



FOOTBALL

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MOUNTAIN WEST ANNOUNCES 2017 FOOTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Penny makes league history by winning two major postseason awards

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The Mountain West announced today its 2017 All-Conference football teams and individual award winners, as chosen by the 12 head coaches and a select media panel. San Diego State senior running back **Rashaad Penny** is being honored as both the Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year and Special Teams Player of the Year. This is the first time in MW history that a player has won two major postseason awards in the same season. Boise State junior linebacker **Leighton Vander Esch** is the MW Defensive Player of the Year. UNLV quarterback **Armani Rogers** has been selected as the MW Freshman of the Year and **Jeff Tedford** of Fresno State is the MW Coach of the Year.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – RASHAAD PENNY, SENIOR, RB, SAN DIEGO STATE

- A San Diego State player has won this honor for the third consecutive year. Penny joins Donnel Pumphrey, who won the award in back-to-back years (2015-16).
- Helped lead the Aztecs to their third-straight double-digit win season. The Aztecs are the first MW team to win at least 10 games in three straight seasons since TCU in 2008-11.
- Named a semifinalist for the Maxwell Award (national player of the year), Walter Camp Award (most outstanding player) and Doak Walker Award (top running back). No other player in the MW was a semifinalist for these awards.
- Was the only player in the country to be named the Walter Camp FBS National Player of the Week twice this season.
- Was named a MW Player of the Week seven times this year (five offensive, two special teams).
- Finished the regular-season ranked first in the FBS in rushing yards (2,027), rushing yards per game (168.9), all-purpose yards (2,698) and all-purpose yards per game (224.83), is second in total touchdowns (24), scoring per game (12.0) and third in rushing touchdowns (19).
- Had 10, 100-yard rushing games this season and four, 200-yard rushing performances, which tied a single-season Conference record.
- At Arizona State on Sept. 9, registered 353 all-purpose yards and three total touchdowns. He was the only FBS player with at least one rushing touchdown, one receiving touchdown and one kick return touchdown in the same game.
- Set a MW record with 429 all-purpose yards on Nov. 18 against Nevada. The 429 all-purpose yards are the ninth-most in NCAA single-game history. Additionally, he was only the second FBS player since 1996 to score at least one rushing touchdown, one kick return touchdown and one punt return touchdown in the same game.
- Rushed for a career-high 253 yards at Hawai'i on Oct. 29.
- Scored a rushing touchdown in 10 games this season, including multiple scores on eight occasions.



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – LEIGHTON VANDER ESCH, JUNIOR, LB, BOISE STATE

- Is the third Boise State player to earn a major MW award since the Broncos joined the Conference, joining Kellen Moore in 2011 (Offensive Player of the Year) and Brett Rypien in 2015 (Freshman of the Year).
- Helped lead the Broncos to their second MW Football Championship Game appearance and first since 2014.
- Finished the regular-season ranked third in the league with 113 total tackles. This figure leads Boise State.
- Recorded at least 10 tackles in six games this season, including a career-best 16 tackles at nationally-ranked Washington State on Sept. 9.
- Is 24th nationally with a 9.4 tackles per contest average.
- Also recorded 5.5 tackles for loss, 3.0 sacks and picked off two passes.
- Averaging 5.9 solo tackles per game, which is tied for ninth in the country and tied for second in the MW.
- Key contributor to a defensive unit that is third in the league with 27 total sacks and 21 takeaways. The 21 takeaways are tied for 33rd nationally.
- Member of a front seven that held opponents to 124.9 yards rushing per game, a mark that ranks 19th nationally and third in the MW, and allowed only two 100-yard rushers.

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR – RASHAAD PENNY, SENIOR, RETURN SPECIALIST, SAN DIEGO STATE

- Earns his third-consecutive Mountain West Special Teams Player of the Year honor.
- Becomes only the second player in MW history to garner Special Teams Player of the Year accolades in three straight years. Utah's Louie Sakoda shared the honor in 2006 with New Mexico's Kenny Byrd and then won it outright in '07 and '08.
- Is the first player in MW history to win a major award outright in three consecutive years.
- Helped lead the Aztecs to their third-straight double-digit win season. The Aztecs are the first MW team to win at least 10 games in three straight seasons since TCU in 2008-11.
- Returned two kick returns for a touchdown (100 yards vs. Nevada and 99 yards at Arizona State) this season. The two kick return touchdowns are tied for fourth in the FBS.
- Also registered a 70-yard punt return touchdown vs. Nevada, which came in his first time of his career lining back for a punt.
- Ranks seventh nationally, averaging 30.6 yard per kick return.
- Named MW Special Teams Player of the Week on Sept. 11 and Nov. 20.

