eight-yard sack vs. No. 22 (AP) Wisconsin (9-14-02). Began year as No. 2 WLB. **2001:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Started as No. 5 WLB. **Prep:** Two-sport All-Stater. Named team captain and MVP, Area Player of the Week five times, Area Player of the Month once (September), First-Team All-Duneland Conference and loop co-Defensive Player of the Year, First-Team *Michigan City News Dispatch* All-Area RB and DE, plus Area Player of the Year, First-Team *Gary Post-Tribune* All-Area and Honorable Mention Class 5A (Large Schools) All-State on 7-4 club for coach Ken Bye as a senior. Rushed for 1,051 yards and 13 TDs on 157 carries at RB, plus 53 solo stops and 22 TFL at DE (2000). Made All-Duneland as a junior. Lettered in football (2) and track (1). Qualified for IHSAA track finals in two events—long jump and high hurdles (2001). Won All-State honors by placing sixth in IHSAA 110HH as a junior. Voted track MVP and All-Duneland (2000). Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 4-8-83 (22). **Major:** Engineering.

### Statistics:

Defense							Fum	
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.	Int.	
2002	11	17	8	25	5/17	0	0/0	
2003	9	45	23	68	2/2	0	0/0	
2004	12	84	35	119	16/51	0	0/0	
<b>Career</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>23/70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0/0</b>	



### Javan Lee Game-by-Game

Opponent (Date)	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL
Wake Forest (8-29-02)	3	1	4	1/3
South Florida (9-7-02)	4	0	4	1/1
Wisconsin (9-14-02)	1	1	2	1/8
Western Illinois (9-21-02)	0	1	1	0/0
Kent State (9-28-02)	1	0	1	0/0
Ball State (10-5-02)	0	0	0	0/0
Miami (OH) (10-12-02)	1	3	4	0/0
Central Michigan (10-19-02)	2	1	3	0/0
Western Michigan (10-26-02)	1	0	1	0/0
Bowling Green St. (11-9-02)	2	1	3	0/0
Eastern Michigan (11-16-02)	2	0	2	0/0
Toledo (11-23-02)	—	—	—	—
Maryland (8-28-03)	3	2	5	0/0
Tennessee Tech (9-6-03)	8	1	9	0/0
Alabama (9-20-03)	5	2	7	0/0
Iowa State (9-27-03)	1	1	2	0/0
Ohio (10-4-03)	—	—	—	—
Central Michigan (10-11-03)	—	—	—	—
Western Michigan (10-18-03)	—	—	—	—
Bowling Green St. (10-25-03)	3	2	5	0/0
Ball State (11-1-03)	5	0	5	0/0
Buffalo (11-8-03)	4	4	8	0/0
Toledo (11-15-03)	6	5	11	0/0
Eastern Michigan (11-22-03)	8	6	14	0/0
Maryland (9-4-04)	3	0	3	0/0
Southern Illinois (9-11-04)	3	3	6	0/0
Iowa State (9-18-04)	8	2	10	0/0
Bowling Green St. (9-24-04)	15	3	18	0/0
Akron (10-2-04)	5	2	7	4/13
Central Florida (10-9-04)	9	4	13	2/9
Central Michigan (10-16-04)	4	5	9	3/5
Western Michigan (10-23-04)	4	0	4	0/0
Ball State (10-30-04)	12	5	17	2/7
Toledo (11-9-04)	12	4	16	1/5
Eastern Michigan (11-20-04)	6	5	11	1/4
Troy (12-30-04)	3	2	5	3/8



Javan Lee (47), LB

# PLAYER PROFILES



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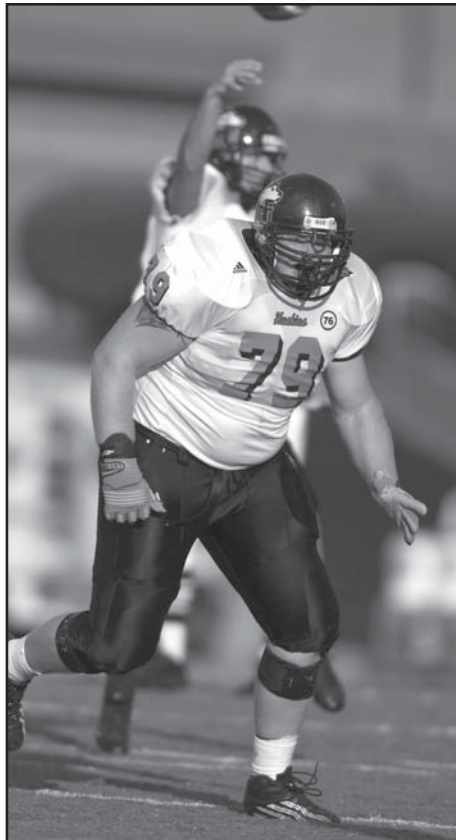


## Ben Lueck-☆☆

Oswego  
Offensive Guard  
6-4 ● 310 ● Senior

**Pronunciation:** LEW-ick. **Scoop A:** Best OG in Mid-Am? **Scoop B:** Comeback Kid goes full circle. Rebounded from ankle problems (2002-03) and head injury (2001) to win national and regional notoriety. **Scoop C:** Granted sixth year of eligibility by NCAA this spring. **NIU:** Reports to camp as No. 1 LG. Won start at LG on No. 1 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted 275-pound power clean, 340-pound bench press, and 405-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Joe Novak:** "I know this. Ben's a tough guy. He's worked his tail off. There was a point two years ago I didn't think he'd ever play again. I thought Ben and Matt McGhghy were the two best guards in the league last year. (Matt) is everything you look for in an offensive lineman—smart, tough, a leader, and a technician." **Career:** Owns 10 starts at LG and 958 overall snaps in 24 appearances (2002-04). Recorded 104 knockdown blocks in last two years. **2005 Preseason:** Rated No. 52 OG in nation by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. Projected First-Team All-MAC by *Phil Steele's, The Sporting News, Athlon Sports,* and *Street & Smith's College Football*, plus Second-Team All-Mid-Am by *CollegeFootballNews.com* and *Lindy's Big Ten*. **NCAA:** Granted waiver of five-year, 10-semester rule as outlined in Bylaw 30.6 for "reasons that are beyond the control of the student-athlete or the institution, which deprive the student-athlete of the opportunity to participate..." Missed 2001 season due to serious head injury in pedestrian-vehicle accident. Became second Northern Illinois football standout—following OT Mark Orszula in 2004—to gain a sixth year of eligibility for medical reasons. **2004:** Named coaches' Second-Team All-MAC in first year as regular. Voted team's Most Improved Player by coaching staff. Won second letter with 10 starts at LG and 586 overall snaps (554 on offense and 32 on special teams). Ranked No. 1 in team flatback blocks (11), No. 2 in knockdown blocks (69), and No. 3 in O-line blocking grades (88 percent). Earned "plus" grades on 433 of 554 plays. Contributed 32 snaps on placement unit. Went career-high 80 snaps vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Sidelined by right knee sprain vs. Central Florida (10-9-04) and vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). **2003:** Gained first letter with 348 overall snaps (280 on offense and 68 on special teams) in 12 games. Listed as back-up to Frosh All-America Doug Free at LT. Rated No. 5 (tie) in knockdown blocks (35). Produced 231 "plus" plays in 280 O-line snaps. Played season-high 52 snaps vs. Toledo (11-15-03). Began year at No. 3 RG. **2002:** Went 24 snaps behind 12-game regular Graham Sleight. Hampered early by left ankle sprain. Played soph-high 15 snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-19-02) and nine vs. Eastern Michigan (11-16-02). Reported to camp as No. 3 LG. **2001:** Missed (1) off-season conditioning, (2) spring drills, and (3) season with head injury. Switched from OT to OG in spring. **2000:** Red-

shirted as true frosh. Began year as No. 2 RT. **Prep:** Recruited by Indiana and Iowa. Called "devastating run blocker." Made consensus All-State on 10-3 state Class 5A playoff semifinalist for coach Karl Hoinkes as a senior. Named team co-captain and co-MVP, First-Team Suburban Prairie Conference All-Red Division, First-Team *Aurora Beacon-News* All-Area, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, First-Team *City / Suburban Gridiron Report* All-State, and First-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State (1999). Rated No. 11 recruit in state by Tom Lemming. Produced 65 "pancake" blocks on offense and 14 TFL on defense in final year. Started on 9-2 playoff unit as a junior. Made First-Team SPC All-Red Division, First-Team *Aurora Beacon-News* All-Area, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, and Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State (1998). Picked for Shrine Game (2000). Lettered in football (3), wrestling (2), and track (2). Named *Sun Newspapers* Male Athlete of the Year (1999-2000). Reached Class AA state mat quarterfinals in 275-pound weight class and went 25-4 as a senior. **Personal:** Born in Okinawa, Japan. **Birthdate (Age):** 11-7-81 (24). **Major:** General Studies.



Ben Lueck (79), OG



6

## Vincent Matthew

Miami, FL / Palmetto  
Cornerback  
5-10 ● 173 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Went from prep RB (2003) to FLK (2004) to CB (2005). Changed jersey from No. 45 to No. 6. **NIU:** Begins camp as No. 5 WSCB (2005). Moved to DB last spring. **Chart:** Logged :04.52 timing in 40, 26-inch vertical jump, 280-pound bench press, and 300-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Opened year as No. 5 FLK. **Prep:** Big play athlete with mega statistics. Lettered in football (2) and track (3). Rushed for 2,339 yards in last two years. Wound up No. 3 Class 4A-6A (Large Schools) ground-gainer in Dade County with 1,506 yards and 18 TDs on 179 attempts (8.4 ypc.) on 8-2 District 14-6A runner-up and playoff qualifier for coach Jim Kroll (2003). Named team captain and MVP, team Best Back Award recipient, First-Team *Miami Herald* Class 4A-6A All-Dade County, and Third-Team All-State as a senior. Produced six 100-plus yard rushing games—including a school-record 325 yards and three TDs (77, 71, and season-long 93 yards) on 11 attempts (29.5 ypc.) vs. Verela (10-9-03). Ran for 228 yards and four TDs (62, 62, 15, and 9 yards) on 16 plays (14.3 ypc.) vs. Hialeah (10-17-03), 206 yards and one TD (75 yards) on 23 carries (8.9 ypc.) vs. Homestead (10-24-03), and 200 yards and two TDs (48 and 51 yards) on 27 attempts (7.4 ypc.) vs. Coral Gables (9-26-03). Added 161 ground yards vs. Miami (9-6-03) and 116 vs. South Dade (9-18-03). **Birthdate (Age):** 9-13-84 (21). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

# PLAYER PROFILES



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## Tim McCarthy

Neenah, WI  
Linebacker  
6-0 ● 217 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** His future is now. **NIU:** Moved to No. 2 MLB on August deeps (2005). Won start at MLB on No. 2 Defense and posted four stops, two TFL, and one QB sack in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Recorded 31-inch vertical jump, 285-pound power clean, 315-pound bench press, and 455-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Joe Novak:** "Tim is a tough kid, instinctive. He reminds me of (All-MAC) Nick Duffy. Tim will be a good player." **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career as No. 4 MLB. **Prep:** Three-time mat All-Stater and state finalist, two-sport All-Stater, and WIAA Division I state wrestling champion. Lettered in football (4) and wrestling (4). Produced 1,002 career rushing yards and 241 tackles at FB, LB, punter, and long snapper (2002-03). Named team captain and MVP, team Defensive Player of the Year and Big Hit Award recipient, First-Team All-Fox Valley Association, league Defensive Player of the Year and Linebacker of the Year, First-Team *Appleton Post-Crescent* All-Area, Honorable Mention WFLA All-Region, Second-Team AP All-State, and First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State for coach Steve Mentzel as a senior. Rushed for 317 yards and three TDs on 59 carries (5.4 ypc.) at FB, led team with 93 stops and 10.5 TFL at LB, and punted 51 times for 1,846 yards, 57-yard long kick, and 36.2 ypp. average on 6-4 Division I playoff entry (2003). Tabbed team captain and MVP, team Defensive Player of the Year and Big Hit Award recipient, and First-Team All-FVC as a junior. Tabbed for Shrine Game (July, 2004). Four-season team MVP, league, Regional, and Sectional mat champ (2001-04). Won 120 of last 124 matches at 189 and 215-pound weight class in final three winters. Advanced to WIAA state finals with unbeaten regular-season record as a junior and a senior. Finished 42-0 and won WIAA Division I (Large Schools) 215-pound crown (2003-04). Placed second in WIAA meet with 38-3 mark at 189 (2001-02). Went 40-1 and finished third in state at 215 (2002-03). Named USA Wrestling Cadet Greco All-America (Summer, 2002). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Older brother Patrick McCarthy lettered as LB at Minnesota (2003). **Birthdate (Age):** 4-23-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

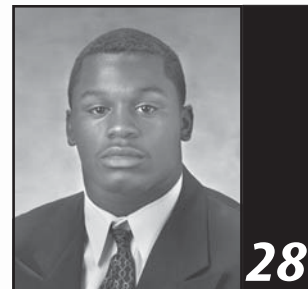


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## Bob McLearen

Wheaton / North  
Linebacker  
6-1 ● 232 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** Mac-CLARE-nn. **Scoop:** Sprinter backer. **NIU:** Heads to camp as No. 4 WLB spot on August depth chart (2005). Earned start at WLB on No. 2 Defense and notched two tackles in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted :04.55 speed in 40, 21 reps with 225 pounds, 31-inch vertical jump, 285-pound power clean, 375-pound bench press, and 405-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Made travel roster vs. Maryland (9-4-04), vs. Iowa State (9-18-04), and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Opened year at No. 3 WLB. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career as No. 4 WLB. **Prep:** Two-sport All-Stater. Named First-Team All-DuPage Valley Conference, First-Team *Wheaton Leader* All-Area, First-Team *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area, preseason *Chicago Tribune* Area Top 100 Players and loop Player to Watch, preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Area Top 100 Players and Special Mention All-Area, plus Honorable Mention IHSFCA All-State on 12-1 DVC champ and Class 8A state semifinalist for coach Matt Foster as a senior. Led team with 127 stops (16 for 98 yards in losses) at LB and on special teams (2002). Made three QB sacks in playoffs vs. York (11-8-02). Picked team Most Valuable Defensive Lineman, Honorable Mention All-DVC, First-Team *Wheaton Leader* All-Area, and Special Mention *Daily Herald* All-Area, plus contributed 93 tackles on 9-4 Class 8A playoff unit as a junior. Lettered in football (2) and track (4). Won All-State acclaim at Class AA state outdoor track meet (2002-03). Placed second in IHSAA 800-meter relay and sixth in 400-meter relay as a senior. Finished second in 400-meter relay and third in 800-meter relay with future Northern Illinois teammate A. J. Harris as a junior. Won outdoor DVC 100-meter dash in career-best :10.6 time, plus ran a leg on league champ 400 and 800-meter relay units (2003). Won Sectional crowns in 400 and 800-meter relays as a senior. **Personal:** Dick Butkus fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 2-20-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



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## Andre Morris-★

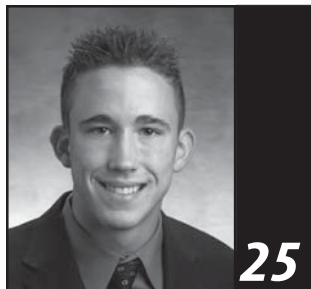
Chicago / Simeon  
Cornerback  
5-8 ● 172 ● Junior

**Scoop:** Moving up the charts. **NIU:** Listed as No. 2 SSCB on August deeps (2005). Started at SSCB on No. 2 Defense and made two tackles in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Recorded :04.57 timing in 40, 28-inch vertical jump, 280-pound bench press, and 365-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns eight tackles and 115 snaps in 17 appearances (2003-04). **2004:** Earned first letter with 81 overall snaps (79 on special teams and two on defense) in 12 games. Finished No. 24 in team tackles (six). Recorded first 1-A stop and career-high two tackles vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Added one hit apiece vs. Akron (10-2-04), vs. Central Florida (10-9-04), vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04), and vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Played season-high 11 snaps vs. WMU. Contributed on KO and punt return units. Opened year as No. 3 SSCB. **2003:** Played 34 snaps on kickoff unit in five of last six games. Finished No. 32 in team stops (two). Made 1-A debut and first tackle in eight snaps vs. Western Michigan (10-18-03). Made one stop vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Tied eight-snap performance vs. Ball State (11-1-03) and vs. EMU. Made travel roster vs. Buffalo (11-8-03) and vs. Toledo (11-15-03). Opened year at No. 5 SSCB. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Underwent right knee anterior cruciate surgery (10-23-02). Started career at No. 4 RCB. **Prep:** Recruited by Minnesota and Bowling Green State. Three-year grid captain. Rushed for 3,125 yards in final two years at RB, plus made 256 career tackles and 19 interceptions as four-year starter at DB. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section, preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* league Top Five Players, First-Team All-Public League, Special Mention All-Area, plus Area Top 100 Seniors on 6-6 state Class 6A and Prep Bowl playoff unit as a senior for coach Al Scott. Ran for 1,764 yards on 286 carries (6.2 ypc.), caught 24 passes for 250 yards on offense, plus made 76 stops, 16 deflections, and six "picks" on defense in final year. Tabbed team captain and offensive MVP, plus First-Team All-Section on 10-5 loop and Public League champs as a junior. Gained 1,361 yards on 201 attempts (6.8 ypc.), grabbed 20 passes for 111 yards, and netted 75 tackles (2000). Picked for Public League-Catholic League and North-South all-star games (2002). Lettered in football (4), track, and volleyball. Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 9-19-83 (22). **Major:** Communications.

### Statistics:

Year	Defense-Special Teams				TFL	Fum	
	GP	Solo	Ast	Total		Rec.	Int.
2003	5	1	1	2	0/0	0	0/0
2004	12	5	1	6	0/0	0	0/0
<b>Career</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0/0</b>

# PLAYER PROFILES



## Chris Nendick-★

Naperville / Central  
Placekicker  
5-11 ● 160 ● Sophomore

**Scoop A:** One of top frosh kickers in Division 1-A and best freshman PK in Northern Illinois history. **Scoop B:** Nation's No. 4 returning kick-scorer (2005). **Scoop C:** Hit two fourth-quarter game-winners (2004). **Scoop D:** Cleared by medical staff to continue playing in late season with hernia (2004).

**NIU:** Reports to practice as No. 1 PK and KO man (2005). Listed as PK on No. 1 Offense and tallied seven points (4-of-4 PATs and 1-of-2 FGs) in spring game (4-23-05). Right-footed, soccer-style kicker. **Joe Novak:** "Chris had a tremendous freshman year. Right now, he can be as good as (NIU's all-time scoring leader) Steve (Azar) and, maybe, has the potential to be better. Chris made some big kicks for us and has that that unflappable demeanor around him. For Chris, the freshman All-America is well-deserved." **2005**

**Preseason:** Projected as Second-Team All-MAC pick by **Phil Steele's College Football Preview**, **Lindy's Big Ten**, and **CollegeFootballNews.com**. **2004:** Followed Steve Azar's frosh footsteps in 2000 by making First-Team

**CollegeSportsReport.com** Frosh All-America, Second-Team **The Sporting News** Frosh All-America, and coaches' Honorable Mention All-MAC. Finished No. 3 in Mid-Am Frosh of the Year balloting with seven votes. Ranked in four Top 30 NCAA stats categories—No. 9 in season kick-scoring (8.3 ppg.), No. 22 (tie) in season scoring, No. 22 (tie) in season field goals (1.33 pg.), and No. 28 (tie) in game field goals (three, vs. Southern Illinois and vs. Central Florida). Rated in three Top Five MAC stats categories—No. 2 in field goals, No. 3 in kick-scoring, and No. 5 in scoring. Set three Northern Illinois kicking records—(1) season PAT kicks (51), (2) season consecutive PATs (44), and (3) season frosh kick-scoring (99 points). Named Lou Groza Award National Stars of the Week and MAC West Special Teams Player of the Week with career-high 12 points (3-of-3 PATs and 3-of-4 FGs) and game-winning, 39-yard FG as time expired in 30-28 triumph vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Won initial MAC West Special Teams Player of the Week honor with 10 points (4-of-4 PATs and 2-of-2 FGs) on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Nominated for Mid-Am POW five times—vs. BGSU, vs. Akron (10-2-04), vs. UCF, vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04), and vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Hit other 4th Q. game-winner (25-yarder) with 14:13 left in 23-22 win vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Scored 10 points (4-of-4 PATs and 2-of-3 FGs) vs. Troy (12-30-04). Tallied six twin-digit kick-scoring games (12 points vs. UCF, 11 vs. SIU and WMU, 10 vs. BGSU, EMU, and Troy). Tied second-best school single-game PAT record (8-of-8 vs. WMU). Made 1-A debut with four points on 21-yard FG and PAT vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Registered No. 2 season kick-scoring (99 points) and No. 9 scoring totals in school history. Won first letter with 151 snaps (73 placements and 78 kickoffs) in 12 games. Wound up No. 2 in team scoring. Began year at No. 2 PK.

