



# NEWS RELEASE

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## MAINE MARITIME'S JIM BOWER AND MOUNT UNION'S CECIL SHORTS HEADLINE THE 2009 AFCA DIVISION III COACHES' ALL-AMERICA TEAM

**WACO, TEX.** — Maine Maritime runningback **Jim Bower** and Mount Union wide receiver **Cecil Shorts** headline the 2009 AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team announced today by the American Football Coaches Association.

The AFCA has selected an All-America team since 1945 and currently selects teams in all five of its divisions. What makes these teams so special is that they are the only ones chosen exclusively by the men who know the players the best — the coaches themselves.

Bower led Division III in rushing this season, averaging 160.5 yards per game to help lead the Mariners to their first NCAA Division III playoff appearance. Shorts enters this weekend's Stag Bowl averaging 110 yards per game receiving.

### 2009 AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team

#### Offense

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
WR	Cecil Shorts	6-2	195	Sr.	Mount Union	Larry Kehres	Cleveland, Ohio (Collinwood)
WR	Jared Manzer	6-0	190	Sr.	Alfred	Dave Murray	Johnson City, N.Y. (Johnson City)
TE	Renard Ellis	6-2	230	Sr.	Mississippi College	Norman Joseph	Winter Haven, Fla. (Winter Haven)
OL	Evan Isaacs	6-3	267	Sr.	Wabash	Erik Raeburn	Indianapolis, Ind. (North Central)
OL	Blaine Westemeyer*	6-5	280	Sr.	Augustana (Ill.)	Jim Barnes	Overland Park, Kan. (Blue Valley NW)
OL	Josh Ostrue*	6-4	305	Sr.	St. Thomas (Minn.)	Glenn Caruso	South St. Paul, Minn. (South St. Paul)
OL	Josh Delancy	5-11	302	Sr.	North Central	John Thorne	Stuart, Fla. (Jensen Beach)
OL	Scott Millenbach	6-2	280	Sr.	Linfield	Joe Smith	Olympia, Wash. (Capital)
QB	Dan Whalen	6-1	190	Sr.	Case Western	Greg Debeljak	Willoughby, Ohio (South)
RB	Caleb Jennings	5-7	175	Jr.	Emory & Henry	Don Montgomery	Cedar Bluff, Va. (Richlands)
RB	Jim Bower	5-9	225	Sr.	Maine Maritime	Chris McKenney	South Paris, Maine (Oxford Hills)

#### Defense

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
DL	Michael Ward	6-2	327	Sr.	Wesley	Mike Drass	Norwich, Conn. (Norwich Free Academy)
DL	Jacob Bloomhuff	6-3	245	Sr.	Wash. & Jeff.	Mike Sirianni	Grosse Pointe, Mich. (North)
DL	Anthony Goranson	6-5	255	Sr.	Monmouth (Ill.)	Steve Bell	Bartlett, Ill. (Belvidere)
DL	Paul Cynewski	6-3	245	Sr.	Salisbury	Sherman Wood	Moorestown, N.J. (Moorestown)
DL	Eddie Vallery	6-2	220	Jr.	Wittenberg	Joe Fincham	South Solon, Ohio (Madison Plains)
LB	Scott Driscoll	6-0	215	Sr.	Curry	Skip Bandini	North Andover, Mass. (North Andover)
LB	Brad Steinmetz	6-0	224	Sr.	Thomas More	Jim Hilvert	West Harrison, Ind. (East Central)
LB	Erik Prosser	6-3	225	Jr.	Mount St. Joseph	Rod Huber	Cincinnati, Ohio (Oak Hills)
LB	Ryan Wimmer	6-0	220	Sr.	St. John's (Minn.)	John Gagliardi	St. Cloud, Minn. (Cathedral)
DB	Bryson Tucker	5-9	185	Sr.	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Pete Fredenburg	Caldwell, Texas (Caldwell)
DB	Dominique Dixon	6-1	195	Sr.	Montclair St.	Rick Giancola	Wharton, N.J. (Morris Hills)

