



# FOOTBALL

**For Immediate Use:** Tuesday, December 2, 2014

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## MOUNTAIN WEST ANNOUNCES 2014 FOOTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL HONORS

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** – The Mountain West announced its 2014 All-Conference football teams and individual award winners today as selected by the 12 head coaches and select media panel. Colorado State senior quarterback **Garrett Grayson** was chosen as the Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year, while Utah State senior linebacker **Zach Vigil** was named MW Defensive Player of the Year. Air Force senior kicker/punter **Will Conant** earned the MW Special Teams Player of the Year award, while UNLV wide receiver **Devonte Boyd** was honored as the MW Freshman of the Year. **Jim McElwain** of Colorado State was selected as the MW Coach of the Year.

### OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – GARRETT GRAYSON, SENIOR, QUARTERBACK, COLORADO STATE

- Is the fourth Colorado State player to earn MW Offensive Player of the Year honors (RB Kevin McDougal in 1999, QB Matt Newton in 2000 and QB Bradlee Van Pelt in 2002 and 2003).
- Seventh straight quarterback, and 13<sup>th</sup> overall, to be named MW Offensive Player of the Year.
- Led Rams to their first national ranking since 2003, reaching as high as No. 21 in both the *USA Today/Coaches* and *Associated Press* Polls.
- Conference leader in passing yards (3,779), passing yards per game (314.9), touchdowns (32), passing efficiency (171.3) and total offense (312.8).
- Currently ranked in the top-10 nationally in passing TD's (tied for seventh), passing yards per game (sixth), total offense (10<sup>th</sup>) and passing efficiency (second).
- Threw for more than 400 yards in two different games (434 at Boise State, 425 versus UC Davis) this season to claim two of the top four passing games in school history.
- His passing efficiency rating of 320.3 versus Wyoming (18-of-21 for 390 yards and five touchdowns) is the best by an FBS quarterback since 2006.
- Led the Rams to a program-best 698 yards of total offense against New Mexico. The Rams eclipsed 600 yards of total offense twice (698 vs. UNM, 676 vs. UC Davis) and at least 500 yards five times this season.
- Was named MW Offensive Player of the Week on Oct. 27.

### DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – ZACH VIGIL, SENIOR, LINEBACKER, UTAH STATE

- First Utah State player to win MW Defensive Player of the Year accolades.
- Vigil becomes the ninth player in school history and first since 1998 to earn conference defensive player of the year honors, and 11th player in school history to earn conference player of the year accolades.
- Fourth linebacker in five years to earn the award, and eighth overall.
- Ranks second in the MW and eighth nationally in tackles per game with 11.2.
- Leads the league with 145 tackles (74 solo) and tackles for loss (19.5). The 145 tackles rank fourth all-time in MW single season-history.
- Vigil's 19.5 tackles for loss is just 1.0 shy of tying the MW single-season record of 20.5 set a year ago by Boise State's Demarcus Lawrence and Colorado State's Shaquil Barrett, and 2.5 shy of tying the USU single-season record set by Jermaine Younger in 1993.
- Made a career-high 22 tackles versus Air Force on Oct. 11, which is currently tied for the most by any player in a game at the FBS level this season. Also had 19 tackles against San José State on Nov. 21.
- Recorded nine sacks during the regular season, which is tied for the team lead and second in the Conference.
- Named MW Defensive Player of the Week twice in 2014 (Sept. 15 and Oct. 13).
- Returned an interception for a touchdown against Wake Forest.

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**SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR – WILL CONANT, SENIOR, KICKER/PUNTER, AIR FORCE**

- First Air Force player to win the Special Teams Player of the Year award since it was introduced in 2006.
- Fifth kicker and first since 2008 to win the award.
- Has made 17 straight field goals under 60 yards.
- Has connected on 18-of-20 FG attempts this season.
- Leads the Conference in FG percentage (90.0) and ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the FBS.
- Is the MW leader in field goals per game at 1.50, a mark that also ranks tied for 19<sup>th</sup> nationally.
- Has converted all 42 of his extra-point attempts in 2014.
- Currently ranks second in MW scoring by a kicker with 96 points and is sixth overall in the league.
- Semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award.
- Earned MW Special Teams Player of the Week honors two times in 2014 (Nov. 3 and Dec. 1).