Underwent hernia surgery (January, 2005). **Prep:** Posted 83 kick-scoring points in final two years. Lettered in football (3). Named First-Team All-DuPage Valley Conference, Honorable Mention **Daily Herald** DuPage All-Area, and Special Mention **Chicago Sun-Times** All-Area, plus postseason Area Top 100 Players on 6-5 state Class 8A playoff unit for coach Joe Bunge as a senior. Made 6-of-10 FGs and 29-of-30 PATs for 47 points and punted 35 times for 1,445 yards (41.3 ypp.) (2003). Booted career-long 47-yard field goal vs. Wheaton North (9-19-03) and tallied career-high 16 kick-scoring points vs. West Aurora (9-12-03). Kicked 3-of-5 FGs and 27-of-29 PATs for 36 points as a junior. Boomed 85 percent of kickoffs into end zone as a senior—including 7-of-8 touchbacks vs. Glenbard East (10-10-03). Transferred from Wheaton Warrenville South after frosh year. **Birthdate (Age):** 11-4-85 (20). **Major:** Finance.

### Statistics:

Kick Scoring	Year	GP	PAT	Consec	FG-A	LK	Pts.
	2004	12	51-52	44*	16-21	47	99
	Career	12	51-52	44*	16-21	47	99

(\*—Last 44 consecutive PATs of the season)

FGs by Range	Year	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
	2004	0-0	7-7	7-10	2-4	0-0
	Career	0-0	7-7	7-10	2-4	0-0

### Chris Nendick Game-by-Game

	PATs	FGs	(good bold)
Maryland (9-4-04)	1-1	1-1	<b>21</b>
Southern Illinois (9-11-04)	2-2	3-4	<b>36 39 35 25</b>
Iowa State (9-18-04)	5-6	0-0	
Bowling Green St. (9-24-04)	4-4	2-2	<b>25 29</b>
Akron (10-2-04)	7-7	0-0	
Central Florida (10-9-04)	3-3	3-4	<b>43 24 28 39</b>
Central Michigan (10-16-04)	6-6	0-0	
Western Michigan (10-23-04)	8-8	1-1	<b>28</b>
Ball State (10-30-04)	5-5	1-2	<b>35 41</b>
Toledo (11-9-04)	2-2	1-1	<b>47</b>
Eastern Michigan (11-20-04)	4-4	2-3	<b>36 34 38</b>
Troy (12-30-04)	4-4	2-3	<b>30 42 39</b>



Chris Nendick (25), PK



## Dan Nicholson

Chicago / Brother Rice  
Quarterback  
6-2 ● 187 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Best QB arm in Joe Novak tenure? **NIU:** Shares No. 3 spot at QB with Britt Davis on August deeps (2005).

Completed 4-of-10 for 35 yards and one TD (16-yarder) in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 29-inch vertical jump, 200-pound power clean, and 310-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Joe Novak:** "Britt Davis and Dan Nicholson have tremendous potential. Dan might have the best throwing arm of any quarterback in my tenure." **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Listed as No. 7 QB last August. **Prep:** Regarded as top performer in Catholic League. Set numerous school single-season and career passing records. Lettered in football (3) and basketball (2).

Threw for BRHS-record 3,120 yards on 242-of-408 passes (.591 pct.) as a junior and a senior. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team Catholic League All-Blue Division, recipient of Tony Lawless Award as league MVP, First-Team **Star Newspapers** All-Area, **Reporter Newspapers** Area Player of the Year, First-Team **Daily Southtown** All-Area, Special Mention **Chicago Sun-Times** All-Area and postseason Area Top 100 Players, Special Mention **Chicago Tribune** All-State, First-Team **Champaign News-Gazette** All-State, and **PrepStar** magazine All-America (January, 2004) for coach Steve Nye as a senior. Cited on preseason **Chicago Sun-Times** and **Chicago Tribune** league and area top player lists, plus **The Sporting News** "The Next 100 Players to Watch" All-Midwest ratings and **Street & Smith's** "Other Prep Seniors to Watch."

Completed 134-of-225 passes (.596 pct.) for 1,960 yards, 22 TDs, and only five interceptions, plus accounted for 2,070 yards total offense and 27 TDs on 11-2 state Class 8A playoff semifinalist (2003). Hit 17-of-35 passes for 212 yards and two TDs in state semis vs. Lockport (11-22-03). Threw for 256 yards and one TD on 17-of-34 passes in state quarterfinals vs. Hinsdale Central (11-15-03). Connected on 107-of-183 passes for 1,160 yards, 12 TDs, and six interceptions on 6-5 Class 8A playoff unit as a junior. Earned First-Team All-Area accolades from **Star Newspapers** and **Daily Southtown** (2002). Honor Roll student.

**Personal:** Brett Favre fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 1-6-86 (19). **Major:** Marketing.



# PLAYER PROFILES



86

## Jake Nordin-★

Lake Lillian, MN /  
Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City  
Tight End  
6-4 ● 253 ● Junior

**Pronunciation:** NOR-deen. **Scoop:** Muscle beach "lifting" fanatic. Trains with NT Brad Benson. **NIU:** Opens camp as No. 1 TE (2005). Made two receptions for seven yards in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 21 reps with 225 pounds, 30-inch vertical jump, 280-pound power clean, 360-pound bench press, and 450-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Played 704 snaps in 21 appearances (2002-04). **2005 Preseason:** Projected as Third-Team All-MAC pick by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. **2004:** Won first letter with six starts at "R" (hybrid FB-TE) and 638 overall snaps (482 on offense and 156 on special teams) in 12 games. Finished No. 5 in team receiving (14 catches for 122 yards). Made first two 1-A catches (for 15 yards) in initial start vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Caught career-high four passes for 50 yards vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Added three grabs for 11 yards on ESPN2 vs. Toledo (11-9-04). Pulled in two passes for 19 yards on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Went career-high 73 snaps vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Contributed on KOR, placement, and punt units. Began year as No. 1 "R." **2003:** Played 66 overall snaps (26 on offense and 40 on special teams) in nine games. Made travel roster five times. Performed season-high 15 snaps vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Started August as No. 2 "R." Switched jersey number from No. 49 to No. 86 in spring. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career as No. 5 FB. **Prep:** Produced 318 career tackles at MLB and 58 catches for 752 yards and nine TDs at wingback (1998-2001). Named team captain, Most Valuable Defensive Player and Offensive Back, First-Team All-212 Conference, First-Team *West Central Tribune* All-Area, and First-Team AP All-State on 14-0 league and Class 2A Minnesota State High School League champs as a senior for coach Terry Karlsgodt. Notched 144 tackles and 11 QB sacks at MLB and 557 ground yards and 13 TDs in 100 attempts, plus nine catches for 121 yards and two TDs at WB (2001). Completed 3-of-5 passes for 130 yards and two TDs in final year. Won First-Team All-212 Conference and All-Area honors on 9-2 loop champ with 107 tackles and 21 catches for 210 yards and four TDs as a junior. Set school single-game tackle record (30) vs. Hortonville (2000). Caught 28 passes for 401 yards and three TDs—including a school-record 80-yarder vs. MACCRAY (1999)—as a soph. Booted 30-of-41 PAT kicks in first two years (1998-99) and averaged 34.1 yards on 15 punts for 512 yards (2000). Lettered in football (4), basketball (2), and track (3). All-Area shot putter with 54-foot outdoor best as a junior. National Honor Society member. **Birthdate (Age):** 7-8-84 (21). **Major:** Communications.

**Statistics:**

Receiving	Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
	2003	9	0	0	0.0	0	0
	2004	12	14	122	8.7	0	18
	Career	21	14	122	8.7	0	18



95

## Robert Oruche-★

Bensenville / Fenton  
Defensive End  
6-2 ● 241 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** OH-rew-shey. **Scoop:** Quality walk-on back-up. **NIU:** Reports to August drills as No. 3 LE (2005). Missed spring practice due to left ankle surgery. **Chart:** Produced 11 reps with 225 pounds, 330-pound bench press, and 385-pound back squat in modified off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Awarded first letter with 108 overall snaps (105 on defense and three on special teams) in eight games. Finished No. 12 in team QB hurries-pressures (three) and tied for No. 24 in tackles (six). Made 1-A debut with four snaps and one QB hurry vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Collected career-best three stops in season-high 27 plays on ESPN2 vs. Toledo (11-9-04). Credited with one tackle apiece vs. Akron (10-2-04), vs. Central Florida (10-9-04), and vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Made travel roster seven times. Participated on punt return unit. Began year as No. 3 RE. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. **Prep:** Lettered in football (2). Named team captain and defensive line MVP as a senior for coach Mark Carmen. Doubled as TE-DE. Honor Roll student. **Hobby:** Drawing. **Birthdate (Age):** 5-7-85 (20). **Major:** General Studies.

**Statistics:**

Defense	Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Fum Rec.	Int.
	2004	8	0	6	6	0/0	0	0/0
	Career	8	0	6	6	0/0	0	0/0



Jake Nordin (86), TE



93

## Zach Osburn

Holland, MI / West Ottawa  
Defensive End  
6-5 ● 240 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Zach on "the edge." **NIU:** Heads into August practice as No. 4 LE on deepes (2005). Credited with four tackles and one assist in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 270-pound bench press and 350-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career as No. 5 RE. **Prep:** Repeat All-State selection with school-record 345 tackles in last two years. Lettered in football (3) and basketball (3). Two-year, two-way regular at center and LB. Cited on *PrepStar* magazine All-Midwest Region team (January, 2004). Named team captain, First-Team All-Ottawa-Kent Conference, First-Team *Grand Rapids Press* Dream Team, First-Team Michigan High School Athletic Association Class A (Large Schools) All-State, and First-Team AP All-State on 8-3 league runner-up and MHSAA Division I playoff unit for coach Jim Caserta as a senior. Posted school-record 182 single-season tackles (61 solo and 121 assists), plus 12 pass deflections and six QB sacks (2003). Earned First-Team All-OKC, First-Team *Grand Rapids Press* Dream Team, and Honorable Mention MHSAA All-State with 163 stops and three pass interceptions on an 8-3 eleven as a junior. Named Honorable Mention All-OKC and First-Team All-Area with 14.0 ppg. scoring average on hardwood as a junior (2002-03). Honor Roll student and National Honor Society member. **Birthdate (Age):** 8-2-85 (20). **Major:** Physical Education.



Robert Oruche (95), DE

# PLAYER PROFILES



5

## Marcus Perez-★

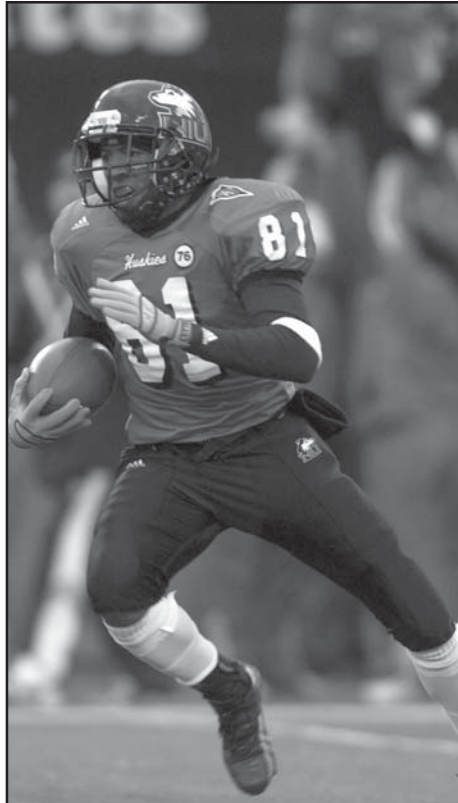
Elkhart, IN / Central  
Wide Receiver  
5-10 ● 170 ● Sophomore

**Scoop A:** First non-Northern Illinois QB to throw TD pass since TB Ivory Bryant hit FLK Justin McCareins on a 27-yard TD strike vs. Ohio (11-1-97). **Scoop B:** Traded jersey No.81 for No.5 (2005). **NIU:** Opens August drills as No.2 FLK (2005). Sidelined by broken hand and concussion in spring. **Chart:** Posted 30-inch vertical jump and 250-pound back squat in modified off-season conditioning program (2005). **2005 Preseason:** Projected as Second-Team All-MAC kick return specialist by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. **2004:** Won first letter as true frosh with three starts and 235 overall snaps (205 on offense and 30 on defense) in 12 games. Finished No.1 in team pass completion percentage (1.000 on 1-of-1), No.3 in KO returns (seven for 145 yards), No.6 (tie) in receiving (10 for 166), and No.7 (tie) in rushing (three yards). Made career-high three catches for 61 yards and threw third-longest pass of year—61-yard TD to WR Dan Sheldon in 3rd Qt. vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Caught two passes for 48 yards vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Pulled in two for 31 yards in Silicon Valley Football Classic vs. Troy (12-30-04). Grabbed 13-yard reception in 1-A debut vs. No.22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Returned three KOs for 73 yards—including 36-yard season long-gainer—vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Contributed to hands and KO return units. Late National Letter of Intent signee (5-25-04). Began year as No.4 FLK. **Prep:** Ranked among the state's elite Class A (Large School) sprinters in track (2004). Three-sport all-league pick. Lettered in football (2), baseball (2), and track (1). Selected team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Northern Indiana Conference, First-Team *Elkhart Truth* All-Area, and First-Team All-Region on 7-4 loop runner-up and Class 5A state playoff qualifier under coach Mike McClure as a senior. Led team with 40 receptions for 804 yards (20.1 ypr.) and ECHS record 11 TD catches (2003). Caught two TDs vs. LaPorte and vs. Mishawaka—including season-long 65-yard score in Indiana High School Athletic Association playoffs—in last year. Named team Most Valuable Runner in track as a senior. Won 100 (:10.8) and 200-meter (:21.8) league dash crowns, plus anchored loop and Sectional 400-meter relay champs (2004). Placed second in IHSA Sectional 100 (:10.96) and 200 (:22.19), plus fourth in Regional 100 (:11.16) and 200 (:22.34) (2004). Qualified for state in 100 and 200, plus anchored third-place 400-meter relay unit (:42.21), (2004). Named Second-Team All-NIC outfielder in baseball as a junior. Four-year Honor Roll student. **Nickname:** "MpZ." **Birthdate (Age):** 4-15-86 (19). **Major:** Physical Education.

**Statistics:**

Receiving						
Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2004	12	10	166	16.6	0	44
<b>Career</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>

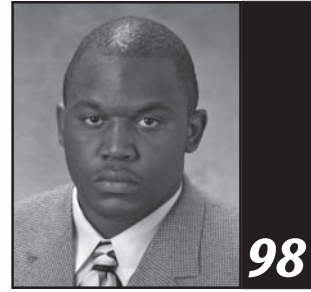
Rushing						
Year	GP	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2004	12	1	3	3.0	0	3
<b>Career</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>



Marcus Perez (81), WR



Eric Pittman (98), DT



98

## Eric Pittman-★ ★

Milwaukee, WI / Vincent  
Defensive Tackle  
6-2 ● 272 ● Junior

**Scoop:** Made most 2003 Northern Illinois single-game D-line tackles with nine vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). **NIU:** Listed as No.1 DT on August two-deeps (2005). Started at DT on No.1 Defense in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 15 reps with 225 pounds, 350-pound bench press, and 375-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns four starts (three at NT and one at DT), 18 tackles, and 261 overall snaps in 13 appearances (2003-04). **2004:** Earned second letter with three starts and 157 snaps (144 on defense and 13 on special teams) in six contests. Wound up No.23 in team tackles (seven). Started first three games of year. Made season-high three stops vs. No.22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Tied career-high in snaps (68) and posted two hits vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Added two tackles vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Missed mid-year games with right knee sprain. Played on punt return and kick block units. Opened year at No.1 NT. **2003:** Won first letter with one start and 104 overall snaps (99 on defense and five on special teams) in seven games. Finished No.23 (tie) in team tackles (11). Made 1-A debut with eight snaps vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Collected first two tackles in 20 snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-11-03). Posted career-high nine hits and 68 snaps in first start (NT) vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Made travel squad five times. Started year at No.2 NT. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career at No.5 NT. **Prep:** Two-time all-league pick on back-to-back city grid champions. Named team captain, Lineman of the Year Award recipient, and Second-Team All-Richardson Division on 8-2 loop and city kingpins, plus state Division I playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Adam Walker. Listed as No.17 college prospect in the state by *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (2002). Played OG, OT, and DT. Blocked for option attack that averaged 37.5 ppg. during senior year. Recorded 48 tackles on 7-3 city champion as a junior. Lettered in football (3). Honor Roll student. **Nickname:** "Pitt." **Birthdate (Age):** 3-23-84 (21). **Major:** Pre-Sociology.

**Statistics:**

Defense						
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	Fum Rec.	Int.
2003	7	6	5	11	0/0	0/0
2004	6	2	5	7	0/0	0/0
<b>Career</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0/0</b>



# PLAYER PROFILES



83



## Shatone Powers--☆☆☆

Broadview / Riverside-Brookfield  
Wide Receiver  
6-0 ● 183 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** First Northern Illinois football-basketball dual-sport performer since WR-G Vaurice Patterson (1991-96).  
**Scoop B:** Master of the end zone fade route. **Scoop C:** Catch man on school's longest 1-A bowl reception. **Scoop D:** How many 1-A WRs score a TD on first career reception?  
**NIU:** Listed as No. 1 "r" (WR) in August deeps (2005). Won start at WR on No. 1 Offense and caught four passes for 33 yards in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted :04.52 timing in 40, 215-pound power clean, 275-pound bench press, and 315-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns 10 starts, 52 receptions for 640 yards (12.3 ypr.) and 11 TDs, plus 1,091 snaps in 32 appearances (2002-04). **Joe Novak:** "Shatone is just exactly like Sam Hurd. Both have tremendous potential. Both can make the big play for us." **2004:** Earned third letter with five starts at FLK and 483 overall snaps in 11 games. Finished No. 4 in team receiving (19 catches for 248 yards and four TDs), No. 4 (tie) in scoring (24 points), and No. 8 (tie) in rushing (three). Caught passes in nine games. Made season-high four receptions for 33 yards and one TD (nine yards) vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Added four catches for for 44 yards and one TD (10 yards) vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Set up TD with 47-yard career long-gainer in 2nd Qt. of Silicon Valley Football Classic vs. Troy (12-30-04)—breaking school 1-A mark set by TE Steve Quinlan (37 yards) in California Bowl vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-17-83). Pulled in two passes for 48 yards and 41-yard TD "Hail Mary" catch with 0:00 left in first half vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Grabbed two passes for 27 yards and one TD (18 yards off deflection) vs. Toledo (11-9-04). Started year as No. 1 FLK. **2004-05 Basketball:** Wore jersey No. 35 and played in two games. Added to roster (2-23-05). Went season-high eight minutes vs. Toledo (3-2-05). **2003:** Won second letter with four starts (three at FLK and one at WR) and 380 overall snaps (379 on offense and one on special teams) in 11 contests. Wound up No. 3 in team receiving (26 grabs for 317 yards and five TDs), and No. 4 in scoring (30 points). Caught 20 of 26 passes in final six games. Made career-best five catches for 54 yards and one TD (11 yards) vs. No. 23 (AP) Bowling Green State (10-25-03), plus four for 36 yards and one TD (eight yards) vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Posted first two-TD catch game (13 and eight yards) vs. Buffalo (11-8-03). Grabbed two passes for 22 yards—including 23-yard go-ahead TD in 3rd Qt.—vs. No. 21 (AP) Alabama (9-20-03). Caught 38-yard season long-gainer and set up TD vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Played one snap on "hands" unit vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Began year at No. 2 FLK. **2002:** Awarded first letter with one start and 228 overall snaps (184 on offense and 44 on special teams) in 10 games. Finished No. 4 in team KO returns (five for 79 yards), No. 6 (tie) in scoring (12 points), No. 6 in rushing (21 yards on three plays), No. 7 in

receiving (seven for 75 yards), and No. 28 (tie) in tackles (three). Made six of seven catches in last three games. Caught fresh-high three passes for 26 yards vs. Toledo (11-23-02). Added two receptions for 36 yards and one TD (18 yards) vs. No. 20 (AP) Bowling Green State (11-9-02). Notched first 1-A catch (seven-yard TD) vs. Ball State (10-5-02). Began year as No. 6 FLK. **Prep:** Two-sport All-Stater. Made 117 receptions as a senior and obliterated IHSA single-season catch record set by ex-Northern Illinois teammate and WR P.J. Fleck (95 in 1998). Recipient of **Chicago Tribune** Outstanding Achievement Award (2002). Named team captain, First-Team Suburban Prairie Conference All-White Division, First-Team **Chicago Sun-Times** All-Area, First-Team Big Schools All-State, and Area Top 100 Recruits (2002), First-Team **Chicago Tribune** All-State, and First-Team **Champaign News-Gazette** All-State as a senior on 11-1 loop champ and state Class 5A playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Otto Zeman. Led state with 117 catches for 1,449 yards (12.4 ypc.) and 16 TDs in run-and-shoot attack (2001). Caught 30 passes for 417 yards and five TDs in three IHSA playoff games (2001). Caught 10 or more passes six times. Made career-best 17 grabs vs. Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin (2001) and 14 for season-high 267 yards vs. Lemont (9-7-01). Grabbed 10 passes for 199 yards and two TDs in state quarterfinals vs. Joliet Catholic (11-9-01). Opened playoffs with 11 catches for two TDs vs. Holy Cross (10-26-01). Threw one pass for 75-yard gain. Caught 11 passes on 11-1 squad as a junior. Voted First-Team SPC All-White Division, Special Mention **Chicago Sun-Times** All-Area, Special Mention Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-State, and Special Mention **Champaign News-Gazette** All-State averaging 21.0 ppg. on 23-5 quintet (2001-02). Made First-Team SPC All-White Division with 17.0 ppg. stats as a junior. Transferred from Proviso East. **Personal A:** Born in Fort Knox, KY. **Personal B:** Randy Moss man. **Nickname:** "Tone."  
**Birthdate (Age):** 5-9-84 (21). **Major:** Communications.