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR – ARMANI ROGERS, QB, UNLV

- Fourth UNLV player and first since Devonte Boyd in 2014 to be named Mountain West Freshman of the Year.
- Becomes the fifth quarterback to be named Mountain West Freshman of the Year.
- Set a program record for single-game rushing yards by a quarterback with 193 yards at New Mexico on Nov. 17.
- Rushed for 731 yards this season, the most by a quarterback in a single season in UNLV history.
- Named MW Offensive Player of the week on Nov. 20.
- The only freshman nationally to have rushed for at least 700 yards and average 140 passing yards per game.
- Despite only starting eight games, ranks fifth in the MW in total offense (2,431) and eighth with seven rushing touchdowns.
- Rushed for 148 yards on just 16 attempts at Air Force on Oct. 14.
- Scored an 83-yard rushing touchdown at New Mexico on Nov. 17. This was the second-longest run by a freshman nationally this season and third longest by a quarterback.



COACH OF THE YEAR – JEFF TEDFORD, FRESNO STATE

- Selected as MW Coach of the Year after leading Fresno State to the MW West Division title with a 7-1 record in Conference play. The 2017 season marks Tedford's first season as the head coach at Fresno State.
- Led the Bulldogs to a 9-3 record during the regular season, which was an eight-win improvement from the 2016 campaign. This eight-game improvement is best in the FBS this season.
- Fresno State's nine victories this year are the most in a single season by the Bulldogs since 2013 (11-2).
- Guided the Bulldogs to their third appearance in the Conference title game in five years.
- Becomes the first Fresno State head coach to earn the honor.

NOTABLES

- Only two student-athletes were repeat MW First Team All-Conference selections from 2016 (Colorado State WR **Michael Gallup** and San Diego State return specialist **Rashaad Penny**).
- San Diego State has produced the winner of the Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year award in three consecutive years. This is the first time an institution has won a major MW postseason award in three consecutive seasons since TCU in 2008-11 (defensive player of the year). It is the third time overall, also joining Utah (special teams player of the year; 2006-08).
- **Rashaad Penny** becomes the 15th player overall to be named to the all-conference first team in three consecutive seasons.
- Penny is the first MW player to ever win two major MW postseason awards in the same year.
- 10 of the 11 first-team offensive honorees are seniors.
- Boise State defensive lineman **Curtis Weaver** is the first freshman to earn first-team defensive honors in MW history.
- Boise State has had at least one first team All-Conference offensive lineman in each of its seven seasons in the MW.
- **Jake Bennett** (Colorado State – Offensive Lineman), **Dejon Allen** (Hawai'i – Offensive Lineman) and **Austin Corbett** (Nevada – Offensive Lineman) each garnered first team All-Conference honors after being named to the second team in 2016.
- After winning the 2017 MW Freshman of the Year honor, **Armani Rogers** (UNLV – Quarterback) is the eighth major award winner from UNLV.
- **David Wells** (San Diego State – Tight End) is a repeat honoree on the second team.
- Of the 50 MW first- and second-team selections, 26 were seniors, 14 were juniors, five were sophomores and five were freshmen.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Rashaad Penny, Sr., RB, San Diego State

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Leighton Vander Esch, Jr., LB, Boise State

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Rashaad Penny, Sr., KR/PR, San Diego State

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Armani Rogers, QB, UNLV

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeff Tedford, Fresno State

**2017 ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST FOOTBALL FIRST-TEAM****OFFENSE**

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Cl.</u> | <u>Team</u> |
|-------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| QB | Nick Stevens | Sr. | Colorado State |
| WR | Cedrick Wilson | Sr. | Boise State |
| WR | Michael Gallup* | Sr. | Colorado State |
| RB | Rashaad Penny | Sr. | San Diego State |
| RB | Lexington Thomas | Jr. | UNLV |
| TE | Jake Roh | Sr. | Boise State |
| OL | Mason Hampton | Sr. | Boise State |
| OL | Jake Bennett | Sr. | Colorado State |
| OL | Zack Golditch | Sr. | Colorado State |
| OL | Dejon Allen | Sr. | Hawai'i |
| OL | Austin Corbett | Sr. | Nevada |
| PK | Dominik Eberle | So. | Utah State |
| PR/KR | Rashaad Penny** | Sr. | San Diego State |