#### Specialists

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	School	Coach	Hometown (High School)
P	Jared Jenkins	6-4	210	Jr.	Wis.-Stevens Point	John Miech	Milwaukee, Wis. (Rufus King)
PK	Jeff Schebler	6-0	182	Sr.	Wis.-Whitewater	Lance Leipold	Davenport, Iowa (Assumption)
AP	Jordan Rideaux	5-8	170	Jr.	Louisiana College	Dennis Dunn	Carencro, La. (Carencro)

\*-2008 AFCA All-American

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**Team Background:** The AFCA has selected an All-America team every year since 1945.

The five teams now chosen for each AFCA division evolved from a single 11-player squad in 1945. From 1945 until 1967, only one team was chosen.

From 1967 through 1971, two teams, University Division and College Division, were selected. In 1972, the College Division was split into College I and College II.

In 1979, the University Division was split into two teams — Division I-A and Division I-AA.

In 1996 the College I and College II teams were renamed Division II and Division III respectively. The AFCA began selecting an NAIA-only team in 2006.

From 1965-81, a 22-player (11 offensive, 11 defensive) team was chosen.

In 1982, a punter and placekicker were added to the team. In 1997 a return specialist was added, giving us the current 25-player team.

The return specialist position was been replaced by an all-purpose player in 2006.

**The Award:** Members of the AFCA Coaches' All-America Team receive a plaque commemorating their selection to the team.

**Top Teams:** The leaders are Mount Union (18 players) and Augustana (Ill.) (17 players), which have been represented 19 times since 1972. The Purple Raiders and Vikings are followed by Wittenberg (18/17), Washington & Jefferson (16/14), Wisconsin-La Crosse (15/15), Central (Iowa) (14/13), Mississippi College (14/13), Ithaca (13/13), Widener (13/10), Emory & Henry (13/13), Linfield (13/12), Montclair State (13/11), Springfield (Mass.) (12/11), Frostburg State (11/10), St. John's (Minn.) (11/11), Wheaton (11/10), Wisconsin-Whitewater (11/9), Westminster (Pa.) (10/10) and Millsaps (10/7).

**Consecutive Years:** Mount Union has had a player chosen every year since 2000 to surpass Emory & Henry's previous record of eight straight seasons from 1985-1992. Mount Union had one player chosen for six consecutive seasons from 1993-1998. Augustana (Ill.) had a player selected for six consecutive seasons from 2000-2005.

**Repeat After Me:** No player has earned AFCA Division III All-America honors four times, however Texas A&I (now Texas A&M-Kingsville) runningback **Johnny Bailey** did earn Coaches' All-America honors four straight years (1986-87-88-89) in AFCA College Division I (now AFCA Division II).

Five players have earned AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team honors three times. They are: DB **Tom Deery**, Widener, 1979-80-81, RB **Scott Reppert**, Lawrence 1980-81-82; RB **Joe Dudek**, Plymouth State 1983-84-85; DL **Sean Brewer**, Millsaps 1990-91-92 and P **Jeff Shea**, California Lutheran 1995-96-97.

**Class Distinction:** This year's AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America Team is made up of 20 seniors and 5 juniors.

**First Time Schools:** **Jordan Rideaux** is the first player from Louisiana College to earn AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America honors.

**Back-to-Back:** **Blaine Westemeyer** of Augustana (Ill.) and **Joel Ostrue** of St. Thomas (Minn.) earned AFCA Division III Coaches' All-America honors for the second consecutive season in 2008.

**One Player, Two Schools:** Punter **Mark Bounds** is the only player to earn Coaches' All-America honors at two different schools. He was named to the AFCA College Division I team in 1990 while playing for West Texas A&M. He transferred to Texas Tech after West Texas dropped football and earned I-A All-America honors as a Red Raider in 1991.

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