### Statistics:

#### Receiving

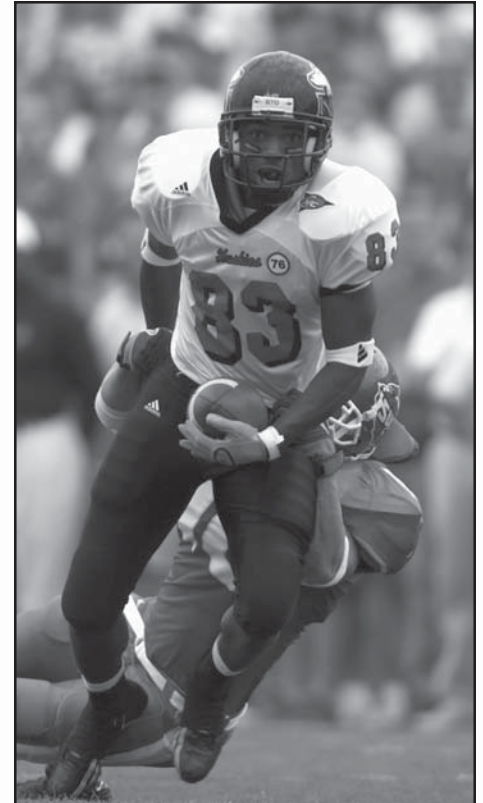
Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	10	7	75	10.7	2	18
2003	11	26	317	12.2	5	38
2004	11	19	248	13.1	4	47
<b>Career</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>47</b>

#### Rushing

Year	GP	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	10	3	21	7.0	0	17
2003	11	1	-1	-1.0	0	—
2004	11	1	3	3.0	0	3
<b>Career</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

#### Kickoff Returns

Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	10	5	75	15.3	0	20
2003	11	0	0	—	0	—
2004	11	0	0	—	0	—
<b>Career</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>



Shatone Powers (83), WR

### Shatone Powers Receiving Game-by-Game

Opponent (Date)	No.	Yds.	TD	LG
Wake Forest (8-29-02)	—	—	—	—
South Florida (9-7-02)	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin (9-14-02)	0	0	0	0
Western Illinois (9-21-02)	0	0	0	0
Kent State (9-28-02)	0	0	0	0
Ball State (10-5-02)	1	7	1	7
Miami (OH) (10-12-02)	0	0	0	0
Central Michigan (10-19-02)	0	0	0	0
Western Michigan (10-26-02)	0	0	0	0
Bowling Green St. (11-9-02)	2	36	1	18
Eastern Michigan (11-16-02)	1	6	0	6
Toledo (11-23-02)	3	26	0	10
Maryland (8-28-03)	0	0	0	0
Tennessee Tech (9-6-03)	1	38	0	38
Alabama (9-20-03)	2	22	1	12
Iowa State (9-27-03)	1	10	0	10
Ohio (10-4-03)	2	17	0	12
Central Michigan (10-11-03)	—	—	—	—
Western Michigan (10-18-03)	2	13	0	7
Bowling Green St. (10-25-03)	5	54	1	19
Ball State (11-1-03)	2	22	0	18
Buffalo (11-8-03)	3	51	2	30
Toledo (11-15-03)	4	54	0	21
Eastern Michigan (11-22-03)	4	36	1	16
Maryland (9-4-04)	0	0	0	0
Southern Illinois (9-11-04)	—	—	—	—
Iowa State (9-18-04)	4	33	1	11
Bowling Green St. (9-24-04)	2	18	0	10
Akron (10-2-04)	2	22	0	13
Central Florida (10-9-04)	4	44	1	25
Central Michigan (10-16-04)	0	0	0	0
Western Michigan (10-23-04)	1	4	0	4
Ball State (10-30-04)	1	5	0	5
Toledo (11-9-04)	2	27	1	18
Eastern Michigan (11-20-04)	2	48	1	41
Troy (12-30-04)	1	47	0	47

# PLAYER PROFILES



22

## Cas Prime

Janesville, WI / Parker  
Tailback  
6-0 ● 229 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** Cass. **Given Name:** Casamiro. **Scoop A:** Catch No. 22. Switched from jersey No. 30 last spring. **Scoop B:** One of two ex-Wisconsin Players of the Year on 2005 Northern Illinois roster (with TB Adrian Davis). **NIU:** Ranked No. 5 TB on preseason deeps (2005). **Chart:** Produced 235-pound power clean, 295-pound bench press, and 395-pound back squat in modified off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Sideline all season due to left knee sprain. Opened year at No. 4 TB. Won start at TB on No. 2 Offense and rushed for 21 yards on eight attempts, plus caught three passes for seven yards in spring game (4-15-04). Changed jersey from No. 46. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Made travel roster vs. Alabama (9-20-03). Reported to camp as No. 8 TB. **Prep:** Two-sport All-Stater. Punishing grid workhorse. Ran for team-high 42 yards and two TDs (four and two yards) on nine carries and led South All-Stars to 28-13 win in Shrine Bowl (7-19-03). Set career city record with 5,331 ground yards and 68 TDs on 794 carries (6.7 ypc.) (2000-02). Three-time All-Big Eight Conference pick. Won 33 of 37 games and unprecedented three league titles. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Big Eight and loop Player of the Year, First-Team AP All-State, First-Team WFC A All-State, and First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State and Player of the Year on 11-1 conference champion and WIAA Division I state playoff quarterfinalist as a senior for coach Joe Dye. Posted 12 100-yard rushing games and finished with 2,193 ground yards and 30 TDs on 289 attempts in final year. Gained 1,846 yards and 23 TDs on 271 carries on 12-1 WIAA Division I playoff semifinalist as a Second-Team All-Big Eight choice in junior year. Produced 1,292 yards and 15 TDs on 234 attempts on 10-2 state quarterfinalist as a soph. Ran for career-high 275 yards vs. West Bend East (2001). Rushed for 205 yards on 31 carries vs. Oak Creek (2002). "Awesome," said Oak Creek head coach Joe Koch. "He's like Emmitt Smith. He doesn't do any East and West stuff. But on the field, you keep asking: 'How did we miss him? How did we miss?'" Lettered in football (3), basketball (1), baseball (1), and track. Named team captain, First-Team All-Big Eight, and Honorable Mention Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association All-State as a senior. Played 2B and led team in home runs (eight), stolen bases (15), RBI (21), batting average (.478), and slugging percentage (.896) (2003). Made diamond Second-Team All-Big Eight as soph. **Birthdate (Age):** 3-16-85 (20). **Major:** Pre-Communications.



Pat Raleigh (80), TE



80

## Pat Raleigh-☆☆

Evergreen Park  
Tight End  
6-4 ● 239 ● Senior

**Scoop:** How many 1-A receivers score a TD on first catch? Northern Illinois boasts two of them. **NIU:** Reports to August camp as No. 2 TE for third straight year (2005). **Chart:** Produced 17 reps with 225 pounds, 27-inch vertical jump, 265-pound power clean, 325-pound bench press, and 390-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns three receptions for 32 yards, six starts (four at FB and two at "Q"), and 653 overall snaps (458 on offense and 195 on special teams) in 32 appearances (2002-04). **2004:** Awarded second letter with 267 overall snaps (185 on offense and 82 on special teams) in 10 games. Finished No. 9 in team receiving (two grabs for 29 yards). Made one reception for 14 yards vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Caught career long-gainer (15-yarder) on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (2-24-04). Went career-high 38 snaps vs. ISU. Played on KOR and kick block units. **2003:** Won first letter with four starts at "Q" (hybrid FB-TE) and 331 overall snaps (229 on offense and 102 on special teams) in 12 contests. Finished No. 11 (tie) in team receiving (one for three yards) and scoring (six points). Made first career catch (three-yard TD) vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Began year as No. 2 TE. **2002:** Started twice at FB and played 55 overall snaps (44 on offense and 11 on special teams) in 10 games. Made first 1-A start and went season-high 19 snaps vs. Wake Forest (8-29-02). Started vs. No. 22 (AP) Wisconsin (9-14-02). Opened year at No. 2 TE. **2001:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Rated No. 4 LE (DE) in August. **Prep:** Collected 203 career tackles and 34 QB sacks (1998-2000). Named team co-captain and defensive MVP, preseason *Chicago Tribune* loop Player to Watch, *Chicago Sun-Times* Area Top 100 Prospect, First-Team Suburban Prairie Conference All-White Division, First-Team *Worth Reporter* All-Area, and First-Team IHSFCA Class 4A All-State for coach Brett Nelson as a senior. Credited with 85 tackles, school single-season record 17 QB sacks, and eight deflections at DE (2000). Made 13 catches for 89 yards and four TDs at TE, plus 66 stops, 15 deflections, and one "pick" at DE as a junior on 8-2 league champ and Class 4A state playoff unit (1999). Notched 57 stops and nine sacks as a soph on 8-4 Class 3A state quarterfinalist (1998). Lettered in football (3) and basketball (2). National Honor Society member with 3.49 cumulative gpa. Ranked No. 5 in graduating class. **Birthdate (Age):** 10-2-82 (23). **Major:** Elementary Education.

### Statistics:

Receiving Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2002	10	0	0	0.0	0	0
2003	12	1	3	3.0	1	3
2004	10	2	29	14.5	0	15
<b>Career</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>



# PLAYER PROFILES



8

## Mark Reiter-☆

New Lenox / Providence  
Free Safety  
6-1 ● 192 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** RY-ter. **Scoop A:** No. 2 returning special teams player. **Scoop B:** Switched DB spot (from SS to FS) and jersey numbers (from No. 43 to No. 17 to No. 8). **NIU:** Listed as No. 2 FS on August deeps (2005). Earned start at FS on No. 2 Defense and responded with two tackles and one deflection in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Logged 26-inch vertical jump, 245-pound power clean, 260-pound bench press, and 335-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Won first letter with 210 overall snaps (204 on special teams and six on defense) in 12 games. Finished No. 3 in team special teams snaps and No. 32 (tie) tackles (three). Made 1-A debut with 18 snaps vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Recorded first hit in 22 snaps vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Went frosh-high 28 snaps and made one stop vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Played 20 snaps—six at SS—and notched hit vs. Akron (10-2-04). Began year as No. 3 FS. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Arrived on campus as No. 4 SS. **Prep:** Unanimous First-Team All-State choice. Started on back-to-back state championship teams that won 28 consecutive games (2001-02). Named team captain, First-Team Catholic League All-Metro Red Division and loop Defensive Player of the Year, First-Team *Star Newspapers* All-Area and Defensive Player of the Year, First-Team *Daily Southtown* All-Area, First-Team *Joliet Herald News* All-Area, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and First-Team Big Schools All-State, preseason *Chicago Tribune* Players to Watch and First-Team All-State, First-Team IHSFCA Class 5A All-State, and First-Team *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State on 14-0 loop and state champs for coach Matt Senffner as a senior. Collected 96 tackles, six interceptions, four blocked kicks, and one fumble-cause hit on defense that posted seven shutouts and limited opposition to 52 total points (3.7 ppg. yield) (2002). Made two stops, one "pick" for nine yards, and one deflection in Class 5A state title game vs. Pontiac (11-31-02). Won Second-Team Catholic League All-Metro Red and Second-Team All-Area honors on 14-0 Class 6A kingpin as a junior. Lettered on teams that won 50 of 55 games. finished as Class 5A runner-up (2000), and made Class 5A semifinals (1999). Earned letters in football (4), basketball (2), baseball (1), and track (1). National Honor Society member, class president, and student council member. **Birthdate (Age):** 10-8-84 (21). **Major:** Management.

**Statistics:**

Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Fum Rec.	Int.
2004	12	3	0	3	0/0	0	0/0
Career	12	3	0	3	0/0	0	0/0

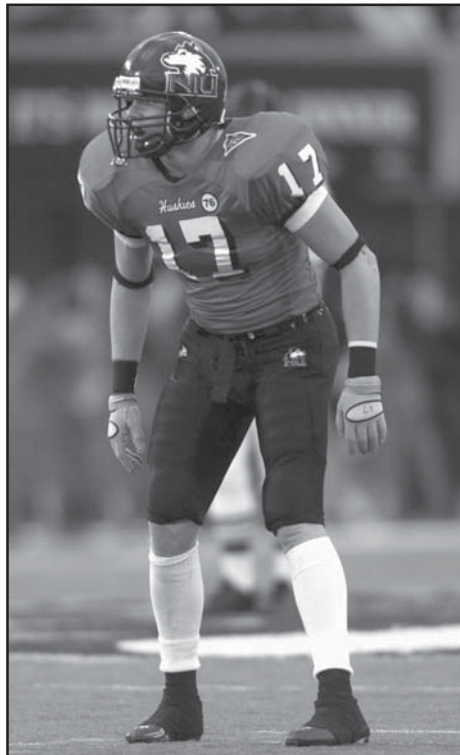


15

## Edgar Rodriguez

Woodstock  
Wide Receiver  
5-10 ● 177 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Fifth-year senior. **Scoop B:** Swapped jersey numbers (from No. 81 to No. 82 to No. 15). **NIU:** Opens August camp as No. 2 "r" (WR) (2005). Made one reception for one-yard gain on No. 2 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Recorded 27-inch vertical jump, 245-pound power clean, 275-pound bench press, and 385-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Fourth-year squad-member (2001, 2003-05). Joined program as walk-on (2001), quit team (2002), and returned (2003). **Prep:** Lettered in football (2). Named team captain, First-Team All-Fox Valley Conference at WR and DB, and First-Team *Northwest Herald* All-Area on 8-4 state Class 5A playoff quarterfinalist as a senior for coach Ed Brucker. Intercepted two passes and returned kickoff for TD in playoffs vs. Rolling Meadows and caught two first-half TD passes vs. Freeport (2000). Won First-Team All-FVC and Second-Team All-Area honors on 5-4 squad as a junior. **Hobby:** Chess. **Birthdate (Age):** 7-11-82 (23). **Major:** Communications.



Mark Reiter(17), FS

*Between the Yard Lines....*

### Tales of the Huskie Tape

**The Tallest:**

- 6-7 — Tony Holmes, OT
- 6-6 — Doug Free, OT
- 6-6 — Kevin Skatrud, OT
- 6-5 — Chris Acevedo, OT
- 6-5 — Jon Brost, OG
- 6-5 — Reed Cunningham, TE
- 6-5 — Grant Dungan, DE
- 6-5 — Jon Ellison, OG
- 6-5 — Zack Holycross, DT
- 6-5 — Zach Osburn, DT
- 6-5 — Jake Wertz, OG
- 6-4 — 17 players

**The Shortest:**

- 5-5 — Adrian Davis, TB
- 5-7 — Montel Clanton, TB
- 5-7 — Sylvester McNutt, CB
- 5-7 — Garrett Wolfe, TB
- 5-8 — Foster Chambers, TB
- 5-8 — Andre Morris, CB
- 5-9 — Jason Baez, P
- 5-9 — Victor Scott, TB
- 5-9 — Deon Smith, CB
- 5-9 — Earnest Streeter, TB

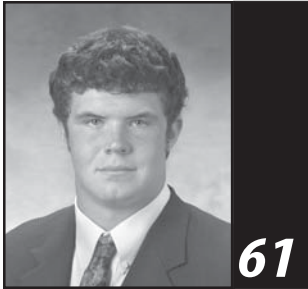
**The Heaviest:**

- 370 — Bryan Holicek, NT
- 323 — Matt Biondi, OG
- 315 — Jake Wetz, OG
- 310 — Tony Holmes, OT
- 310 — Ben Lueck, OG
- 305 — Chris Acevedo, OT
- 300 — Jon Brost, OG
- 295 — Jake Ebenhoch, OG
- 295 — Kevin Skatrud, OT
- 291 — Dan Keller, OT
- 290 — Doug Free, OT

**The Lightest:**

- 160 — Chris Nendick, PK
- 161 — Evans Adonis, WR
- 168 — Jason Baez, P
- 170 — Marcus Perez, WR
- 170 — Preston Williams, WR
- 172 — Andre Morris, CB
- 173 — Vincent Matthew, CB
- 174 — Adriel Hansbro, CB
- 174 — Garrett Wolfe, TB
- 175 — Alvah Hansbro, CB
- 175 — Orlando Moore, WR
- 175 — Bradley Pruitt, CB
- 175 — Melvin Rice, CB
- 175 — Victor Scott, TB

# PLAYER PROFILES

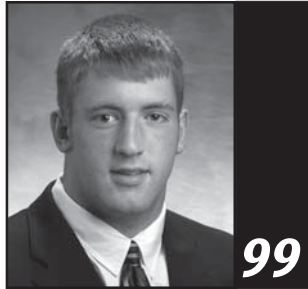


61

## Matt Rogers-☆☆

Lockport / New Lenox Providence  
Offensive Tackle  
6-4 ● 267 ● Junior

**Scoop A:** Celebrated 21st birthday with Silicon Valley Football Classic victory. **Scoop B:** Ex-walk-on with starting O-line experience. **Scoop C:** Joe Novak's "Find of the Spring" (2003). **Scoop D:** Former center and OG. **NIU:** Listed as No. 1 RT on preseason depth chart (2005). Moved from back-up LG to starting RT last spring. **Chart:** Posted 14 reps with 225 pounds, 275-pound power clean, 310-pound bench press, and 410-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns nine starts at LG and 665 overall snaps in 17 appearances (2003-04). **2004:** Earned second letter with 73 overall snaps (all on offense) in five contests as back-up to Second-Team All-MAC OG Ben Lueck. Produced "plus" on 50 of 73 plays, received 77 percent blocking grade, and made three knockdown blocks last fall. Went season-high 23 snaps vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Made travel roster four times. Began year as No. 1 LG. **2003:** Awarded first letter with nine starts at LG and 592 overall snaps (all on offense) in 12 games. Ranked No. 2 in team knockdown blocks (58) behind East-West Shrine Game participant Todd Ghilani (67). Graded "plus" on 436 of 592 plays. Gained first 1-A start vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Played career-high 65 snaps vs. Iowa State (9-27-03). **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh walk-on. Reported to August drills as No. 3 center. **Prep:** Named First-Team Catholic League All-Metro Blue Division, Honorable Mention *Daily Southtown* All-Area, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and Top 100 Prospect (2002), *Chicago Tribune* preseason loop Player to Watch and Special Mention All-State, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State on 14-0 Class 6A state kingpin as a senior for coach Matt Senffner (2001). Lettered in football (3), wrestling (3), and track (1). **Personal:** Ex-prep teammate of Northern Illinois FS Mark Reiter (1999-2001). **Birthdate (Age):** 12-30-83 (21). **Major:** Pre-Sociology.



