

# Corder on 2007 Draddy list

## Award known as the "Academic" Heisman

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Selected as the best of the brightest from the college gridiron, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) today announced the 153 semi-finalists for the 2007 Draddy Trophy and Middle Tennessee's Clinton Corder made the prestigious list. Corder, the Blue Raiders' starting tight end, owns a 3.47 grade point average in Marketing and is very active with various community activities. Corder, who earned his degree last December and is currently taking graduate courses, is one of six players from the Sun Belt Conference on the list. "This is a great honor and one we are very proud of at Middle Tennessee," said Head Coach Rick Stockstill. "Clinton is a class individual and excels in both the classroom and on the football field. We are fortunate to have a person with the character of Clinton Corder." Known in many circles as the "Academic" Heisman, the



Draddy Trophy continues to be one of college football's most sought after and competitive awards, recognizing an individual as the absolute best in the country for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership. Nominated by their schools, which are limited to one nominee each, semi-finalists must be a senior or graduate student in their final year of eligibility, have a GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, have outstanding football ability as a first team player, and have demonstrated strong leadership and citizenship. Established to honor former NFF Chairman Vincent dePaul Draddy, a Manhattan College quarterback who founded the Izod and Lacoste brands, the award comes with a stunning 24-inch, 25-pound bronze trophy and a \$25,000 post-graduate scholarship. This year's semifinalists maintain a 3.58 average GPA in diverse majors

such as physics and ocean engineering. Sixty-six players have earned all-conference recognition on the field and 106 have served as captains. The offensive line produced the most nominees with 31 candidates. Receivers and linebackers followed with 26 nominees each. Offense outscored the defense with 80 to 53 hopefuls. Twenty special teams aspirants completed the contingent. Nominees hail from all NCAA divisions and the NAIA, including a record 67 contenders from the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A). The NFF Awards Committee will select and announce up to 15 finalists on Oct. 25. Each finalist will be recognized as part of the 2007 National Scholar-Athlete Class, receiving an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship. The Draddy winner, who will receive a \$25,000 postgraduate scholarship, will be announced at the NFF's Annual Awards Dinner on December 4 at the prestigious Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. A total distribution of more than \$300,000 in scholarships will be awarded that evening.

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