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR – DEVONTE BOYD, WDE RECEIVER, UNLV**

- Third straight wide receiver, and fifth overall, to garner MW Freshman of the Year honors.
- Second Rebel wide receiver to earn MW Freshman of the Year honors (Ryan Wolfe, UNLV-2006).
- Ranks fifth in the MW in receptions (64) and second in receiving yards (973).
- Leads the nation in receiving yards by a freshman with 973 and ranks 20<sup>th</sup> overall.
- Second all-time in the MW for receiving yards by a freshman, trailing only Fresno State's Davante Adams' 1,312 yards in 2012.
- Averaged 74.8 receiving yards per game to rank third in the MW and 39<sup>th</sup> in the FBS.
- Ranks third all-time in the MW for receptions in a season by a freshman, behind Adams (102 in 2012) and Colorado State's Rashard Higgins (68 in 2013).
- Equaled the UNLV mark for 100-yard receiving games in a season with three.
- Had 102 yards in his collegiate debut at Arizona.
- Caught a career-high 11 passes for 108 yards against New Mexico on Nov. 1.

**COACH OF THE YEAR – JIM MCELWAIN, COLORADO STATE**

- Selected as MW Coach of the Year after leading Colorado State to a 10-2 overall record and 6-2 mark in Conference play. The 2014 season marks McElwain's third year as head coach at Colorado State.
- He is the second CSU coach to earn MW Coach of the Year honors. Sonny Lubick received the accolade in 1999 and 2000.
- Semifinalist for Maxwell Football Club Collegiate Coach of the Year.
- Led Rams to their first national ranking since 2003, reaching as high as No. 21 in both the *USA Today*/Coaches and *Associated Press* polls.
- Colorado State won 10 games for the first time since 2003 and the 2014 team is just the fourth in school history to win at least 10 games in a regular season.

**NOTABLES**

- Boise State junior running back **Jay Ajayi**, Fresno State senior defensive back **Derron Smith** and Wyoming defensive lineman **Eddie Yarbrough** are repeat MW first-team All-Conference selections from 2013. For Smith, it's his third straight first-team designation.
- Colorado State senior QB **Garrett Grayson** is the first Ram quarterback since Bradlee Van Pelt in 2002-03 to earn MW first-team All-Conference honors.
- **Ty Sambrailo** (Colorado State – Offensive Lineman), **Josh Harper** (Fresno State – Wide Receiver), **Tyler Davison** (Fresno State – Defensive Lineman), **B.J. Larsen** (Utah State – Defensive Lineman) and **Zach Vigil** (Utah State – Linebacker) are all MW first-team selections in 2014 after being second-team honorees in 2013. Davison was also a first-team honoree in 2012.
- Of the 50 MW first- and second-team selections, 21 were seniors, 14 juniors, 14 sophomores and one freshman.
- Six sophomores were selected to the MW first team, tied with the 2002 team for the most in MW history.
- The eight juniors chosen to the first team are the third-most in Conference history. In 2000, 11 juniors garnered first-team honors and in 2003, 10 juniors earned first-team recognition.
- UNLV's **Devonte Boyd** is the second straight UNLV WR to be named to the MW All-Conference team. Boyd, the 2014 MW Freshman of the Year, garnered second-team honors. Last year **Devante Davis** was a second-team honoree. Before Davis, no UNLV WR had been an All-Conference member since Ryan Wolfe earned first-team honors in 2009.
- Fresno State has had at least one defensive back selected to the first-team since joining the MW in 2012.
- Hawai'i P **Scott Harding** is the second Rainbow Warrior player to earn first-team honors since the team joined the MW in 2012. Return specialist Mike Edwards was a first-team selection in 2012.

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**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Garrett Grayson, Sr., QB, Colorado State

**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Zach Vigil, LB, Utah State

**SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Will Conant, Sr., K/P, Air Force

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**

Devonte Boyd, Fr., WR, UNLV

**COACH OF THE YEAR**

Jim McElwain, Colorado State

**2014 ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST FOOTBALL FIRST-TEAM**

**OFFENSE**

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>Team</u>
QB	Garrett Grayson	Sr.	Colorado State
WR	Josh Harper	Sr.	Fresno State
WR	Rashard Higgins	So.	Colorado State
RB	Jay Ajayi*	Jr.	Boise State
RB	Donnel Pumphrey	So.	San Diego State
TE	Steven Walker	Jr.	Colorado State
OL	Michael Husar, Jr.	Sr.	Air Force
OL	Marcus Henry	Jr.	Boise State
OL	Ty Sambrailo	Sr.	Colorado State
OL	LaMar Bratton	Sr.	New Mexico
OL	Kevin Whimpey	Jr.	Utah State
PK	Will Conant	Sr.	Air Force
PR/KR	JoJo Natson	Jr.	Utah State