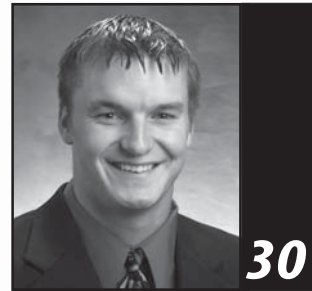
99

## Craig Rusch

Hilbert, WI  
Defensive End  
6-3 ● 236 ● Freshman

**Pronunciation:** Rush. **Scoop:** Makes strength and conditioning coach Matt Mangum smile: "(Craig) trains with true passion." **NIU:** Reports to August camp as No. 3 RE (2005). Earned start at RE on No. 2 Defense and posted two sacks and QB sack in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 23 reps with 225 pounds, 29-inch vertical jump, 300-pound power clean, 370-pound back squat, and 385-pound bench press in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Opened year at No. 4 RE. **Prep:** State runner-up in discus and shot put (2004). Lettered in football (3), basketball (2), and track (4). Earned letters on grid unit that won 37 of 41 games and twice finished as state runner-up. Produced 189 career tackles and 24 QB sacks and blocked for state's all-time leading rusher Mike Firkas (6,721 career yards) (2001-03). Played DT, DE, and OT. Selected team captain, First-Team Olympian Conference on offense and defense, league Co-Defensive Player of the Year, First-Team *Appleton Post-Crescent* All-Area on offense and defense, and First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State on defense and Honorable Mention All-State on offense on 12-1 loop champ and state Division 7 playoff semifinalist as a senior. Credited with 72 overall stops and school-record 15 sacks at DT-DE for coach Mike Morreau (2003). Named First-Team All-OC with 62 tackles and six sacks on 12-2 league and state Division 6 runner-up as a junior. Notched eight stops in WIAA title game vs. St.

Mary's Springs (11-27-02). Posted 55 hits overall for 13-1 league kingpin and state Division 6 runner-up as a soph. Made four tackles in WIAA state championship contest vs. Spring Valley (11-15-01). Placed second in WIAA Division 3 state track finals in both shot put (52-8) and discus (151-3) (2004). Wound up fourth in WIAA Division 3 discus (143-11) as a junior. Reached WIAA Division 3 state basketball "semis" as a reserve on 21-5 quintet as a junior (2002-03). Four-year Honor Roll student and National Honor Society member. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-19-85 (19). **Major:** Mechanical Engineering.



30

## Adam Schlamp

Freeport  
Wide Receiver  
6-2 ● 197 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Walk-on depth at wide out. **NIU:** Reports to August two-a-day practices as No. 3 "r" (WR) (2005). **Chart:** Posted 265-pound bench press and 295-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh squad-member. **Prep:** Lettered in football (3). Two-way regular (WR-FS), two-time captain and MVP. Selected team captain and Most Valuable Player, plus First-Team All-NIC-9 and league Defensive Player of the Year as a senior for coach Cal Cummins. Made 22 receptions for 395 yards (18.0 ypc.) and 10 TDs on 10-1 league champion and state Class 6A playoff qualifier (2003). Caught 24 passes for 356 yards (14.8 ypc.) and four TDs on 9-2 loop kingpin and playoff unit as a junior (2001). Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 9-6-85 (20). **Major:** Pre-Communications.



Matt Rogers (61), OT



# PLAYER PROFILES



92

## Adam Schroeder-★

Loves Park / Rockford Boylan  
Nose Tackle  
6-4 ● 277 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** SHROW-der. **Scoop A:** Made D-line impact as frosh with six starts. **Scoop B:** Former 170-pound high school "bean pole." **NIU:** Listed as No. 3 NT on August deeps (2005). Sidelined by lower back strain during spring. **Chart:** Posted 20 reps with 225 pounds, 28-inch vertical jump, 300-pound power clean, and 375-pound back squat in modified off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Won first letter with six starts at NT and 465 overall snaps (416 on defense and 49 on special teams) in 12 games. Finished No. 2 (tie) in team fumble recoveries (one), No. 6 (tie) in sacks (one), No. 8 in QB hurries-pressures (six), and No. 15 in tackles (20). Recorded two tackles in 1-A debut vs. (No. 22 AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Credited with season-best four stops, one QB hurry, and one TFL in career-high 59 snaps vs. Iowa State (9-18-04). Posted three hits apiece vs. Akron (10-2-04) and vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Produced two hits, two QB hurries-pressures, fumble recovery, and pass deflection vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Netted two stops vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04) and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Made six-yard sack on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Opened year as No. 2 DT. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Reported as No. 3 DT. **Prep:** Ex-Twiggy clone who weighed 170 pounds and won state IHSA Class AA (Large Schools) discus title four years later. Two-sport all-look pick. Posted 141 career stops and 13 TFLs in three grid campaigns (2000-02). Three-time NIC-9 Scholar-Athlete selection. Named team Iron Titan Award recipient and First-Team All-NIC-9 D-line performer on 8-3 eleven that made state Class 6A playoffs as a senior for coach Dan Appino. Two-way regular (TE, DE, DT, and long snapper) in final year. Made eight receptions for 140 yards and one TD on offense, plus recorded 40 tackles, seven TFL, and two fumble-cause hits on defense (2002). Selected team MVP and Honorable Mention All-NIC-9 as a soph (2000). Won All-State honors by winning state discus crown (182-6) (5-31-03). Captured IHSA Sectional discus title (178-1) (5-23-03) and repeated as First-Team All-NIC-9 track selection. Improved discus throw from 142-0 effort as a soph. Qualified for state Class AA finals in discus and wound up second in Sectional (158-8) as a junior. Won back-to-back NIC-9 discus crowns (2002-03). Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-7-84 (21). **Major:** Physical Education.

### Statistics:

Defense					Fum			
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.	Int.	
2004	12	13	7	20	2/8	1	0/0	
Career	12	13	7	20	2/8	1	0/0	

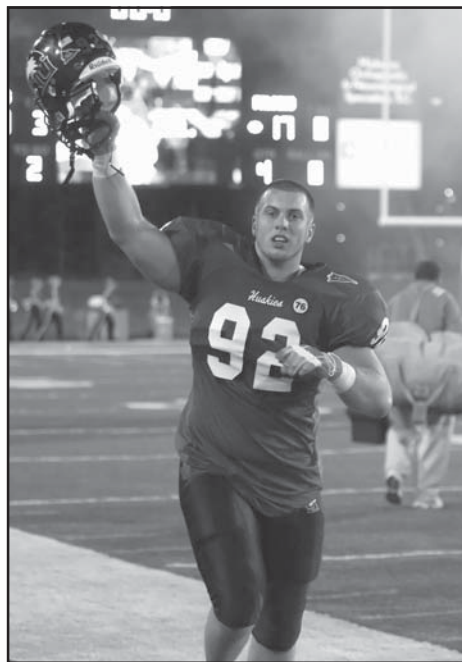


67

## Kevin Serfort

Oak Creek, WI  
Offensive Guard  
6-4 ● 284 ● Sophomore

**Scoop:** Change. Moved from OG to OT to OG (and from jersey No. 57 to No. 67). **NIU:** Listed as No. 3 RG on August deeps (2005). Sidelined this spring by left shoulder injury. Underwent shoulder surgery (January, 2005). **Chart:** Performed cardiovascular workouts due to surgery (2005). **2004:** Made 1-A debut with 10 snaps at OT vs. Akron (10-2-04). Began season as No. 2 RT. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Arrived on campus as No. 4 LG. **Prep:** The human steamroller with 92 "pancake" blocks (7.1 pg. average) and top-notch footwork at OT as a senior. Recruited by Northwestern, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Southeast Conference, First-Team *CNI Newspapers* All-Suburban, First-Team All-Region and All-State, First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-Area and All-State, plus First-Team AP All-State on 11-2 league champion and WIAA Division I state playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Joe Koch. Blocked for an attack that averaged 330.6 ypg. total offense in final campaign. Selected preseason All-Midwest by Rivals.com in *PrepStar* magazine and made "The Next 100" Midwest list in *The Sporting News High School Football* (2002). Ranked No. 8 recruit in the state by *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as a senior. Started on 9-2 Division champion (2001). Selected for WFC North-South Shrine Bowl (2003). Lettered in football (2). Three-year Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 6-27-85 (20). **Major:** Physical Education.



Adam Schroeder (92), NT



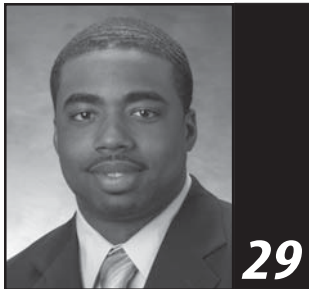
2

## Matt Simon-★

Farmington, MN  
Wide Receiver  
6-1 ● 190 ● Sophomore

**Scoop A:** On the verge. **Scoop B:** One of three Northern Illinois true frosh recruits (23) to win letter last year. **Scoop C:** Numbers game (jersey No. 46, No. 36, and No. 2 in one year). **NIU:** Reports to August camp as No. 2 SE (2005). Earned start at WR on No. 2 Offense and made two receptions for 17 yards in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced :04.6 timing in 40, 275-pound bench press, 285-pound power clean, and 360-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Earned first letter with 117 overall snaps (87 on offense and 30 on defense) in eight games. Played season-high 36 snaps in 1-A debut vs. No. 22 Maryland (9-4-04). Tied for No. 34 in team tackles (two). Notched one stop apiece vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04) and vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Made travel roster seven times. Contributed on KO unit. Opened year as No. 4 SE. **Prep:** Renown for acrobatic catch in state playoffs vs. Hutchinson (2003). Lettered in football (3), basketball (4), and baseball (2). Named First-Team All-State on gridiron and First-Team Academic All-State in classroom. Selected team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Missota Conference, First-Team *St. Paul Pioneer Press* All-Area and All-State, First-Team *Minneapolis Star Tribune* All-Metro and First-Team Minnesota Football Coaches Association All-State on 11-2 league champion and Class 4A state playoff semifinalist for coach Mark Froehling as a senior. Made 52 receptions for 1,000 yards (19.3 ypc.) and 13 TDs and rushed six times for 108 yards—including an 89-yard long-gainer—at WR, plus notched 55 tackles, eight deflections, two fumble recoveries, two fumble-cause hits, and one interception at SS (2003). Tabbed First-Team All-MC and caught 13 passes for 313 yards (24.1 ypc.) and six TDs—including an 81-yard long-gainer—on 9-1 state Class 4A playoff qualifier as a junior (2002). Contributed on special teams as punter and punt returner. Earned All-MC honors at guard in basketball as a junior and lettered as a pitcher in baseball. National Honor Society member. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-4-85 (19). **Major:** Management.

# PLAYER PROFILES



29

## Deon Smith-☆☆☆

University Park / Crete-Monee  
Cornerback  
5-9 ● 183 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Only current Northern Illinois player with blocked punt recovery TD. **Scoop B:** Boasts 400 special teams snaps. **NIU:** Opens camp as No. 2 WSCB (2005). Missed spring drills (2005) and Silicon Valley Football Classic (2004) due to left knee ACL strain. **Chart:** Posted :04.57 timing in 40, 280-pound bench press, and 390-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns 28 tackles and 453 overall snaps (400 on special teams) in 32 appearances (2002-04). **2004:** Won third letter with 176 overall snaps (159 on special teams and 17 on defense) in 11 contests. Wound up No. 1 (tie) in team fumble recoveries (one) and No. 22 in tackles (eight). Tied season-high three stops in 24 snaps vs. Iowa State (9-18-04) and three on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Made one hit vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04) and vs. Akron (10-2-04). Recovered fumble on opposition 27-yard line that led to 3rd. Qt. TD vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Contributed to five special teams units (KO, KOR, punt, punt return, and kick block). Began year as

No. 3 WSCB. **2003:** Awarded second letter with 128 overall snaps (13 on defense and 115 on special teams) in 10 contests. Wound up No. 21 in team tackles (14). Notched career-best four stops and recovered 4th Qt. fumble in season-high 25 snaps vs. Buffalo (11-8-03). Added three tackles vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-003). Collected two hits apiece vs. No. 21 (AP) Alabama (9-20-03) and vs. Central Michigan (10-11-03). Started fall at No. 4 SCSB. **2002:** Earned first letter with 149 overall snaps (126 on special teams and 23 on defense) in 11 games. Tied for No. 8 in team scoring (six points) and No. 22 in tackles (six). Pounced on opposition blocked punt in end zone for go-ahead TD with 3:52 left in 3rd Qt. vs. Western Michigan (10-26-02). Made first 1-A stop vs. No. 22 (AP) Wisconsin (9-14-02). Credited with fumble-cause hit and tackle vs. Eastern Michigan (11-16-02). Netted tackle in career-high 28 snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-19-02). Missed opener vs. Wake Forest (8-29-02) with left hand fracture. Opened year at No. 3 RCB. Switched jersey from No. 44 to No. 29 in spring. **2001:** Red-shirted in true freshman year. Entered program as No. 3 RCB. **Prep:** Named team MVP, First-Team All-SICA Orange Conference, Honorable Mention *Star Newspapers* All-Area, and *Chicago Sun-Times* Area Top 100 Prospects on 6-4 Class 4A state playoff entry for coach Rich Tarka as a senior. Rushed for 1,313 yards and 14 TDs on 130 carries (10.1 ypc.) at TB, plus collected 36 tackles at DB (2000). Set school single-game playoff rushing record with 209 yards (and 80-yard TD run) vs. No. 1 seed Riverside-Brookfield (10-27-00). Won letter on 7-3 Class 5A state playoff entry as a junior. Lettered in football (2) and track (2). Won school Scholar-Athlete Award and made Honor Roll for five straight semesters. **Personal:** No relation to SS Ray Smith. **Birthdate (Age):** 3-1-83 (22). **Major:** Management.

### Statistics:

Defense						Fum	
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.	Int.
2002	11	5	1	6	0/0	0	0/0
2003	10	9	5	14	0/0	1	0/0
2004	11	7	1	8	0/0	1	0/0
<b>Career</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0/0</b>



Deon Smith (29), CB



### Between the Yard Lines....

#### Tales of the Huskie Tape

##### Bench Press (by pounds):

- 430 — Bryan Holicek, NT
- 415 — Brian Van Acker, C
- 400 — Martin Wilson, DT
- 390 — Adrian Davis, TB
- 390 — Jason Labus, LS
- 385 — Craig Rusch, DE
- 380 — Brad Benson, NT
- 375 — Robert McLearn, LB
- 370 — Matt Biondi, OG
- 365 — Erek Benz, DE

##### Power Clean (by pounds):

- 340 — Bryan Holicek, NT
- 340 — Ken West, DE
- 335 — Doug Free, OT
- 330 — A.J. Harris, RB
- 315 — Martin Wilson, DT
- 310 — Quince Holman, DE
- 310 — Jason Hutton, LB
- 310 — Javan Lee, LB
- 300 — Craig Rusch, DE
- 300 — Brian Van Acker, C
- 300 — Adam Schroeder, NT
- 300 — T.J. Griffin, LB

##### Back Squat (by pounds):

- 625 — Bryan Holicek, NT
- 565 — Doug Free, OT
- 530 — Ken West, DE
- 510 — Jason Hutton, LB
- 485 — Foster Chambers, TB
- 465 — Jake Ebenoch, OG
- 465 — Adrian Davis, TB
- 455 — Brad Benson, NT
- 455 — Tim McCarthy, LB
- 450 — Jake Nordin, TE

##### Vertical Jump (by inches):

- 37.0 — Larry English, DE
- 35.0 — Ken West, DE
- 34.0 — Sam Hurd, WR
- 33.0 — Britt Davis, QB
- 33.0 — Garrett Wolfe, RB
- 33.0 — Javan Lee, LB
- 33.0 — Adriel Hansbro, CB
- 33.0 — Alvah Hansbro, CB
- 33.0 — Deon Smith, CB
- 33.0 — Dustin Utschig, SS



# PLAYER PROFILES



48

## Ray Smith-☆☆☆

Crown Point, IN / St. John Lake Central  
Strong Safety  
6-2 • 185 • Senior

**Scoop A:** All-Commonwealth Edison electricity team.  
**Scoop B:** Mid-Am's No. 2 returning pass defender. **Scoop C:** Mr. Catalyst with dreadlocks. **Scoop D:** Registered most Northern Illinois DB single-season tackles since SS Akil Grant (138 in 2002). **NIU:** Listed as No. 1 SS on August deeps for second year in a row (2005). Started at SS on No. 1 Defense and made four tackles in spring game (4-25-05). **Chart:** Posted 29-inch vertical jump, 225-pound power clean, 290-pound bench press, and 330-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Joe Novak:** "Ray's active out there. I really like the way he plays. Ray plays like he has stuck his finger in an electrical socket. He makes things happen." **2005 Preseason:** Ranked No. 36 SS in the nation by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. Projected as First-Team All-MAC pick by CollegeFootballNews.com and *Athlon Sports*, plus Second-Team All-Mid-Am by *Lindy's Big Ten* and *Phil Steele's*. **Career:** Owns five interceptions, eight twin-digit tackle games, 16 starts at SS, 181 tackles, and 1,680 snaps in 36 appearances (2002-04). **2004:** Ranked No. 6 in Mid-Am "passes defended" (1.0 pg.) and No. 14 in loop "picks" (two). Named MAC West Defensive Player of the Week with 14 stops and one deflection vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Rated No. 1 in team forced fumbles (three), No. 1 in deflections (10), No. 2 (tie) in interceptions (two), No. 2 in fumbles recovered (one), No. 3 in tackles (119), and No. 8 in TFL (four). Won third letter with four twin-digit hit games, 12 starts, and 950 overall snaps (865 on defense and 85 on special teams). Earned first MAC POW nomination for career-high 17 tackles and two fumble-cause hits vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Made 16 stops and two deflections on ESPN2 vs. Toledo (11-9-04). Recorded 10 tackles, one TFL, and 68-yard interception return TD—the program's first such "pick" TD play since 2001—vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Added eight tackles and season-high three deflections vs. Central Michigan (10-23-04). Netted seven stops vs. Troy (12-30-04). Played on punt return and KOR units. **2003:** Earned second letter with four starts at SS and 501 overall snaps (274 on defense and 227 on special teams) in 12 games. Ranked No. 3 in team special teams snaps, No. 3 in pass interceptions (three), and No. 10 in tackles (57). Set up 2nd Qt. TD with interception, added season-high 14 stops, and made fumble-cause hit vs. Buffalo (11-8-03). Made 4th Qt. "pick" that led to TD, 13 tackles, and two deflections vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Notched 113 stops and TFL vs. Toledo (11-15-03). Recovered fumble and registered nine stops in first start vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Blocked enemy punt that was recovered in end zone for TD (by FS Devron Francis) and posted two tackles vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03). Notched 49 stops (12.3 pg.) and 258 snaps in final four games subbing for injured SS Akil Grant. Opened year as No. 2 SS. **2002:** Awarded first letter with 229 overall snaps (218

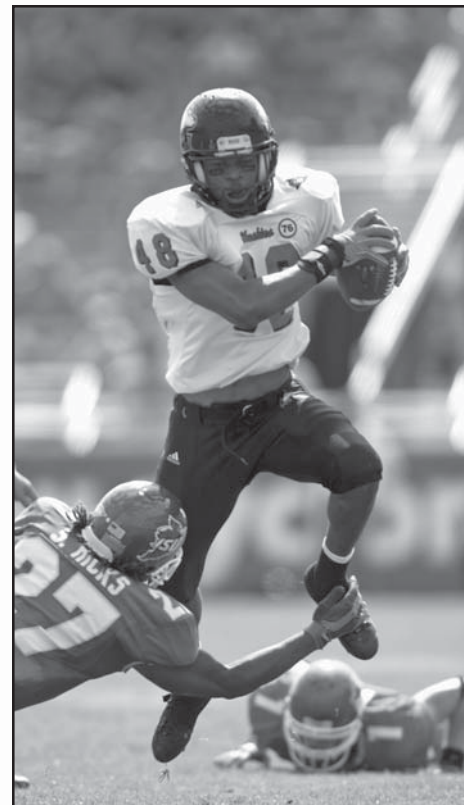
on special teams and 11 on defense) in 12 contests. Rated No. 5 in NIU special teams snaps, and No. 20 in tackles (10). Posted season-high two stops vs. Central Michigan (10-19-02) and vs. No. 20 (AP) Bowling Green State (11-9-02). Recorded first 1-A hit in 17-snap debut vs. Wake Forest (8-29-02). Opened fall as No. 2 SS. **2001:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career at No. 6 FS. **Prep:** Collected 184 career tackles, 39 deflections, and seven interceptions (1998-2000). Named team co-captain, Sportsmanship Award recipient, defensive MVP, and overall MVP, preseason Honorable Mention *Street & Smith's* All-America, First-Team *Hammond Times* All-Area, Honorable Mention Indiana Football Coaches Association All-State, and First-Team *Bloomington Herald-Times* All-State on 8-4 eleven as a senior for coach Elmer Britton. Led team with 93 tackles and added 14 deflections, two pass thefts, and two blocked kicks (2000). Selected Honorable Mention *Gary Post-Tribune* All-Area and First-Team *Hammond Times* All-Area with 58 stops and 15 deflections as a junior. Lettered in football (3). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** No relation to CB Deon Smith. **Birthdate (Age):** 7-21-83 (22). **Major:** Mathematics Education.