DEFENSE

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Cl.</u> | <u>Team</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| DL | Curtis Weaver | Fr. | Boise State |
| DL | Malik Reed | Jr. | Nevada |
| DL | Youhanna Ghaifan | So. | Wyoming |
| DL | Carl Granderson | Jr. | Wyoming |
| LB | Leighton Vander Esch | Jr. | Boise State |
| LB | Jeffrey Allison | So. | Fresno State |
| LB | Frank Ginda | Jr. | San José State |
| DB | Tyler Horton | Jr. | Boise State |
| DB | Kameron Kelly | Sr. | San Diego State |
| DB | Jalen Davis | Sr. | Utah State |
| DB | Andrew Wingard* | Jr. | Wyoming |
| P | Corey Bojorquez | Sr. | New Mexico |

*--Two-Time First-Team Selection

**--Three-Time First-Team Selection

2017 ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST FOOTBALL SECOND-TEAM**OFFENSE**

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Cl.</u> | <u>Team</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| QB | Brett Rypien | Jr. | Boise State |
| WR | KeeSean Johnson | Jr. | Fresno State |
| WR | Wyatt Demps | Sr. | Nevada |
| RB | Dalyn Dawkins | Sr. | Colorado State |
| RB | Diocemy Saint Juste | Sr. | Hawai'i |
| TE | David Wells* | Sr. | San Diego State |
| OL | Alex Norton | Sr. | Air Force |
| OL | Archie Lewis | Sr. | Boise State |
| OL | Aaron Mitchell | Sr. | Fresno State |
| OL | Keith Ismael | Fr. | San Diego State |
| OL | Tyler Roemer | Fr. | San Diego State |
| PK | Jimmy Camacho | Sr. | Fresno State |
| PR/KR | Avery Williams | Fr. | Boise State |

DEFENSE

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Cl.</u> | <u>Team</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| DL | Jabril Frazier | Jr. | Boise State |
| DL | David Moa | Jr. | Boise State |
| DL | Tobenna Okeke | Sr. | Fresno State |
| DL | Mike Hughes, Jr. | Sr. | UNLV |
| LB | Jahlani Tavai | Jr. | Hawai'i |
| LB | Ronley Lakalaka | Jr. | San Diego State |
| LB | Logan Wilson | So. | Wyoming |
| DB | Kekoa Nawahine | So. | Boise State |
| DB | Dameon Baber | Jr. | Nevada |
| DB | Tariq Thompson | Fr. | San Diego State |
| DB | Rico Gafford | Sr. | Wyoming |
| P | Michael Carrizosa | Sr. | San José State |

*--Two-Time Second-Team Selection



2017 HONORABLE MENTION

Air Force: Grant Ross, Sr., LB.

Boise State: Ezra Cleveland, Fr., OL; Haden Hoggarth, Jr., PK; Alexander Mattison, So., RB; Tyson Maeva, So, LB; Durrant Miles, Jr., DL; John Molchon, So., OL; DeAndre Pierce, So., DB.

Colorado State: Evan Colorito, Sr., LB; Dalton Fackrell, Sr., TE; Trae Moxley, Sr., OL; Ryan Stonehouse, Fr., P; Josh Watson, Jr., LB.

Fresno State: Mike Bell So., DB; Jaron Bryant, So., DB; Christian Cronk, Jr., OL; Malik Forrester, Sr., DL; George Helmuth, Jr., LB; Juju Hughes, So., DB; Marcus McMaryion, Jr., QB; Netane Muti, Fr., OL; David Patterson, Sr., OL; Micah St. Andrew, Jr., OL; Robert Stanley, Sr., DL.

Hawai'i: Meffy Koloamatangi, Sr., DL; Viane Moala, So., DL.

Nevada: Ty Gangi, Jr., QB; Sean Krepsz, Jr., OL; Austin Paulhus, Sr., LB; Asauni Rufus, Jr., DB.

New Mexico: Blaise Fountain, Sr., OL; Garrett Hughes, Sr., DL; Aaron Jenkins, Jr., OL; Jake Rothschiller, Sr., DB.

San Diego State: Parker Baldwin, Jr., DB; Mikah Holder, Sr., WR.

San José State: Bryce Crawford, Jr., PK; Chris Gonzalez, Sr., OL.

UNLV: Nathan Jacobson, Jr., OL; Kyle Saxelid, Sr., OL.

Utah State: Roman Andrus, Jr., OL; Quin Ficklin, Jr., OL; Dallin Leavitt, Sr., DB; Dax Raymond, So., TE.

Wyoming: Josh Allen, Sr., QB; Tyler Hall, So., RS.

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