Scandrett on "Academic" Heisman list

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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 184 semi-finalists for the 2005 Draddy Trophy and Middle Tennessee Devarick Scandrett made the prestigious list. Scandrett, the Blue Raiders' starting defensive end, owns a 3.3 grade point average in Social Work and is very active with various community activities. Scandrett is one of just three players from the Sun Belt Conference on the list. Joining Scandrett are North Texas' Nick Bazaldua and Florida International's Edward Wenger. "This is a great honor and one we are very proud of at Middle Tennessee," said Head Coach Andy McCollum. "Devarick 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 Devarick Scandrett." 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 3.0 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. With a 3.5 average GPA and majors such as biomedical engineering, the group includes 106 players who have earned all-conference recognition on the field and 125 captains. The offensive line produced the most nominees with 45. Linebackers came in second with 30 candidates. Offense outscored the defense with 88 to 80 hopefuls. The 16 special teams aspirants complete the contingent. Nominees hail from all NCAA divisions and the NAIA: 63 from Division I-A; 44 from Division I-AA; 20 from Division II; 43 from Division III; and 14 from the NAIA. The NFF Awards Committee, comprised of former coaches, Hall of Famers and college administrators, will select and announce 15 finalists on Oct. 27. The winner, also selected by the committee, will be announced at the 48th NFF Awards

Dinner on December 6 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. Each finalist will also be recognized that night as part of the 2005 National Scholar-Athlete Class, receiving an $18,000 post-graduate scholarship. **DIVISION I-A NOMINEES:**

Anderson, David; Colorado State
Avant, Jason; Michigan
Basanez, Brett; Northwestern
Bassler, Blade; Houston
Bazaldua, Nick; North Texas
Betts, Josh; Miami (Ohio)
Bienemann, Troy; Washington State
Bracken, Richard; Arkansas
Brooks, Darrell; Arizona
Castillo, David; Florida State
Clary, Jeromy; Kansas State
Culver, Lanell; Fresno State
Dawson, Trinity; Toledo
Day, Timothy; Oregon
Degory, Mike; Florida
Dewan, Brendan; Duke
Eslinger, Greg; Minnesota
Foltz, Ryan; California
Fredrick, Nate; Utah State
Gostkowski, Stephen; Memphis
Green, John; U.S. Naval Academy
Gross, John; Temple
Haas, Robert; Western Michigan
Hoyte, Brandon; Notre Dame
Huffman, Atonino; Kentucky
Hughes, Connor; Virginia
Jennings, Kelly; Miami (FL)
Johnson, Darcy; Central Florida
Johnson, Luke; Southern Mississipp
i Justice, Doug; North Carolina
Kane, Kevin; Kansas
King, Jeffrey; Virginia Tech
Kirkwood, Gregory; U.S. Air Force Academy
Lorello, Mike; West Virginia
Love, Grayling; Arizona State
Lumpkin, William; Indiana
Miller, Matthew; Ohio
Mills, Michael; Tulsa
Mullins, James; Marshall
Neill, Ryan; Rutgers
Niswanger, Rudy; Louisiana State
Obomanu, Benjamin; Auburn
Pace, Andrew; Vanderbilt
Person, Francis; South Carolina

Reis, Christopher; Georgia Tech
Robinson, Michael; Pennsylvania State
Ryans, DeMeco; Alabama
Sanders, Aaron; Buffalo
Scandrett, Devarick; Middle Tennessee
Schnittker, Brandon; Ohio State
Sessler, Jon; Kent State
Shimmelman, Kevin; Stanford
Shockley, D.J.; Georgia
Smith, Bradley; Missouri
Swiger, Jason; Akron
Thaler, Mike; Bowling Green State
Thomas, John; Texas
Toone, Spencer; Utah
Torp, John; Colorado
Traina, Matthew; Tulane
Turner, Matthew; Purdue
Wenger, Edward; Florida International
White, Spencer; Brigham Young

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