### Statistics:

Defense						
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Fum Rec. Int.
2002	12	8	2	10	0/0	0 0/0
2003	12	32	25	57	2/2	1 3/44
2004	12	83	31	114	4/8	1 2/83
<b>Career</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>6/10</b>	<b>2 5/127</b>

### Ray Smith Game-by-Game

Opponent (Date)	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL
Wake Forest (8-29-02)	1	0	1	0/0
South Florida (9-7-02)	1	0	1	0/0
Wisconsin (9-14-02)	0	0	0	0/0
Western Illinois (9-21-02)	0	1	1	0/0
Kent State (9-28-02)	0	0	0	0/0
Ball State (10-5-02)	1	0	1	0/0
Miami (OH) (10-12-02)	1	0	1	0/0
Central Michigan (10-19-02)	2	0	2	0/0
Western Michigan (10-26-02)	0	0	0	0/0
Bowling Green St. (11-9-02)	1	1	2	0/0
Eastern Michigan (11-16-02)	1	0	1	0/0
Toledo (11-23-02)	0	0	0	0/0
Maryland (8-28-03)	0	0	0	0/0
Tennessee Tech (9-6-03)	0	2	2	0/0
Alabama (9-20-03)	1	0	1	0/0
Iowa State (9-27-03)	0	1	1	0/0
Ohio (10-4-03)	2	0	2	0/0
Central Michigan (10-11-03)	0	0	0	0/0
Western Michigan (10-18-03)	2	0	2	0/0
Bowling Green St. (10-25-03)	8	4	12	0/0
Ball State (11-1-03)	5	4	9	1/1
Buffalo (11-8-03)	6	8	14	0/0
Toledo (11-15-03)	8	5	13	1/1
Eastern Michigan (11-22-03)	8	5	13	0/0
Maryland (9-4-04)	13	4	17	1/4
Southern Illinois (9-11-04)	11	3	14	0/0
Iowa State (9-18-04)	8	2	10	1/1
Bowling Green St. (9-24-04)	5	2	7	0/0
Akron (10-2-04)	4	1	5	0/0
Central Florida (10-9-04)	5	3	8	1/2
Central Michigan (10-16-04)	5	4	9	0/0
Western Michigan (10-23-04)	7	1	8	0/0
Ball State (10-30-04)	7	2	9	1/1
Toledo (11-9-04)	12	4	16	0/0
Eastern Michigan (11-20-04)	2	2	4	0/0
Troy (12-30-04)	4	3	7	0/0



Ray Smith (48), SS



## Cole Spencer

Powell, OH / Lewis Center Olentangy  
Tight End  
6-4 ● 215 ● Freshman

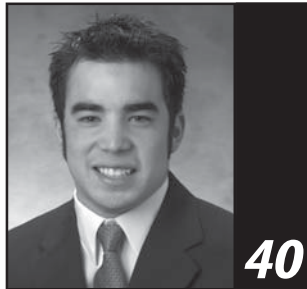
**Scoop:** Walk-on with celebrated football genes and potential. **NIU:** Listed as No. 3 R (hybrid FB-TE) on August depth chart (2005). **Chart:** Produced 31-inch vertical jump, 240-pound power clean, 315-pound bench press, and 325-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh squad-member. **Prep:** Lettered in football (2). Selected team Most Improved Player Award on 6-4 squad for coach Ed Terwilliger as a senior (2003). Went from undersized freshman to two-year regular at tight end. Made nine receptions for 220 yards (24.4 ypr.) and one TD in final campaign. Said Terwilliger: "His best days are ahead of him at NIU." Elevated to varsity as a soph. **Personal:** His father Tim Spencer is in second season as runningbacks coach with the NFL Chicago Bears. Spencer played in the USFL with Chicago (1983), Arizona (1984), and Memphis (1985) before signing with the NFL San Diego Chargers (1985-90). During 1994-2003, he coached the runningbacks at his Ohio State alma mater—producing six 1,000-yard rushers including Eddie George and Maurice Clarett. As a player, Spencer was the Buckeyes' co-captain and MVP as a senior. He finished third on the all-time Ohio State rushing list with 3,553 career ground yards. **Birthdate (Age):** 7-18-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



## Earnest Streeter

Chicago / Kenwood  
Tailback  
5-9 ● 188 ● Freshman

**Scoop:** Walk-on depth at TB. **NIU:** Reports to August two-a-days practice as No. 8 TB (2005). Played for No. 2 Offense and carried once for four-yard gain in spring game (4-23-05). Joined program last spring. **Prep:** Two-sport Most Valuable Performer and captain. Lettered in football (2) and track (4). Selected captain and MVP, First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section, and City All-Star Game participant as a senior on the gridiron. Won First-Team All-Section accolades on 7-3 loop champ and city playoff squad as a junior. **Personal:** Eric Dickerson and Jim Brown fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 2-8-85 (20). **Major:** Physical Education



## William Tsutsumi

Arlington Heights / Mt. Prospect Prospect  
Linebacker  
6-0 ● 190 ● Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** Toot-sue-mee. **Scoop:** Father Wayne Tsutsumi lettered at Northern Illinois as a ILB for head coach Doc Urich in 1969. **NIU:** Listed as No. 3 SLB on preseason depth chart (2005). Played on No. 2 Defense and notched five-yard QB sack in spring game (4-23-05). **Prep:** Named team captain, First-Team All-Mid-Suburban League and First-Team *Daily Herald* Northwest All-Area on 11-2 MSL East Division kingpin and state Class 7A playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Brent Pearlman. Described by *Daily Herald* as "defensive leader." Produced 113 tackles, seven pass deflections, five QB sacks, three fumble-cause hits, and two fumble recoveries in final campaign. Lettered on 12-2 Class 7A state championship squad as a junior (2002). Set school Power Clean Strength Index record (2003). **Birthdate (Age):** 6-4-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



## Averill Sutchar

Hanover Park / Bartlett  
Linebacker  
5-10 ● 215 ● Sophomore

**Scoop A:** Another walk-on with state-wide accolades and statistics. **Scoop B:** Dedicated "lifter" with 400-pound back squat and 600-pound dead lift. **Scoop C:** Makes big platoon change (RB to LB). **NIU:** Listed as No. 6 WLB on preseason depth chart (2005). Transferred from Augustana (IL) College. **AC:** Named Most Valuable Freshman Offensive Player on 7-3 squad for coach Jim Barnes (2004). Wound up No. 5 in team kickoff returns (two for 14 yards), No. 6 in rushing (245 yards and two TDs on 47 attempts), No. 7 in scoring (12 points), and No. 7 in all-purpose yardage (259) last year. Rushed for season-high 91 yards on 12 carries vs. Elmhurst College. **Prep:** Repeat All-Area selection with 2,465 ground yards and 28 TDs as an upperclassman (2002-03). Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Upstate Eight Conference and loop MVP, First-Team *Elgin Courier-News* All-Area and Area Player of the Year, First-Team *Daily Herald* Fox Valley All-Area and honorary team co-captain, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, preseason *Chicago Tribune* league Player to Watch, and First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 8A All-State on 6-4 league champ and state playoff qualifier as a senior. Led Fox Valley area in rushing (school-record 1,499 yards and 22 TDs on 277 carries) and scoring (132 points) for coach Tom Meaney (2003). Ran for two TDs and 187 yards on 44 carries vs. Conant (2003). Selected team MVP, First-Team All-UEC, and First-Team *Daily Herald* All-Area on 7-4 conference kingpin and playoff unit as a junior. Ranked No. 3 in area rushing (966 yards and six TDs on 138 attempts) in first varsity campaign (2002). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Born in Fort Collins, CO. **Birthdate (Age):** 5-26-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.



# PLAYER PROFILES



75

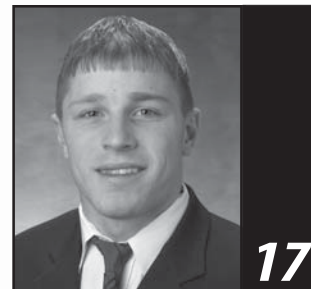
## Ryan Tuggle

Bartlett  
Center  
6-4 ● 258 ● Freshman

**Scoop A:** Went from OG to NT to OG to center in 365 days.  
**Scoop B:** Played with Northern Illinois basketball standouts Zach Pancrantz and Craig Reichel on AAU quintet that finished 13th in the country as an eighth grader. **NIU:** Reported to camp as No. 2 center. Earned start at center for No. 2 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). **2004:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Made travel roster four three times—vs. Maryland (9-4-04), vs. Iowa State (9-18-04), vs. Ball State (10-30-04), and vs. Troy (12-30-04). Opened year as No. 4 RG.  
**Prep:** Two-sport All-Area pick. Lettered in football (3) and basketball (3). Versatile, multi-position player (OT, TE, DT, DE, and long snapper). Ranked as No. 23 prospect among Rivals.com Illinois Top 25 (2003) and No. 11 recruit in MAC by *Athlon Sports* (2004). Named team co-captain, team Best Competitor Award recipient, First-Team All-Upstate Eight Conference, First-Team *Daily Herald* Tri-Cities and Fox Valley All-Area, First-Team *Elgin Courier-News* All-Area, preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* UEC Player to Watch and Area Top 100 Players, preseason *Chicago Tribune* league Top Five Players and Area Top 100 Players, plus Special Mention All-State at receiver, and Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State at DT for coach Tom Meaney as a senior. Blocked for offense that averaged 253 yards rushing, plus anchored defense that authored six straight UEC shutouts (2003). Made eight receptions for 115 yards and one TD at TE, 24 "pancake" blocks at OT, and 44 tackles on defense on 6-4 league champ and Class 8A playoff entry in final year. Selected Second-Team All-UEC, First-Team *Daily Herald* Tri-Cities and Fox Valley All-Area, and First-Team *Elgin Courier News* All-Area as a junior on 7-4 loop co-champ that recorded school's first state grid playoff triumph (2002). Played on three straight UEC title teams. Cited First-Team All-Area cager as a junior. Honor Roll student. **Nickname:** "Tugz." **Birthdate (Age):** 10-13-85 (20). **Major:** Pre-Communications.



Huskie Stadium



17

## Greg Turner

Glendale Heights / Addison Driscoll  
Wide Receiver  
6-1 ● 176 ● Freshman

**Scoop A:** The next P. J. Fleck? **Scoop B:** Second Northern Illinois NCAA student-athlete "grey-shirt." Deferred his admission into school until January (2005) to maintain his fifth season of eligibility if needed. **NIU:** Listed as No. 3 FLK on August deeps. Caught four passes for 81 yards (20.1 ypr.), game-best two TDs (16 and 20 yards), and 36-yard long-gainer in spring finale (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced :04.57 timing in 40, 200-pound power clean, and 305-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Prep:** Two-year consensus All-Stater, two-time state Player of the Year, and three-time Class 4A state champion. Named team captain, First-Team All-Suburban Catholic Conference and league Player of the Year, First-Team *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area, Second-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State, First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 4A All-State, First-Team *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, plus First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, First-Team Small Schools All-State, and Small Schools (Class 1A-4A) State Player of the Year on 14-0 loop and state Class 4A state champion for coach Tim Racki as a senior. Described by the *Daily Herald* as "quadruple threat as runningback, wideout, free safety, and kick returner...makes teammates better and bottom line, scores TDs." Tallied single-season school record 37 TDs as a senior (28 at WR, eight at RB, and one via KO return). Scored TDs on .596 percent of catches (47 receptions for 1,100 yards, 23.4 ypc., 75-yard long-gainer, and 28 TDs in 2004). Added 60 tackles, 15 deflections, and 10 "picks" at FS last year. Tabbed First-Team All-SCC, First-Team *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, First-Team IHSFCA All-State, plus Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, First-Team Small Schools All-State, and Small Schools State Player of the Year on 13-1 Class 4A kingpin as a junior. Caught 43 passes for 1,000 yards and 15 TDs on 13-1 state champ (2002). Made 35 grabs for 535 yards and 13 TDs on 12-2 Class 4A titlist as soph. Pulled in 125 career passes for 2,635 yards and 56 TDs (2001-03). Said head coach Tim Racki: "I'm spoiled." Letterer in football (3) and basketball (4). Named three-time Suburban Catholic Conference Player of the Year on hardwood. **Nickname:** "Big Red." **Birthdate (Age):** 11-6-85 (20). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

# PLAYER PROFILES



## Zach Ullrich

Winfield / Wheaton North  
Quarterback  
6-0 • 190 • Sophomore

**Pronunciation:** ULL-rich. **Scoop A:** One of strength & conditioning coach Matt Mangum's favorites in the weight room. **Scoop B:** Represents first year that Northern Illinois has played three QBs in one season since 2000. **Scoop C:** Committed to Northern Illinois minutes after 26-17 victory over No. 20 (AP) Bowling Green State (11-9-02). **NIU:** Opens camp as No. 2 QB (2005). Started at QB on No. 2 Offense, completed 2-of-6 passes for 12 yards, and rushed for 23 yards on seven carries in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted 29-inch vertical jump, 255-pound bench press, 255-pound power clean, and 355-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Two-year squad-member (2003-04). Participated in 16 snaps in three appearances. Made 1-A debut with six snaps and hit 1-of-2 passes for eight yards in 4th Qt. vs. Akron (10-2-04). Went career-high nine snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Played one snap vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Listed as No. 3 QB and No. 2 holder on PK duty. Made travel roster seven times. Earned start at QB on No. 2 Defense, hit 8-of-9 passes for 37 yards, and gained 30 yards on three attempts in spring game (4-15-04). Began year as No. 3 QB. **2003:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Made travel roster three times—including vs. Alabama (9-20-03). Arrived on campus as No. 6 QB. **Prep:** Recruited by Indiana, Cincinnati, Air Force, and Ball State. Called "show-stopper" by *Chicago Tribune* in 2002 IHSA playoff preview: "Exhibits more poise under pressure than any QB in the state and can deliver the goods downfield." Wrote the *Daily Herald*: "...a stunning combination of talent and leadership." Led WNHS to Class 8A state semifinals two straight autumns (2001-02). Completed 361-of-584 passes (.618 pct.) for 4,644 yards and 44 TDs—all school records. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-DuPage Valley Conference and league MVP, First-Team DVC All-Academic, First-Team *Wheaton Leader* All-Area and Player of the Year, First-Team *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, and First-Team IHSFCA Class 8A All-State on 12-1 loop champ and state playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Matt Foster. Produced 2,835 yards total offense (180-of-297 passes for 2,412 yards and 24 TDs and 423 yards on 148 carries) in final year. Converted 22-of-25 PAT kicks and punted 18 times for 653 yards (36.3 ypp.) (2002). Hit 20-of-35 passes for 222 yards and two TDs, plus added 98 ground yards in state semis vs. Stevenson (11-23-02). Threw for 193 yards, plus ran for 98 more and three TDs vs. Lake Park (11-16-02). Made team captain and MVP, Special Mention All-DVC, and First-Team *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area on 9-4 state semifinalist as a junior. Connected on 165-of-263 passes for 1,982 yards and 17 TDs (2001). Lettered in football (3). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Brett Favre fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 10-29-84 (21). **Major:** Marketing.



## Dustin Utschig-☆☆

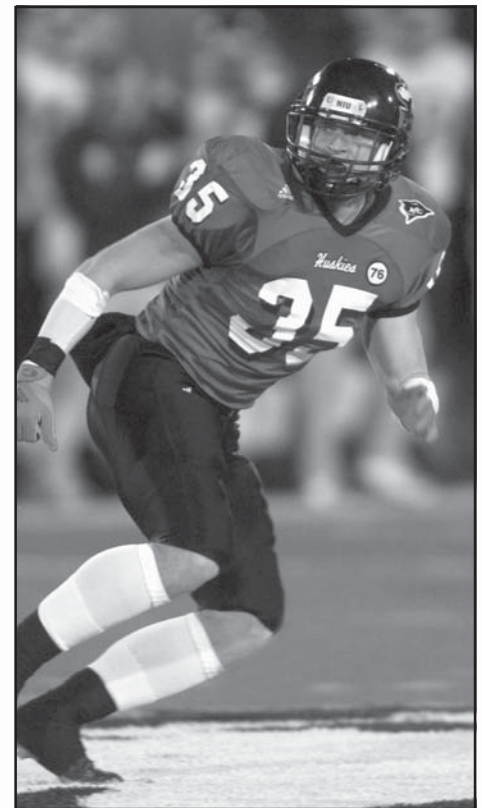
Winneconne, WI / Fox Valley Lutheran  
Strong Safety  
5-11 • 189 • Junior

**Pronunciation:** UT-shick. **Scoop:** Mr. Huskie Special Teams. Led team in special teams snaps (285 in 2003) and ranked No. 2 in that department (219 in 2004) last fall. Voted game Special Teams MVP in Silicon Valley Football Classic for blocking punt in 2nd. Qt. that led to field goal and first Northern Illinois lead (17-14) vs. Troy (12-30-04). **NIU:** Moved into No. 1 FS spot on preseason deeps (2005). Won start at FS on No. 1 Offense and made six tackles in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted :04.54 timing in 40, 16 reps with 225 pounds, 33-inch vertical jump, 265-pound power clean, 325-pound bench press, and 375-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns 30 tackles, 528 overall snaps (504 on special teams) in 22 appearances (2003-04). **2004:** Earned second letter with 226 overall snaps (219 on special teams and seven on offense) in 10 games. Ranked No. 1(tie) in team blocked kicks (one), No. 2 (tie) in punt returns (one for 16 yards) and No. 17 in tackles (13). Collected soph-best three tackles in season-high 34 snaps vs. Iowa State (9-18-04) and three hits in 27 plays vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Added two stops in 26 snaps vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Missed two mid-year games due to right hand fracture. Contributed to punt, punt return, KO, KO return, and kick block units. Opened year as No. 2 SS. **2003:** Won first letter with 302 overall snaps (285 on special teams and 17 on defense) in 12 games. Ranked No. 17 (tie) in team tackles (17). Made 1-A debut with two stops and 35 snaps vs. No. 15 (AP) Maryland (8-28-03). Produced career-high four hits vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Added three tackles vs. Ball State (11-1-03). Netted two stops apiece vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-03), vs. Iowa State (9-27-03), and vs. No. 23 (AP) Bowling Green State (10-25-03). Credited with one stop and 3rd. Qt. fumble recovery that led to TD vs. Toledo (11-15-03). Began season at No. 3 FS. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Started career at No. 4 FS. **Prep:** All-State RB on state title team. Graduated with 15 school records. Produced 4,792 career rushing yards, 6,509 all-purpose yards, 74 TDs, and 446 points at RB and 194 tackles at DB (1999-2001). Recorded 13 career rushing games over 150 yards—topped by 276-yard effort vs. Hortonville (2000). Named team captain, First-Team All-Valley Eight Conference, First-Team *Appleton Post-Crescent* All-Area and Area Player of the Year, First-Team WFCFA All-Region and Honorable Mention All-State, Honorable Mention *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State, and Second-Team AP All-State on 13-1 Division 3 state kingpin as a senior for coach Gene Strusz. Rated No. 18 college prospect in state. Led all rushers with 94 yards and two TDs (21 and 10 yards) on 20 carries, hit 3-of-3 passes for 85 yards, and made one catch as Player of the Game in state title contest vs. Waunakee (11-15-01). Scored 33 TDs and 200 points in final year. Selected First-Team All-VEC and

loop Offensive Player of the Year, First-Team All-Area, First-Team WFCFA All-Region, and Honorable Mention AP All-State on 10-2 loop champ as a junior. Ran for 1,810 yards and 20 TDs on 298 attempts (2000). Produced 921 yards and nine TDs on 107 carries as First-Team All-VEC and All-Area pick as soph (1999). Tabbed for Shrine Game (2002). Lettered in football (3), basketball (3), and track (3). Voted school Male Athlete of the Year by faculty (2001-02). Named team captain and Honorable Mention All-VEC on 20-6 Division 2 Regional kingpin in basketball as a senior. Qualified for state finals in long jump, 4 x 100 relay, 100 and 200 meters (2001). **Birthdate (Age):** 8-8-83 (22). **Major:** Communications.

### Statistics:

Year	Defense				Fum		
	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.	Int.
2003	12	13	4	17	0/0	1	0/0
2004	10	12	1	13	0/0	0	0/0
<b>Career</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0/0</b>



Dustin Utschig (35), SS

# PLAYER PROFILES



65



## Brian Van Acker-☆☆

Crystal Lake / Prairie Ridge  
Center  
6-4 • 287 • Senior

**Scoop A:** Moved up ladder from third-string Northern Illinois center to one of nation's finest and Rotary Lombardi Award preseason watch list. **Scoop B:** Joined Hall of Famer Randy Clark (1978) and McAllister Collins (2000) as only third First-Team All-MAC center in school history. **Scoop C:** Aggressive, pulling snapper with Fred Astaire footwork.

**Scoop D:** Made one official college visit—to Northern Illinois—and committed verbally on same weekend (2000).

**Scoop E:** Lettered at both center and OG. **Joe Novak:** "Brian really plays with pride. He really came on last year and got better and better with each game. He's aggressive and runs very well. We pull him a lot and, for a center, that's unusual. He was one of the major reasons for our strong offensive line play and record-setting offense a year ago."