**DEFENSE**

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>Team</u>
DL	Kamalei Correa	So.	Boise State
DL	Tyler Davison*	Jr.	Fresno State
DL	B.J. Larsen	Sr.	Utah State
DL	Eddie Yarbrough*	Jr.	Wyoming
LB	Dakota Cox	So.	New Mexico
LB	Nick Vigil	So.	Utah State
LB	Zach Vigil	Sr.	Utah State
DB	Weston Steelhammer	So.	Air Force
DB	Darian Thompson	Jr.	Boise State
DB	Derron Smith**	Sr.	Fresno State
DB	Frankie Sutera	Sr.	Utah State
P	Scott Harding	Sr.	Hawai'i

\*--Two-Time First-Team Selection

\*\*--Three-Time First-Team Selection

**2014 ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST SECOND FIRST-TEAM**

**OFFENSE**

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>Team</u>
QB	Grant Hedrick	Sr.	Boise State
WR	Tyler Winston	So.	San José State
WR	Devonte Boyd	Fr.	UNLV
RB	Marteze Waller	Jr.	Fresno State
RB	Dee Hart	Jr.	Colorado State
TE	Jarred Gipson	So.	Nevada
OL	Rees Odhiambo	Jr.	Boise State
OL	Cody Wichmann	Sr.	Fresno State
OL	Matt Galas	Sr.	Nevada
OL	Terry Poole	Sr.	New Mexico
OL	Brett Boyko	Sr.	UNLV
PK	Nick Diaz	So.	Utah State
PR/KR	Lloyd Mills	So.	San Diego State

**DEFENSE**

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>Team</u>
DL	Alex Hansen	Jr.	Air Force
DL	Travis Raciti	Sr.	San José State
DL	Brock Hekking	Sr.	Nevada
DL	Ian Seau	Jr.	Nevada
LB	Jordan Pierce	Sr.	Air Force
LB	Tanner Vallejo	So.	Boise State
LB	Aaron Davis	Sr.	Colorado State
DB	Donte Deayon	Jr.	Boise State
DB	Damontae Kazee	So.	San Diego State
DB	J.J. Whittaker	Sr.	San Diego State
DB	Cleveland Wallace III	So.	San José State
P	Alex Boy	So.	Nevada

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## **2014 HONORABLE MENTION**

<b><u>Air Force:</u></b>	Will Conant, Sr., P; Jacobi Owens, So., RB; Jalen Robinette, So., WR; Andrew Ruechel, Jr., OL.
<b><u>Boise State:</u></b>	Dan Goodale, Sr., PK; Beau Martin, Sr., DL; Jake Roh, Fr., TE; Shane Williams-Rhodes, Jr., WR.
<b><u>Colorado State:</u></b>	Bernard Blake, Sr., DB; Hayden Hunt, So., P; Cory James, Jr., LB; Joe Kawulok, Jr., DE; Trent Matthews, Jr., DB; Max Morgan, Sr., LB; Kevin Pierre-Louis, Jr., DB; Jared Roberts, Sr., PK; Fred Zerblis, So., OL.
<b><u>Fresno State:</u></b>	Alex Fifita, Jr., OL; Donavon Lewis, Sr., LB; Chad Olsen, Fr., TE.
<b><u>Hawai'i:</u></b>	Kody Afusia, Sr., OL; Ben Clarke, Jr., OL; Tyler Hadden, Sr., PK; Scott Harding, Sr., KR; Sean Shigematsu, Sr., OL; Taz Stevenson, Sr., DB; Ben Yap, Sr., DL.
<b><u>Nevada:</u></b>	Cody Fajardo, Sr., QB; Charles Garrett, Sr., DB; Jonathan McNeal, Sr., LB; Rykeem Yates, Jr., DL.
<b><u>New Mexico:</u></b>	David Guthrie, Sr., DB; Jhurrell Pressley, Jr., RB; Jamal Price, Sr., OL.
<b><u>San Diego State:</u></b>	Alex Barrett, So, DL; Josh Gavert, Sr., LB; Darrell Greene, Jr., OL; Calvin Munson, So., LB; Malik Smith, So., DB.
<b><u>San José State:</u></b>	David Peterson, Gr., OL; Jimmy Pruitt, Jr., DB; Christian Tago, So., LB.
<b><u>UNLV:</u></b>	Devante Davis, Sr., WR; Peni Vea, Jr., DB; Robert Waterman, Sr., OL.
<b><u>Utah State:</u></b>	Jaron Bentrude, Sr., P; Devin Centers, So., DB; JoJo Natson, Jr., WR; Elvis Kamana-Matagi, Sr., DL; Jordan Nielsen, Jr., DL; Hunter Sharp, Jr., WR; Jake Simonich, So, OL; Austin Stephens, So., OL; Brian Suite, Sr., DB.
<b><u>Wyoming:</u></b>	Chase Roullier, So., OL.

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