**NIU:** Reports to camp as No. 1 center for second year in a row. Started on No. 1 Offense in spring game (4-23-05). Voted team quad-captain by his peers. **Chart:** Logged 23 reps with 225 pounds, 26-inch vertical, 300-pound power clean, 415-pound bench press, and 425-pound squat lift in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2005 Preseason:** Made Rotary Lombardi Award watch list (3-29-05). Rated No. 18 center in nation by *The Sporting News* and No. 36 by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. Projected as First-Team All-MAC selection by *Athlon Sports*, *CBS SportsLine.com College Football*, *CollegeFootballNews.com*, *Lindy's Big Ten*, *Phil Steele's*, and *The Sporting News College Football Preview*. **Career:** Owns 12 starts, 111 knockdown blocks, and 1,129 overall snaps in 24 appearances (2002-04). **2004:** Another classic Sam Pittman tutoring job. Supplanted Bowling Green State senior Rotary Lombardi Award and Rimington Award candidate Scott Mruczkowski as premier center in Mid-Am. Named First-Team All-MAC by league coaches in initial season as a regular. Won second letter with 12 starts at center and 828 overall snaps (787 on offense and 41 on special teams). Snapped ball for nation's No. 11 rushing attack (238.2 ypg.), No. 13 scoring offense (35.1 ppg.), and No. 14 total offense (438.8 ypg.). Finished No. 2 in team knockdown blocks (76), No. 3 in "flatback" blocks (10), and No. 4 in season blocking grades (86 percent). Credited with 609 "plus" grades in 787 O-line snaps. Played 41 snaps at LG on placement kick unit. **2003:** Earned first letter with two starts at RG and 275 snaps on offense in 10 games. Produced 204 "plus" plays and tied for No. 5 in team knockdown blocks (35). Earned first career start vs. Ohio (10-4-03) and went season-high 46 plays vs. Central Michigan (10-11-03). Began year as No. 2 center. **2002:** Played 26 snaps in two appearances. Made 1-A debut with 17 plays vs. Central Michigan (10-19-02) and went nine snaps vs. Eastern Michigan (11-16-02). Made travel roster six times. Missed early season due to neck strain. Opened year as No. 2 center. Played both C and OG in spring. **2001:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Made travel roster five times. Arrived on campus as



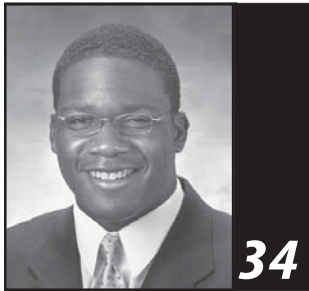
Brian Van Acker (65), C

No. 3 center. **Prep:** Recruited by Illinois, Iowa, and Purdue. Three-year regular with snaps at OG, OT, TE, and DT. Top O-line performer on 8-2 Fox Valley Conference runner-up and state Class 5A playoff entry that averaged 30 ppg. and 321.9 ypg. rushing as a senior. Named team captain and Outstanding Lineman Award recipient, First-Team All-FVC, First-Team *Northwest Herald* All-Area, First-Team *Daily Herald* Fox Valley All-Area, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and Area Top 100 Prospects, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, Second-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and First-Team IHSFCA Class 5A



All-State for coach Dave Whitson as a senior. Earned First-Team All-FVC and Second-Team *Northwest Herald* All-Area honors on 6-4 Class 5A playoff unit as a junior. Lettered in football (3). **Birthdate (Age):** 2-8-83 (22). **Major:** Communications.

# PLAYER PROFILES



34

## Ken West-☆☆

Calumet City /  
South Holland Thornwood  
Defensive End  
6-3 ● 235 ● Junior

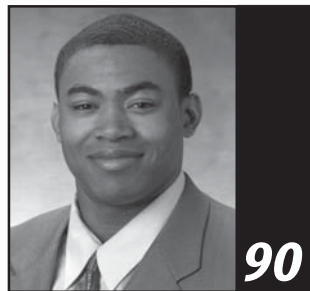
**Scoop A:** Made one-third of 2004 tackles (10 of 30) behind the line of scrimmage. **Scoop B:** Notched most Northern Illinois QB sacks (eight) since LB Larry Williams (10 for 77 yards in 2002). **Scoop C:** First NIU player (since 1984) to register six QB sacks in back-to-back games. **Scoop D:** Tied school single-game sack record (three) twice. **Scoop E:** Recorded PRs in off-season weight training and dropped three percent body fat (2005). **Strength & Conditioning Coach Matt Mangum:** "It's like he (West) can lift a house."

**Joe Novak:** "I've seen Ken improving. He's playing with confidence and just starting to blossom. Right now, the light is just clicking on." **NIU:** Rates as No. 1 LE on August deeps (2005). Started at LE on No. 1 Defense, plus posted six tackles and two QB sacks in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced :04.58 speed in 40, 20 reps with 225 pounds, 35-inch vertical jump, 340-pound power clean, 345-pound bench press, and 530-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns eight starts, 11 TFL, 40 tackles, and 648 snaps in 21 appearances (2003-04). **2005 Preseason:** Tabbed Second-Team All-MAC by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*. **2004:** Won second letter with 426 overall snaps (418 on defense and eight on special teams) in 11 games. Started first eight contests at LE. Finished No. 1 in team sacks (8 for 48 yards in losses), No. 1 (tie) in fumble-cause hits (three), No. 3 in TFL (10 for 52 yards), No. 4 (tie) in QB hurries-pressures (nine), and No. 13 (tie) in overall tackles (30). Collected most sacks by a Northern Illinois DE since C. J. Rose (nine for 65 yards in losses in 1994). Nominated for MAC West Defensive Player of the Week with career-high six tackles and three QB sacks (12 yards in losses) vs. Akron (10-2-04). Credited with five stops and three more sacks for 22 yards in losses the next week vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Added six stops, two QB hurries-pressures, and one TFL on ESPN2 vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Notched four hits vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Made three tackles and one QB hurry vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Registered two tackles and four QB hurries-pressures vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Executed nine-yard sack and Strip of the Year on same play that turned into 85-yard fumble return TD by LB Jason Hawkins in 3rd. Q. vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). Tied school single-game sack (three) record set by Cary Caliendo (twice), Phil Foley (twice), Larry Williams (twice), C. J. Rose, and Vinson Reynolds. Sidelined by right ankle sprain vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Started year as No. 1 RE. **2003:** Received first letter with 222 overall snaps (194 on defense and 28 on special teams) in 10 contests. Wound up No. 25 in team tackles (10). Credited with season-high five stops in frosh-best 55 snaps vs. Central Michigan (10-11-03). Contributed three hits vs. No. 23 (AP) Bowling Green State (10-25-03). Made first career tackle vs. Tennessee Tech (9-6-

03). Began year at No. 2 LE. Changed jersey number from No. 44 to No. 34 in spring. **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Entered program as No. 3 SLB. **Prep:** Recruited by Illinois, Minnesota, and South Carolina. Named team captain, offensive MVP, and overall MVP, First-Team All-SICA Gray Conference, Honorable Mention *Daily Southtown* All-Area, First-Team *Star Newspapers* All-Area, preseason *Chicago Tribune* loop Players to Watch, *Chicago Sun-Times* Area Top 100 Prospects, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, and First-Team IHSFCA Class 8A All-State on 6-4 state playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Andre Collins. Ran for 1,110 yards and school-record 17 TDs on 198 carries (5.6 ypc.) at RB, plus accumulated 98 tackles, four QB sacks, and two fumble-cause hits at LB (2001). Rushed for 575 yards and five TDs on 5-4 eleven as a junior. Lettered in football (3) and track (2). Competed as weightman on IHSAA Class AA (Large Schools) state title track team (5-18-02). Placed second in Sectional shot put with 51-10 throw (5-18-02) and qualified for state with 52-5 toss. Won SICA Gray shot put crown as a junior. Set school power clean weightlifting record (300 pounds). **Nickname:** "K-Dub." **Birthdate (Age):** 3-16-84 (21). **Major:** Pre-Sociology.

### Statistics:

Defense						Fum		
Year	GP	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL	Rec.	Int.	
2003	10	7	3	10	1/2	0	0/0	
2004	11	21	9	30	10/52	0	0/0	
<b>Career</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11/54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0/0</b>	



90

## Martin Wilson - ☆☆☆

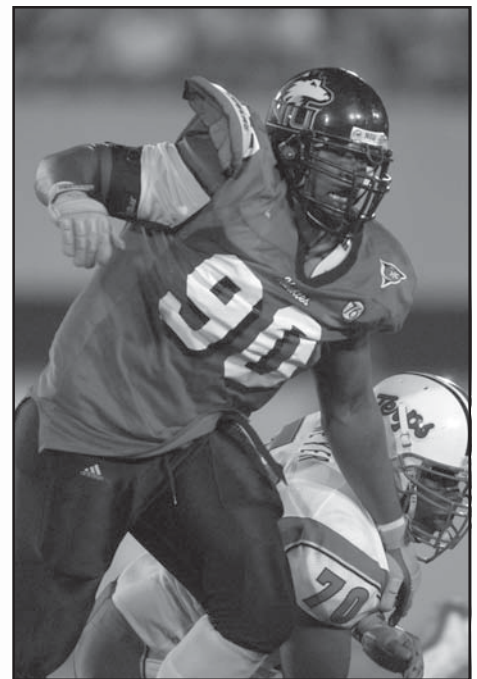
Lisle  
Defensive Tackle  
6-1 ● 279 ● Senior

**Scoop A:** Most experienced D-line veteran (1,015 career snaps). **Scoop B:** Master of the weight room. **NIU:** Heads into August camp as No. 1 NT (2005). Won start at NT on No. 1 Defense, plus made game-high seven tackles, fumble recovery, and QB sack in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Produced 20 reps with 225 pounds, 30-inch vertical jump, 315-pound power clean, 390-pound bench press, and 515-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **Career:** Owns 17 starts, 64 tackles, and 1,015 snaps in 28 appearances (2002-04). **2004:** Received third letter with five starts (four at NT and one at DT) and 404 overall snaps (346 on defense and 58 on special teams) in 12 games. Wound up No. 2 (tie) in team QB hurries-pressures (14), No. 5 in TFL (five for 27 yards in losses), and No. 14 in tackles (28). Produced career-best nine stops on ESPN2 in season-high 68 snaps vs. Toledo (11-9-04). Recorded season-best five QB hurries-pressures, two TFL, and one QB sack vs. Western Michigan (10-23-04). Collected three hits, one sack, and one QB hurry-pressure vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04). Posted three stops and one QB pressure on ESPN2 vs. Troy (12-30-04). Netted two tackles, two QB hurries-pressures, and sack

vs. Central Florida (10-9-04). Made two stops vs. Maryland (9-4-04). Contributed on kick block and punt return units. Began year at No. 1 DT. **2003:** Won second letter with 12 starts at DT and 581 overall snaps (520 on defense and 61 on special teams). Finished No. 3 in team QB hurries-pressures (seven), No. 8 in TFL (three for 19 yards), and No. 15 in stops (34). Posted season-high six tackles vs. Ohio (10-4-03) and vs. Central Michigan (10-11-03). Added four hits and QB sack vs. Western Michigan (10-18-03). Made three stops apiece vs. No. 15 (AP) Maryland (8-28-03), vs. No. 21 (AP) Alabama (9-20-03), vs. No. 23 (AP) Bowling Green State (10-25-03), and vs. Eastern Michigan (11-22-03). Underwent off-season left thumb ligament surgery. **2002:** Awarded first letter with 30 overall snaps (25 on defense and five on special teams) in four games. Inserted into D-line rotation with late-season injury to senior DT Anthony Falbo. Tied for No. 31 in team tackles (two). Collected two stops in season-high 16 snaps vs. Eastern Michigan (11-16-02). Made 1-A debut with one snap vs. South Florida (9-7-02). Switched jersey from No. 74 to No. 90. Rated No. 4 NT in preseason. **2001:** Unable to participate due to failure to meet initial NCAA eligibility. **Prep:** Two-season All-Stater on mat. Lettered in football (3) and wrestling. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Interstate Eight Conference DL pick, preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* league Top Five Player, and First-Team *Daily Herald* DuPage All-Area on 5-4 eleven for coach Dan Sanko as a senior. Started at both OT and DT. Recorded 44 stops, five TFL, and four QB sacks (2000). Picked team grid captain and MVP, plus All-Interstate Eight as a junior. Won 74 of 77 matches in 275-pound bracket as a junior and a senior. Won IHSAA Class A state wrestling title with 37-1 record in final year. **Birthdate (Age):** 10-1-82 (23). **Major:** General Studies.

### Statistics:

Defense						Fum.		
Year	GP	Solo	Asst.	Total	TFL	Rec.	Int.	
2002	4	1	1	2	0/0	0	0/0	
2003	12	13	21	34	3/19	0	0/0	
2004	12	16	12	28	5/27	0	0/0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>8/46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0/0</b>	



Martin Wilson (90), NT

# PLAYER PROFILES



1



## Garrett Wolfe-★

Chicago / River Grove Holy Cross  
Tailback  
5-7 ● 174 ● Junior

**Scoop A:** No. 1 is No. 1. Went from obscurity to national stage in four months. Made Maxwell Award preseason watch list. Legit All-America candidate with credentials, numbers, and physical attributes. The ex-National Secret.

**Scoop B:** NCAA Division 1-A's No. 2 returning scorer (11.5 ppg. in 2004), No. 2 returning all-purpose runner (167.0 ypg. in 2004), and No. 3 returning rusher (150.6 ypg. in 2004).

**Scouting Report:** The human mini-projectile. "Beep, beep" speed (:04.46 in the 40). Quick feet, elusive style, Z28 acceleration. Runs to daylight (with apologies to the late Vince Lombardi). **Joe Novak A:** "Garrett Wolfe can make the big play every time. For a so-called little guy, he has proven quite productive and durable. He packs quite a wallop. He's one of the quickest I've seen to the hole. Garrett has great instincts and is a smart runner at the same time. You won't see him outrun his blockers." **Joe Novak B:** "He's like what the great Vince Lombardi wrote—run to daylight. Garrett finds that seam and gets to it before anyone else. He's so quick. When he's gone, he's gone. Garrett can scoot." **Joe Novak C:** "Has Garrett come out of nowhere? In a way, yes. We always felt he was a talent. We saw him in practice or in the spring. We knew Garrett was

talented, but—by any standard—he's exceeded everything we thought." **NIU:** Reports to August camp as No. 1 TB (2005). Sidelined by right shoulder sprain in spring game (4-23-05). **Chart:** Posted :04.46 timing in 40, 18 reps with 225 pounds, 33-inch vertical jump, 250-pound power clean, and 385-pound back squat in off-season conditioning program (2005). **2005 Preseason:** Rated No. 15 RB in nation by *Lindy's Big Ten* and No. 58 by *Phil Steele's College Football Preview*, plus the No. 21 returning 1-A player in the country by *CollegeFootballNews.com*. Picked Honorable Mention *Street & Smith's College Football All-America*. Projected on at least seven First-Team All-MAC squads (by *Athlon Sports*, *CBS SportsLine.com College Football*, *CollegeFootballNews.com*, *Lindy's Big Ten*, *Phil Steele's*, *Street & Smith's*, and *The Sporting News College Football Preview*). **NCAA:** Ranked in 16 Division 1-A Top 40 single-game and season categories (2004). Rated No. 3 in 1-A season scoring, No. 3 in season TDs (21), No. 3 in season all-purpose yards, No 4 (tie) in season rushing TDs (18), and No. 5 in season rushing. Rated No. 1 (tie) in game TDs (four vs. Central Michigan), No. 1 in game rushing attempts (43 vs. Eastern Michigan), plus No. 2 in game rushing yardage (325 vs. EMU) and No. 7 (280 vs. Ball State). Entered 2004 as half of nation's leading rushing duo (2,478 yards) with senior TB A. J. Harris (822 yards). **MAC:** Won league single-season stats Triple Crown—captured league rushing, scoring, and all-purpose yardage titles (2004). Produced the sixth-best single-season scoring total (126 points), sixth-best season TD total (21), sixth-best season rushing total (1,656 yards), plus the sixth (325 yards vs. EMU) and 13th-best (280 yards vs. BSU) single-game rushing total in league history (2004). Shared league lead with four MAC Player of the Week awards last fall. **Northern Illinois Record Book:** Made major impact in one season. Set school records for (1) single-game rushing, (2) single-game all-purpose yards, (3) single-season scoring, (4) single-season TDs, (5) consecutive-game rushing yards (605 vs. BSU and vs. EMU), (6) consecutive 100-yard rushing games (seven), (7) single-game soph rushing, and (8) single-game soph all-purpose yardage. Produced the sixth longest (84 yards vs. BSU), 12th

(continued on page 72)



Garrett Wolfe (1), TB

# PLAYER PROFILES

(continued from page 71)

longest (78 vs. Western Michigan in 2004), and 23rd longest (70 vs. EMU) rushing gains in NIU history. Recorded the second (141 yards vs. EMU) and third (131 vs. BSU) quarter rushing totals, plus the fifth (204 vs. Bowling Green State in 2004) and sixth (203 vs. EMU) halftime ground stats in school annals. Posted the school's fourth 300-yard rushing game—joining TB LeShon Johnson (322 vs. Southern Illinois in 1993 and 306 yards vs. Iowa in 1993) and QB Stacey Robinson (308 vs. Fresno State in 1990). **2004:** Untested, unheralded, and unbelievable. Went from No. 3 team TB to nation's leading rusher and scorer late in season. Stepped into national limelight in second half of ESPN2 telecast with 204 second-half yards vs. Bowling Green State (9-24-04). Gained 1,470 (210.0 ypg.) of total 1,656 yards and tallied 17 of 21 TDs in final seven-regular season games. Named Honorable Mention CCN-*Sports Illustrated*.com All-America, Honorable Mention CollegeFootballNews.com All-America, and First-Team CollegeSportsReport.com Soph All-America. Picked coaches' First-Team All-MAC in initial year as a regular (the fifth straight year that Northern Illinois has started a First-Team All-MAC TB—Wolfe in 2004, Michael "The Burner" Turner in 2002-03, and TB Thomas Hammock in 2000-01). Named Mid-Am West Offensive Player of the Week four times—vs. BGSU, vs. Central Michigan (10-16-04), vs. Ball State (10-30-04), and vs. Eastern Michigan (11-20-04). Selected CollegeSportsReport.com 1-A National Player of the Week vs. EMU. Gained 202, 110, 142, 226, 185, 280, 325, and 84 rushing yards in last eight appearances. Notched six runs 40 yards or longer (42, 49, 50, 70, 78, and 84). Scored momentum-changing 50-yard TD around left end with 4:46 left in 1st. Qtr. prior to being sidelined with hip injury in Silicon Valley Football Classic vs. Troy (12-30-04). Missed ESPN2 game due to right eye injury that was "unrelated to

football" vs. Toledo (11-9-04). Selected team Offensive MVP. Ranked No. 1 in team scoring, No. 1 in rushing, No. 1 in total offense, No. 1 in all-purpose yardage, No. 2 in kickoff returns (11 for 231 yards), and No. 6 in receiving (10 for 117 yards). Earned first letter with 498 overall snaps (470 on offense and 28 on special teams). Scored on 40-yard TD pass vs. Southern Illinois (9-11-04). Ran for 24 yards on nine carries and caught four-yard TD pass in 1-A debut vs. No. 22 (AP) Maryland (9-4-04). **2004 Northern Illinois Football Media Guide (on Wolfe):** "Under the radar TB. Serious contender in the 'Replace the Burner' sweepstakes. Slashing runner with :04.47 speed and potential." **2003:** Sidelined by institutional academic guidelines. Entered season as No. 2 TB behind Turner. Rushed for 71 yards in 11 carries in spring game (4-17-03). **2002:** Red-shirted as true frosh. Began career as No. 9 TB. **Prep:** Repeat All-Stater. Graduated with 11 school records. Produced 4,311 rushing yards and 56 TDs as an upperclassman (2000-01). Recorded seven of the school's Top 10 single-game rushing performances. Named team Offensive MVP, First-Team Catholic League All-Red Metro Division and league MVP, First-Team *Pioneer Press* All-Area, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and Area Top 100 Prospect (2002), and Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State on 7-6 league runner-up and state Class 5A playoff qualifier for coach Joe DiCanio. Ran for 2,041 yards and 24 TDs on 288 attempts in final season (2001). Rated as No. 18 preseason area prospect by *Chicago Sun-Times*. Won team Offensive MVP honor, First-Team Catholic League All-Metro Red Division and league MVP, First-Team *Pioneer Press* All-Area, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and First-Team Class 4A-6A All-State, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, First-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and *PrepStar* magazine All-America on 11-2 state Class 4A quarterfinalist as a junior. Led Chicago area in rushing (2,270 yards and 32 TDs on 272 carries in

2000). Returned nine kickoffs for 378 yards (42.0 ypr.) and three TDs (87, 89, and 91 yards) and four punts for 146 yards (36.5 ypr.) and one TD (2000). Lettered in football (3). Transferred from Fenwick. Earned FHS monogram in track as a frosh sprinter. **Birthdate (Age):** 8-17-84 (21). **Major:** Communications.

**Statistics:**

Rushing						
Year	GP	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2004	11	256	1,656	6.5	18	84
<b>Career</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>84</b>

Receiving						
Year	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2004	11	10	117	11.7	3	40
<b>Career</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>

**Garrett Wolfe Rushing Game-by-Game**

Opponent (Date)	Att.	Yds.	TD	LG
Maryland (9-4-04)	9	24	0	7
Southern Illinois (9-11-04)	12	45	0	14
Iowa State (9-18-04)	13	33	1	21
Bowling Green St. (9-24-04)	31	202	3	42
Akron (10-2-04)	11	110	2	49
Central Florida (10-9-04)	29	142	1	16
Central Michigan (10-16-04)	37	226	4	27
Western Michigan (10-23-04)	20	185	1	78
Ball State (10-30-04)	36	280	3	84
Toledo (11-9-04)	—	—	—	—
Eastern Michigan (11-20-04)	43	325	2	70
Troy (12-30-04)	15	84	1	50

**Garrett Wolfe's 2004 NCAA Rankings**

**Rushing**

Rank	Player (School)	Cl.	Car	Yds.	Avg.	YPG.
1	Thomas (North Tex.)	Fr.	285	1801	6.32	180.10
2	Arrington (California)	Sr.	289	2018	6.98	168.17
3	Williams (Memphis)	Jr.	313	1948	6.22	162.33
4	Benson (Texas)	Sr.	326	1834	5.64	152.83
5	Wolfe (NIU)	So.	256	1656	6.47	150.55

**Scoring**

Rank	Player (School)	Cl.	TDs	PAT	FGs	PPG
1	Jones (Boise State)	Sr.	0	69	24	11.75
2	Williams (Memphis)	Jr.	23	0	0	11.50
3	Wolfe (NIU)	So.	21	0	0	11.45
4	Pope (Bowling Green)	Jr.	21	0	0	10.50
5	Thomas (North Tex.)	Fr.	17	0	0	10.20

**All-Purpose Running**

Rank	Player (School)	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR	YPG.
1	Sproles (Kan. St.)	1318	223	34	492	187.91
2	Williams (Memphis)	1948	210	0	72	185.83
3	Wolfe (NIU)	1656	117	0	231	182.18
4	Thomas (North Tex.)	1801	14	0	0	181.50
5	Bush (USC)	908	509	376	537	179.23

**Touchdowns**

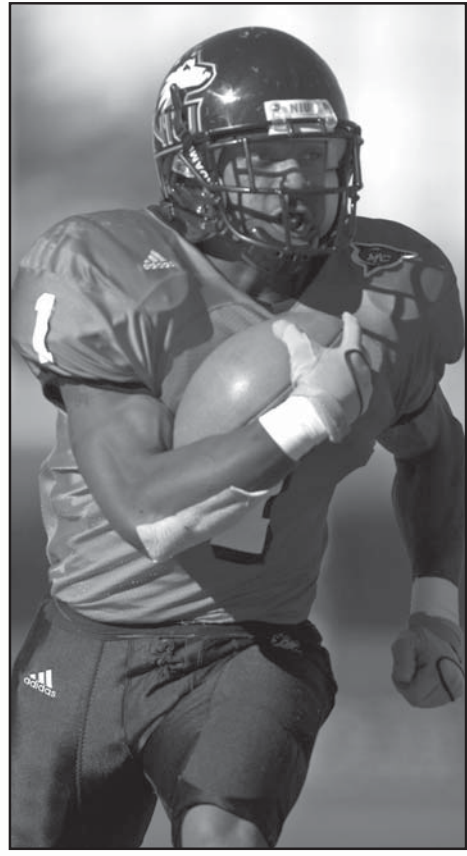
Rank	Player (School)	Cl.	Gm	TDs	TDPG
1	Williams (Memphis)	Jr.	12	23	1.92
2	Owens (Hawaii)	Sr.	13	22	1.69
3	Wolfe (NIU)	So.	11	21	1.91
4	Pope (Bowling Green)	Jr.	12	21	1.75
5	Thomas (North Tex.)	Fr.	10	17	1.70

**Rushing Touchdowns**

Rank	Player (School)	Cl.	Gm	TDs	TDPG
1	Williams (Memphis)	Jr.	12	22	1.83
2	Benson (Texas)	Sr.	12	19	1.58
3	Wolfe (NIU)	So.	11	18	1.64
4	Moats (La. Tech)	Jr.	12	18	1.50
5	Thomas (North Tex.)	Fr.	10	17	1.70



Garrett Wolfe (1), TB



# NEWCOMER PROFILES

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## Eddie Adamski

Kildeer / Mundelein Carmel Center  
6-4 • 240 • Freshman

**Pronunciation:** Ah-DAM-skee. **Scoop:** Consensus All-Stater recruited by Illinois, Wisconsin, Northwestern, and Toledo. Called "...one of the best in the area" by *Chicago Sun-Times*. Cited among "Five to Watch" in 2005 class by *Daily Herald*. **NIU:** Heads into August practice as No. 3 center (2005). **Prep:** Named team captain and team Most Valuable Offensive Lineman, First-Team All-East Suburban Catholic Conference, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, First-Team *Daily Herald* Lake County All-Area, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association All-State on a 7-4 Class 6A state playoff qualifier as a senior. Tabbed on preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Top 100 Area Player and *Chicago Tribune* league Player to Watch lists (2004). Played OG, DT (27 tackles and one fumble recovery), and long snapper in final year for coach Andy Bitto. Anchored O-line at center for 4,000-yard plus rushing attack on 14-0 ESCC kingpin and Class 6A state championship squad as a junior. Lettered in football (2). Earned school Mathematics Award. Said Bitto: "He's a take-no-prisoner type of lineman. He'll block guys out of bounds and always blocks to the whistle. He's real smart and incredibly strong. I've had six Big Ten players, and he's as good a player as I've ever coached." **Personal:** Outdoor type (fishing, boating, hunting). **Birthdate (Age):** 10-04-86 (19). **Major:** Pre-Engineering.

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## Josh Allen

North Chicago  
Linebacker  
6-0 • 200 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Potential true frosh starter. Josh-of-all-trades. Recruited by Wisconsin, Wyoming, Kansas State, Iowa State, and Indiana. Two-sport All-County performer. **NIU:** Opens August drills as No. 2 WLB (2005). **Prep:** School's basketball career scoring leader and No. 8 all-time scorer in Lake County history (1,676 points). Lettered in football (4) and basketball (4). Named team captain and MVP, First-Team North Suburban Conference All-Prairie Division, First-Team *Waukegan News-Sun* All-County, and Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area on 6-4 league co-champ and state Class 6A grid playoff unit as a senior. Produced 1,352 yards total offense and 15 TDs last fall. Scrambled for 910 yards and 11 TDs on 106 carries—including an 89-yard career long-gainer—and completed 24-of-79 passes for 442 yards and four TDs at QB (2004). Credited with 20 tackles, two interceptions, and two fumble-cause hits at DB for coach Mike Grenda (2004). Listed among preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Top 100 Area Players and *Chicago Tribune* loop Players to Watch. Tabbed First-Team NSC All-Prairie Division and Second-Team *Waukegan News-Sun* All-County on 6-4 state Class 6A playoff entry (2003). Played RB (349 yards and four TDs on 37 rushes, plus seven catches for 231 yards and two TDs), back-up QB (7-of-12 passes for 158 yards and two TDs), kickoff return man (six for 154 yards and one TD), and LB (39 stops, nine tackles for loss, one interception, and one fumble recovery) as a junior. Three-time All-County star on hardwood. Picked team captain, First-Team NSC All-Prairie Division, and First-Team *Waukegan News-Sun* All-County on 17-10 quintet (2004-05). Averaged 20.6 ppg., 5.0 apg., 4.0 rbpq., and 3.0 steals as a senior. Scored career-high 36 points vs. Lake Forest (1-30-05). Made First-Team All-NSC and Second-Team All-Country with 15.8 ppg. and 4.0 rbpq. stats (2003-04). **Personal:** Michael Vick fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 2-17-87 (18). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

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## Justin Anderson

Chicago / Steinmetz  
Free Safety  
6-3 • 205 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Mr. Multi-Position (TB, QB, OLB, or FS). Rated as three-star recruit by Rivals.com. Ranked No. 29 among state's postseason prospects and No. 65 athlete in the nation by Rivals.com (January, 2005), plus No. 67 among preseason Midwest Top 100 Players by *The Sporting News*, and preseason No. 80 among Midwest Hot 100 by Score.com. Recruited by Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Maryland, and Ball State. **NIU:** Signed National Letter as TB. Opens August drills as No. 3 FS (2005). **Prep:** Four-year regular as option QB. Produced 4,225 career total offense yards and 58 TDs (2001-04). Three-time team MVP. First 1,000-yard season rusher in school history. Named team MVP, First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section, and Second-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League on state Class 8A playoff unit as a senior. Rushed for 840 yards (8.7 ypc. average) and 12 TDs in 97 carries for coach Elbert Kern (2004). Tabbed preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Top 100 Area Player and *Chicago Tribune* loop Player to Watch (2004). Listed as No. 18 among Top 30 Junior Prospects by *Chicago Sun-Times* (April, 2004). Selected team MVP, First-Team All-Section, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League and Special Mention All-Area as a junior. Collected 1,541 yards and 26 TDs total offense (1,288 yards and 18 TDs on 152 carries, plus 253 yards and eight TDs on 15-of-35 passes) on 9-2 league champ and state Class 8A playoff entry (2003). Set school record for longest gain from scrimmage (92 yards) in junior year. Gained 922 rushing yards and nine TDs as a soph on 12-1 eleven (2002). Lettered in football (4) and basketball. **Personal:** Michael Vick fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 7-4-86 (19). **Major:** Pre-Business.

## WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY ABOUT JOE NOVAK'S RECRUITING

"The only variable in Northern Illinois' recruiting is reputation, which continues to rise.

Joe Novak is the longest-tenured coach (nine years) in a league (Mid-American Conference) that has witnessed eight coaching changes in the last two seasons. NIU has won 27 games since 2001, including a 9-3 run last year that culminated in its first bowl appearance since 1983."

---ADAM RITTENBERG, *Daily Herald* (2005)

"I liked Mr. Novak, and the coaching staff was great. I really like the linebacker coach (Denny Doornbos). I really like the chemistry and overall feeling of the school."

---LB PHIL BROWN, *Northern Illinois recruit* (2005)

"It's almost like clockwork for them. They're the steadiest staff in the Midwest, always hitting Chicago hard and getting top-notch players. Their profile is a lot higher now that it was a year ago."

---TOM LEMMING, *Prep Football Report* (2005)

"No school in the MAC develops talent better than the Northern Illinois staff."

---DOUG ZALESKI, *The Sporting News College Football* (2004)

"Joe (Novak) has been everywhere, and he's doing a good job. He's at everybody's clinics and is working so hard. He wears you out. He knows a lot of high school coaches."

---MATT SENFFNER, *Providence High School Head Football Coach*

"Novak's on-field philosophy is simple—run the football and stop the run. He also believes in strong work ethic, in players going to class and graduating, in building his team with in-state high school recruits, and in a single set of rules for the star and subs alike."

---BILL JAUSS, *Chicago Tribune* (2002)

"There's no doubt that Joe (Novak) and his staff have done a great job of evaluating talent and recruiting talent. I hope their administration realizes what Joe has done with that program."

---DAN MCCARNEY, *Iowa State Head Football Coach* (2003).

# NEWCOMER PROFILES

97

## Anthony Antonacci

Naperville / Neuqua Valley  
Defensive End  
6-2 • 235 • Freshman

**Pronunciation:** AN-tah-notch-eee. **Scoop:** All-State in classroom and on field. Produced 33 tackles for loss in last two years. Recruited by Toledo and Western Michigan. **NIU:** Reports to camp as No. 5 LE (2005). **Prep:** Set school records in single-season QB sacks (10 in 2003), single-season tackles for loss (21 in 2003), career QB sacks (17.5 in 2002-04), and career tackles for loss (37 in 2002-04). Completed career with 158 tackles (2002-04). Three-year Upstate Eight Conference All-Academic pick. Named team captain, team Best Defensive Lineman Award recipient, Most Influential Teammate Award recipient, First-Team All-Upstate Eight Conference and loop Defensive MVP, First-Team **Daily Herald** DuPage County All-Area, Special Mention **Chicago Sun-Times** All-Area, Special Mention **Chicago Tribune** All-State, and First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Academic All-State on 8-2 UEC co-champ and state Class 8A playoff squad for coach Bryan Wells as a senior. Notched 54 stops, 12 TFL, five QB sacks, and three blocked kicks in final year. Listed among preseason **Chicago Sun-Times** and **Chicago Tribune** Top 100 Area Players (2004). Made First-Team All-UEC and First-Team **Daily Herald** DuPage County All-Area on 7-3 state Class 8A playoff unit (2003). Collected 83 stops, 21 TFL, 10 sacks, and three fumble recoveries as a junior. Posted 12 hits and five TFL in playoff game vs. Naperville Central (10-31-03). Produced 21 stops and 2.5 sacks on school's first state playoff qualifier (2002). Said Bryan Wells: "He has the burning desire to be the best." **Personal:** Father Rich Antonacci letted as OT at Illinois (1977) when Joe Novak worked on Illini staff. **Birthdate (Age):** 9-12-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

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## Brandon Bice

McCook / LaGrange Lyons Twp.  
Defensive End  
6-4 • 225 • Freshman

**Pronunciation:** BYE-sss. **Scoop:** Recruited by Boston College, Miami (OH), and Toledo. **NIU:** Reports to August practice as No. 4 RE (2005). **Prep:** Produced 171 career tackles on three consecutive state playoff entries (2002-04). Two-time All-Area selection. Named team captain, First-Team West Suburban Conference All-Silver Division, First-Team **Suburban Life** All-Area, Special Mention **Chicago Sun-Times** All-Area, and First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 8A All-State at OLB as a senior. Posted 72 tackles, school-record 14 QB sacks, and three fumble recoveries on 8-3 playoff unit for head coach Jack Darning (2004). Made preseason **Chicago Tribune** Top 100 Area Player list (2004). Picked First-Team West Suburban Conference All-Silver Division and First-Team **Suburban Life** All-Area on 6-4 state Class 8A playoff eleven as a junior (2003). Won first letter on 7-3 playoff unit (2002). Lettered in football (3). Eight-semester Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Julius Peppers fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-26-86 (18). **Major:** Physical Therapy.



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## Phil Brown

Chicago / Morgan Park  
Linebacker  
6-1 • 215 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Rated as a three-star recruit by Rivals.com. Ranked No. 28 among state's postseason prospects and No. 46 in nation at OLB by Rivals.com (January, 2005). Recruited by Kansas State, Iowa, Akron, and Ball State. **NIU:** Listed as No. 5 WLB on August depth chart (2005). **Prep:** Selected team captain and First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section on 12-1 conference champion and Class 7A state playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Lexie Spurlock. Injured shoulder vs. Mount Carmel (8-27-04), missed next nine weeks, and returned with 16 tackles vs. O'Fallon (11-6-04) in state quarterfinals. Picked for City-Suburban All-Star Game (2005). Listed on preseason **Chicago Sun-Times** Top Area 100 Players list and on preseason All-Public League Defense (August, 2004). Won team Most Improved Award and First-Team All-Section honors on 10-2 league kingpin and state Class 7A quarterfinalist as a junior (2003). Lettered in football (3). Transferred from St. Rita. **Personal:** Ray Lewis fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 2-20-87 (18). **Major:** Pre-Business.

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## David Bryant

St. Louis, MO / Ladue Horton Watkins  
Tailback  
6-0 • 195 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Productive on both sides of the ball. **NIU:** Signed National Letter as CB. Heads into summer camp as No. 6 TB (2005). **Prep:** Posted 1,755 rushing yards and 275 tackles as an upperclassman. Named team captain, team Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year Award recipient, First-Team All-Suburban East Conference at both RB and LB, Second-Team **St. Louis Post-Dispatch** All-Metro at LB, Third-Team Missouri Football Coaches Association Class 4 All-State at RB, and Missouri Sportswriters Association First-Team Class 4 All-State at LB on 9-1 squad as a senior for coach Jerry Maher. Led team in rushing (1,012 yards on 90 attempts), scoring (19 TDs), and tackles (127) last autumn. Returned two interceptions for 32 yards and three punts for 81 yards (2004). Made First-Team All-Suburban East Conference at LB with 148 tackles and seven QB sacks on 13-1 state Class 4 runner-up as a junior. Notched nine tackles and rushed five times for nine yards in state title game vs. Kearney (11-28-03). Lettered in football (3) and track (4). Earned letters on Class 4 state track champion as a soph and state runner-up as a junior. **Personal:** Uncle Henry Jones played 10 years for NFL Buffalo Bills (1991-2000) and made All-Pro (1992). **Birthdate (Age):** 8-7-87 (18). **Nickname:** "D.B." **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

### How the Experts Ranked the MAC Recruiting

#### Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report

- 1--Northern Illinois
- 2--Eastern Michigan
- 3--Ball State
- 4--Buffalo
- 5--Akron

#### The Sporting News College Football

- 1--Northern Illinois
- 2--Akron
- 3--Western Michigan
- 4--Toledo
- 5--Kent State

#### Phil Steele's College Football Preview

- 1--Akron
- 2--Northern Illinois
- 3--Kent State
- 4--Central Michigan
- 5--Western Michigan

#### Street & Smith's College Football

- 1--Akron
- 2--Northern Illinois
- 3--Central Michigan
- 4--Toledo
- 5--Ohio

#### Athlon Sports

- 1--Akron
- 2--Northern Illinois
- 3--Kent State
- 4--Western Michigan
- 5--Toledo

### Incoming Class Breakdown

#### By Position:

<i>Offense (11)</i>	<i>Defense (13)</i>
WR: 3	DE: 2
OT: 3	DT: 1
OG: 2	LB: 4
C: 1	CB: 2
TB: 1	SS: 1
TE: 1	FS: 2
	P: 1

#### By State:

Illinois: 13	Indiana: 2
Wisconsin: 5	Missouri: 1
Minnesota: 3	

#### By Previous School:

High School: 24

# NEWCOMER PROFILES

89

## Reed Cunningham

Cambria, WI / Pardeeville  
Tight End  
6-5 • 240 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Two-way First-Team All-State pick. **NIU:** Listed as No. 5 TE on August deeps (2005). **Prep:** Set six school records—(1) season catches (33 in 2003), (2) season catch yardage (594 in 2003), (3) season QB sacks (eight in 2004), (4) career receptions (84 in 2002-04), (5) career catch yardage (1,489 in 2002-04), and (6) career QB sacks (16 in 2002-04). Averaged 17.7 yards per career reception. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Trailways North Conference at TE and DL, First-Team Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Region at TE and DL, First-Team All-Area at TE and DL, and First-Team WFCAs All-State at TE and DL on 7-3 playoff squad as a senior for coach Michael Haynes. Recorded 80 stops, eight QB sacks, two blocked kicks, and one deflection at DL and caught 30 passes for 517 yards (17.3 ypc. average) and six TDs (2004). Selected team captain, First-Team All-Trailways North Conference, First-Team All-Region, First-Team All-Area, and Honorable Mention All-State as a junior. Made 33 receptions for 594 yards (18.0 ypc.) and five TDs at TE and notched 87 tackles, seven QB sacks, seven deflections, and one blocked kick (2003). Voted Second-Team All-Trailways North Conference with 21 catches for 378 yards and five TDs at TE, plus 83 tackles and one sack at DL as a soph. Lettered in football (3) and basketball. Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Kellen Winslow fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 11-5-86 (19). **Major:** Electrical Engineering.

18

## Andy Dittbenner

Bloomington / Normal University  
Punter  
6-1 • 180 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Consensus All-State kicker. Recruited by Illinois, Northwestern, and Iowa. Made all-league at four different positions as a senior. **NIU:** Ranks as No. 1 punter on August deeps (2005). **Prep:** Named team captain, team Offensive MVP, and team Special Teams MVP, unanimous First-Team All-Cornbelt Conference at punter, First-Team All-Cornbelt Conference at PK and WR, plus Second-Team All-CC at DB, First-Team *Bloomington-Normal Daily Pantagraph* All-Area at punter, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 4A All-State as a senior for coach Kurt Olson. Boomed 44 punts for 1,804 yards, a 41.0 yards-per-punt average, and a season-long 74-yarder vs. Prairie Central (2004). Made 36 receptions for 877 yards (24.4-yard-per-catch average) and nine TDs at WR, collected 56 tackles, five interceptions, and three fumble recoveries at FS, and produced 38 kick-scoring points (4-of-6 field goals and 26-of-28 PAT kicks) at PK last season. Earned Second-Team All-Cornbelt Conference honors at PK and P as a junior. Tabbed Honorable Mention All-CC at PK as a sophomore. **Personal:** Barry Sanders fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 3-16-87 (18). **Major:** Pre-Business.

32

## Jeff Fontana

Libertyville  
Strong Safety  
5-11 • 185 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Unanimous First-Team All-Stater. Co-captain and MVP of Class 7A state championship team (2004). Played in back-to-back state title games (2003-04). Recruited by Northwestern and Kansas. **NIU:** Reports to August camp as No. 3 SS (2005). **Prep:** Named First-Team North Suburban Conference All-Lake Division, First-Team *Pioneer Press* All-Area and Area Player of the Year, First-Team *Waukegan News-Sun* Lake County All-Area, First-Team *Daily Herald* Lake County All-Area, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area and Large Schools All-State, First-Team *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, First-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and First-Team IHSFCA Class 7A All-State on 14-0 league and state champions as a senior for coach Randy Kuceyeski. Rushed for 1,163 yards and 14 TDs on 153 carries (7.6 yards-per-carry average) at FB and recorded 96 tackles (65 solo), five pass deflections, three interceptions, two fumble-cause hits, and one fumble recovery at FS (2004). Posted seven stops, ran for 69 yards and one TD on 14 attempts, made key fourth-down tackle, picked up key first down with nine-yard gain off bad snap on field goal attempt, and scored insurance TD (14-yarder) with 1:42 left in state title game vs. Cary-Grove (11-27-04). Set school record for longest TD run (94 yards) vs. North Chicago (9-10-04). Listed as preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Top 100 Area Player, plus *Chicago Tribune* league Player to Watch and Top 100 Player (2004). Contributed on kickoff and punt returns, plus placement holder last fall. Won letter on 13-1 NSC titlist and Class 7A state runner-up as a junior. Recorded seven stops, two TFL, and one sack in championship game vs. Oswego (11-29-03). Lettered in football (2) and track (4). Named First-Team All-NSC in 100-meter dash (2004). Said Randy Kuceyeski: "He's probably one of the best all-around athletes to ever come through our program. He's gifted on both sides of the ball." **Personal:** Michael Vick fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 3-26-87 (18). **Major:** Pre-Business.

73

## Ethan Gill

Sun Prairie, WI  
Offensive Tackle  
6-4 • 265 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Ranked as No. 15 high school gridiron prospect in state by Badgerstatepreps.net (2004). **NIU:** Signed National Letter of Intent as OG. Reports to August practice as No. 3 RT (2005). **Prep:** Gained notoriety as two-way all-league interior line performer. Selected team co-captain and team Most Valuable Offensive Lineman, First-Team All-Big Eight Conference at OT and Second-Team All-Big Eight Conference at DL, plus First-Team Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Southwest Region on 6-4 league runner-up as a senior for coach Brian Kaminski. Rated as top blocker on offense that averaged 29 points and 377 yards total offense per game (2004). Credited with 67 tackles (42 solo), four QB sacks, four fumble-cause hits, one pass deflection, and one blocked kick on D-line duty last autumn. Lettered in football (2). **Birthdate (Age):** 5-3-87 (18). **Major:** Art.

71

## Adam Grimm

Mequon, WI / Homestead  
Defensive Tackle  
6-3 • 230 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Consensus First-Team All-State D-line prospect. Produced 45 tackles for losses in last two campaigns. **NIU:** Signed National Letter as DE. Reports to August drills as No. 5 DT (2005). **Prep:** Recorded 182 career stops, 53 tackles for loss, and 17 QB sacks (2002-04). Lettered on teams that won 33 of 37 games. Named team captain, team Most Valuable Defensive Player, and team Attitude Award recipient, First-Team All-North Shore Conference and league Co-Defensive Player of the Year, First-Team *CNI-NewsGraphic* All-Area, First-Team Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-State, and First-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State on league champion and state Division I (Large Schools) playoff entry as a senior for coach Dave Keen. Credited with two pass deflections, eight QB sacks, 22 tackles for losses, and 71 overall stops (2004). Selected First-Team All-NSC and loop Defensive Player of the Year, Second-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-Area and Honorable Mention All-State on 12-1 playoff unit as a junior. Produced 64 stops, 22 TFL, and three QB sacks (2003). Notched 47 tackles and three deflections as a soph. Played on South Team in WFCAs Shrine Game (2005). Said Germantown head coach Phil Dakta: "He dominates the game. You almost have to game plan away from him." Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Jevon Kearse fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 5-26-87 (18). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

26

## Cory Hanson

Minneapolis, MN / DeLaSalle  
Linebacker  
6-1 • 195 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Three-sport "banger." Earned eight letters in three sports. **NIU:** Signed National Letter of Intent at SS. Arrives in August camp as No. 3 WLB (2005). **Prep:** Produced 2,540 yards total offense and 36 TDs in last two seasons. Collected 169 career tackles, 14 QB sacks, and seven interceptions in four years on defense. Performed at QB, WR, and SS. Three-year all-league player. Named team captain and MVP, First-Team All-Tri-Metro Conference, First-Team KARE-TV All-Metro, and Honorable Mention *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* All-State on 10-1 league kingpin and state Class 3A playoff squad as a senior for coach Adam Kowles. Tabbed finalist (last 20 candidates) for state's Mr. Football (2004). Completed 32-of-79 passes for 578 yards and 14 TDs and scrambled for 801 yards—including a 61-yard gain—and 10 TDs on 75 carries (2004). Credited with 54 stops, five QB sacks, and two interceptions in final year. Selected team captain and First-Team All-TMC on 7-3 eleven as a junior. Hit 23-of-51 passes for 552 yards and six TDs and added 609 ground yards and six TDs on 78 attempts (2003). Caught six passes for 100 yards at WR and posted 54 tackles at SS on TMC champion as a soph. Lettered in football (4), basketball (1), and track (3). Threw shot put in track. Said Adam Kowles: "In basketball, Cory plays forward at 6-1. He likes banging with those big guys. He does that in football, too." **Birthdate (Age):** 2-1-87 (18). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

# NEWCOMER PROFILES

## 66 Tony Holmes

Woodbury, MN / Senior  
Offensive Tackle  
6-7 • 310 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Tallest man on 2005 Northern Illinois football roster. Super-sized O-line prospect. **NIU:** Rates as No. 4 RT on August depth chart (2005). **Prep:** Two-sport all-league pick. Named Honorable Mention All-Suburban East Conference and to Minnesota Vikings All-State High School Football Team on 7-6 Section 3 champion and state Class 5A (Large School) playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Paul Herzog. Blocked for 1,000-yard rusher (HB Kyle Jepson with 1,515 yards and 13 TDs) last fall. Three-year grid regular. Lettered in football (3), basketball (2), and track. Played in Minnesota All-Star Football Classic (June, 2005). Named All-Suburban East Conference on hardwood, plus led league in rebounding and blocked shots on state-ranked 23-7 Elite Eight quintet last winter. Averaged 12.6 ppg. and 6.2 rbpg. (2004-05). Produced 16-point, 10-rebound "double double" vs. Rossville (2004-05). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Father Gary Holmes (6-foot-10) lettered in basketball at Minnesota (1979-82), served as co-captain of 1981-82 Big Ten Conference title quintet, and was drafted by NBA Detroit Pistons (1982). Shaq fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 11-20-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

## 57 Zach Larsen

Northfield, MN  
Linebacker  
6-2 • 230 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Prolific hitman with 368 career tackles (2002-04). Recruited by Iowa State, Boston College, Cincinnati, Colorado State, Wyoming, and Western Michigan. **NIU:** Reports to August practice as No. 4 MLB (2005). **Prep:** Selected team captain and team Defensive Player of the Year, First-Team All-Missota Conference, First-Team MC All-Academic, Second-Team *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* All-Metro, Second-Team *St. Paul Pioneer Press* All-State, and First-Team Associated Press All-State on 12-1 league kingpin and MSHSL state Class 4A playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Bubba Sullivan. Started both ways (RB-LB) last season. Collected 183 tackles, nine QB sacks, three pass deflections, and two fumble-cause hits (2004). Rushed for five TDs and 322 yards on 68 carries (5.0-yard average) in final campaign. Ran for 345 yards and one TD on 60 attempts (2003). Set school single-season (183 in 2004) and career (386 in 2002-04) tackle records, plus career QB sack standard (16 in 2002-04). Selected First-Team All-Missota Conference with 141 tackles, eight pass deflections, six QB sacks, and two fumble-cause hits on 7-3 playoff unit as a junior (2003). Collected 62 stops in initial varsity campaign as a soph (2002). Lettered in football (3) and track (4). Played AAU basketball. **Personal:** Ray Lewis fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 11-19-86 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

## 77 Tim Mayerbock

Chicago / St. Patrick  
Offensive Guard  
6-4 • 285 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Future FBI agent. Described as "rough and tumble player" by EdgyTim.com website. Recruited by Kansas, Northwestern, Indiana, and Akron. **NIU:** Opens August drills as No. 4 LG (2005). **Prep:** Allowed zero QB sacks in three varsity seasons. Three-year O-line MVP and two-time All-East Suburban Catholic Conference performer. Named team captain and Most Valuable Offensive Lineman, First-Team All-ESCC, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, and Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State on 9-2 league runner-up and state Class 7A playoff qualifier as a senior for coach Dan Galante. Cited as preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Top Area 100 Player and *Chicago Tribune* ESCC Player to Watch last August. Led team with 119 "pancake blocks" in final campaign. Selected First-Team All-ESCC and O-line MVP as a junior (2003). Honor Roll student. **Birthdate (Age):** 12-30-85 (19). **Major:** Liberal Arts & Sciences.

## 36 Orlando Moore

Chicago / Morgan Park  
Wide Receiver  
5-10 • 175 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Rated as three-star prospect by Rivals.com. Recruited by Michigan State, Maryland, Wisconsin, and Bowling Green State. Posted legit :04.4 timing in 40-yard dash (2004). **NIU:** Reports to August drills as No. 4 FLK (2005). **Prep:** Made 78 receptions for 1,922 yards (24.6 yards-per-catch average) and 15 TDs as an upperclassman. Named First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, Honorable Mention *Daily Southtown* All-Area, First-Team *Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report* All-Area, and Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State on 12-1 league champion and state Class 7A playoff semifinalist as a senior for coach Lexie Spurlock. Caught 68 balls for 1,562 yards (25.2 ypc. average), 10 TDs, and 84-yard career long-gainer (2004). Listed among preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Top 100 Area Players (August, 2004). Ranked No. 24 on *Chicago Sun-Times* Top 30 Juniors list (April, 2004). Pulled in 16 passes for 360 yards (22.5 ypc. average) and five TDs on 10-2 Section champion and state Class 7A playoff quarterfinalist as a junior (2003). Lettered in football (3). **Nickname:** "O." **Birthdate (Age):** 11-21-86 (19). **Major:** Computer Science.

## 30 Bradley Pruitt

Chicago / Hyde Park  
Cornerback  
6-1 • 175 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Potential true frosh regular. Versatile two-way talent at WR-DB. **NIU:** Listed as No. 3 SSCB on August depth chart (2005). **Prep:** Two-time All-Section standout and team captain. Selected team captain and Most Valuable Player, First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section, plus First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League and Special Mention All-Area at DB as a senior for coach Andre Thomas. Produced 75 tackles, three pass interceptions, and three pass deflections at DB and made 25 receptions for 400 yards (16.0 yards-per-catch average) and four TDs at WR (2004). Tied Public League record with 100-yard interception return. Cited on preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* Public League All-Defensive squad and Top 100 Area Players list, plus *Chicago Tribune* league Players to Watch last August. Named team captain, team Defensive MVP with 125 tackles, and First-Team All-Section on 10-3 conference kingpin and division champion (2003). Lettered in football (3). Honor roll student with 3.28 cumulative grade point average. **Hobby:** Bowling. **Birthdate (Age):** 3-15-87 (18). **Major:** Management.

## 31 Melvin Rice

Chicago / Morgan Park  
Cornerback  
5-10 • 175 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Potential true frosh regular. Unanimous All-State selection as a senior. Called "lockdown cover corner" on dominating "46" defense. Ranked No. 41 CB by Rivals.com, No. 46 in Midwest Top 100 by *The Sporting News*, and No. 90 in Midwest Hot 100 by Scout.com. Recruited by Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, Toledo, and Illinois. **NIU:** Opens summer drills as No. 3 WSCB (2005). **Prep:** Started on 10-2 (2003) and 12-1 (2004) state Class 7A playoff units. Named team captain and Most Valuable DB, First-Team Chicago Public League All-Section, First-Team *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League, First-Team All-Area, and First-Team (Large School) All-State, Honorable Mention *Daily Southtown* All-Area, First-Team *Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report* All-Area, Special Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State, Second-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State, and First-Team IHSCFA Class 7A All-State as a senior for coach Lexie Spurlock. Cited on preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Public League Defense and *Chicago Tribune* Top 100 Area Players. Listed as No. 1 area DB by *Chicago Tribune* (August, 2004). Recorded 95 tackles, five fumble recoveries, four interceptions, and two blocked kicks on 12-1 Section champion and state Class 7A playoff semifinalist (2004). Recovered bad punt snap for TD in first quarter in state playoff quarterfinals vs. O'Fallon (11-12-04). Earned First-Team All-Section honors and made 124 stops (87 solo), five interceptions, two QB sacks, and two fumble recoveries on 10-2 league kingpin and state Class 7A quarterfinalist as a junior. Voted team Special Teams MVP as a soph (2002) and team Rookie of the Year as a frosh (2001). Lettered in football (4) and track (2). Dean's List student. **Nickname:** "Scooby." **Birthdate (Age):** 12-13-86 (18). **Major:** Pre-Business.

# NEWCOMER PROFILES

59

## Kevin Skatrud

Brodhead, WI / Brodhead-Juda  
Offensive Tackle  
6-6 • 295 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Consensus All-Stater on state playoff semifinalist. Earned nine letters in three sports. **NIU:** Ranks as No. 3 LT on preseason deeps (2005). **Prep:** Named team captain and O-line Award recipient, First-Team All-Rock Valley Conference at OT and DT, First-Team *Beloit Daily News* All-Area, First-Team *Wisconsin State Journal* All-Area, Second-Team *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-State, Second-Team Associated Press All-State, and First-Team Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-State on 9-4 RVC runner-up and state Division 4 playoff semifinalist as a senior. Credited with 65 tackles, four QB sacks, four deflections, and two blocked shots for coach Gary Larsen last year (2004). Selected First-Team All-RVC and First-Team *Beloit Daily News* All-Area on 11-3 league champ and state Division 4 playoff runner-up as a junior. Played for South Team in WFLCA Shrine Game (2005). Lettered in football (3), basketball (3), and track (3). Made team MVP and Honorable Mention All-RVC as junior on hardwood (2003-04). Honor Roll student. Said Lancaster head coach John Hoch: "I rated him the best offensive lineman I've seen for a number of years. He just crushes people. He has great feet and size. Just a hell of an athlete." **Nickname:** "Skat." **Hobby:** Paintball. **Birthdate (Age):** 2-1-87 (18). **Major:** Marketing.

64

## Jake Wertz

Prairie View / Lincolnshire Stevenson  
Offensive Guard  
6-5 • 315 • Freshman

**Scoop:** All-State on field and in classroom. **NIU:** Opens August drills as No. 5 RG (2005). **Prep:** Named team captain, First-Team North Suburban Conference All-Lake Division, First-Team *Pioneer Press* All-Area, First-Team *Daily Herald* Lake County All-Area, Special Mention *Chicago Sun-Times* All-Area, and Special Mention *Chicago Tribune* All-State on 8-4 state Class 8A playoff quarterfinalist as a senior for coach Bill Mitz. Tabbed First-Team Academic All-NSC and First-Team Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Academic All-State with 3.8 cumulative gpa (2004). Voted preseason *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Chicago Tribune* Top 100 Area Players. Earned Honorable Mention All-NSC honors at DT on 7-4 state Class 8A playoff qualifier as a junior (2003). Lettered in football (2) and track (2) at SHS. Threw shot put and discus in track. Transferred from Mooresville, NC, Senior High School. **Personal:** Born in Riverside, CA, and has lived in six states. Ray Lewis fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 3-20-87 (18). **Major:** Mechanical Engineering.

81

## Justin Williams

Elkhart, IN / Central  
Wide Receiver  
6-1 • 180 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Established three major school receiving standards. **NIU:** Listed as No. 3 SE on August deeps (2005). **Prep:** Made 75 career receptions for 1,276 yards (17.0 yards-per-catch average) and 21 TDs (2002-04). Named team co-MVP, First-Team All-Northern Indiana Conference, First-Team *Elkhart Truth* All-Area, First-Team *South Bend Tribune* All-Dream Team, First-Team Indiana Football Coaches Association All-Region, and Honorable Mention Associated Press All-State on state-ranked 8-2 Class 5A state playoff entry as a senior for coach Mike McClure. Set ECHS single-season reception (50), TD reception (16), and reception yardage (886) marks, plus added 80-yard long-gainer (2004). Caught 19 passes for 325 yards (17.1 ypc. average) and four TDs on 9-4 eleven as a junior (2003). Grabbed six passes for 65 yards and one TD as a sophomore. Lettered in football (3) and track. Voted Most Improved Performer in track (spring, 2004). **Nickname:** "J-Dub." **Personal:** Jerry Rice fan. No relation to WR Preston Williams. **Birthdate (Age):** 2-12-87 (18). **Major:** Engineering Technology.

82

## Preston Williams

Urbana  
Wide Receiver  
5-11 • 170 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Future SWAT team member. **NIU:** Reports to August drills as No. 3 WR (2005). **Prep:** Three-time All-Area grinder. Amassed 3,482 career yards total offense at QB, tied school record with 40 career TDs at QB (2002-04), plus posted 80 tackles, nine interceptions, and nine fumble-cause hits at DB (2003-04). Named team co-captain and MVP, First-Team All-Big 12 Conference at QB and DB and league Offensive Player of the Year, First-Team *Champaign News-Gazette* All-Area at DB and Area Player of the Year, Second-Team *Chicago Tribune* All-State at DB, and First-Team *Champaign News-Gazette* All-State at DB as a senior. Produced 1,851 yards total offense (63-of-148 passes for 1,165 yards and 11 TDs, plus 686 rushing yards and 11 TDs) and 30 tackles, seven interceptions, and five fumble-cause hits on defense for 5-5 state Class 6A playoff entry for coach Steve Waller (2004). Tied UHS single-game record with three TDs vs. Danville (10-22-04). Voted team co-MVP, First-Team All-Big 12 at DB, and First-Team *Champaign News-Gazette* All-Area as a junior. Scored two TDs on defense (fumble recovery return and interception in 2003). Made team Outstanding Sophomore and Honorable Mention *Champaign News-Gazette* All-Area (2002). Won letters in football (3), basketball (3), and baseball (2). Cited as team Defensive Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Big 12 as a junior on hardwood. Recipient of Thurgood Marshall Academic Award, Big 12 Leadership Award (2003-04), and Big 12 Scholar-Athlete Award (2002-05). Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Father Preston Williams, Jr., lettered in baseball at Indiana State (1976-79) and sister Jacquelyn Williams plays softball at Illinois State (2004-present). No relation to WR Justin Williams. **Nickname:** "Tre'." **Birthdate (Age):** 11-5-86 (19). **Major:** Sociology.

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## Spencer Williamson

Elkhart, IN / Central  
Free Safety  
6-3 • 185 • Freshman

**Scoop:** Two-sport All-State pick. **NIU:** Arrives in August camp as No. 4 FS (2005). Signed National Letter of Intent as LB. **Prep:** Two-sport All-State selection. Recorded 269 career tackles in four varsity football campaigns (2001-04). Named team co-captain and co-MVP, and team Leadership Award recipient, First-Team All-Northern Indiana Conference, First-Team *Elkhart Truth* All-Area, First-Team *South Bend Tribune* All-Dream Team, First-Team Indiana Football Coaches Association All-Region, and Honorable Mention *Bloomington Herald-Times* All-State on 8-2 state Class 5A playoff entry as a senior for coach Mike McClure. Contributed 103 tackles (53 solo), one fumble recovery, and one interception (2004). Netted 86 stops, four blocked kicks, and three pass thefts, plus won First-Team All-Northern Indiana Conference honors as a junior. Credited with 46 hits as a sophomore (2002) and 34 in freshman year (2001). Lettered in football (4), basketball (3), and track (4). Placed third in state 4 x 100 relay and garnered All-State honors as a junior. Honor Roll student. **Personal:** Bill Russell fan. **Birthdate (Age):** 4-16-87 (18). **Major:** Marketing.

