

For Immediate Release • Contact: Mike Kern • November 29, 2006

Southern Illinois' Brandin Jordan is Gateway's Top Freshman; Darian Williams of UNI is League's Top Newcomer

ST. LOUIS — For the fifth-straight year, the Gateway's Newcomer of the Year is a running back, while a Southern Illinois player has claimed the league's freshman honor for the second time since 1999. **RB Darian Williams** is the second Panther to earn the league's Newcomer of the Year honor, while **LB Brandin Jordan** is the second Saluki to earn the league's eight-year-old Freshman of the Year honor.

The duo heads a list of 24 student-athletes named to the 2006 Gateway All-Newcomer Team. Gateway coaches, sports information directors and a media panel selected the team. The top 11 vote-getters on offense and defense were named to the team.

Jordan is the Salukis' leading tackler with 96 takedowns and was No. 11 in the Gateway in tackles, but he's tops among Gateway freshmen. He also has 1.5 sacks for a loss of six yards and eight tackles for 20 yards in opponent losses. He's the second Saluki to win the Freshman of the Year award (joining QB Joel Sambursky in 2002). Williams, meanwhile, ranked second for the Panthers with 653 rushing yards and five touchdowns. He had three 100-yard rushing games in league play, doing so against Missouri State, Indiana State, and Youngstown State. The junior is a transfer from Iowa Central Community College.

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

1994	Buck Phillips, CB, WIU
1995	Jason Cannon, WR, MSU
1996	Vince Bruno, LB, WIU
1997	Aaron Stecker, RB, WIU
1998	David Bowens, DL, WIU
1999	Charles Sharp, RB, WIU
2000	Teddy Sims, LB, SIU
2001	Julian Reese, QB, INS
2002	M. Abdulqaadir, RB, SIU
2003	Terrance Freeney, RB, UNI
2004	Brandon Jacobs, RB, SIU
2005	Marcus Mason, RB, YSU
2006	Darian Williams, RB, UNI

FRESHMEN OF THE YEAR

1999	Dusty Burk, QB, ILS
2000	Lee Russell, OLB, WIU
2001	Tom Petrie, QB, UNI
2002	Joel Sambursky, QB, SIU
2003	Justin Haddix, QB, WKU
2004	Eric Sanders, QB, UNI
2005	Tom Nelson, DB, ILS
2006	Brandin Jordan, LB, SIU

OFFENSE

	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous Schools)
WR Terrell Allen, UNI	6-0	190	Jr.	Wellford (S.C.) James F. Byrnes High [University of Pittsburgh]
WR/KR Eric Davis, Missouri State	6-0	180	So.	Oakland (Calif.) Skyline High [Laney (Calif.) College]
OL Brandon Joyce, Illinois State	6-5	310	Jr.	St. Charles (Mo.) Duchesne High [Indiana University]
QB Reilly Murphy, Indiana State	6-2	215	Jr.	San Diego (Calif.) [Grossmont Junior College]
WR Jake Gaebler, Western Kentucky	5-11	185	Fr.	Mundelein (Ill.) High
TE Louis Irizarry, Youngstown State	6-5	255	Jr.	Youngstown (Ohio) Ursuline High [The Ohio State University]
WR/KR Tamaruk McElvane, Missouri St.	6-1	182	Jr.	Oakland (Calif.) McClymonds High [Laney (Calif.) College]
RB Andrew McCloud, Western Kentucky	5-8	195	Fr.	Harrodsburg (Ky.) Mercer County High
RB John Randle, Southern Illinois	6-0	185	Jr.	Wichita (Kan.) Southeast High [University of Kansas]
OL Jonathan St-Pierre, Illinois State	6-3	301	So.	Longueil (Quebec) Edouard Montpetit High [University of Miami (Fla.)]
OG Shawn Smith, Southern Illinois	6-4	275	Fr.	Hutchinson (Kan.) High
RB Darian Williams, UNI	6-3	190	Jr.	East Moline (Ill.) United Township High [Iowa Central C.C.]
TE J.R. Zwierzynski, Western Illinois	6-3	240	Sr.	Oswego (Ill.) Joliet Catholic High [Penn State University]

DEFENSE

DL Adam Blankenship, Illinois State	6-2	245	So.	Tulsa (Okla.) Union High [University of Nebraska]
LB Blake Boyd, Western Kentucky	6-2	240	Fr.	Madisonville (Ky.) Madisonville-North Hopkins High
DB/RS Rashad Etheridge, Western Ky.	5-8	165	Fr.	St. Petersburg (Fla.) Catholic High
LB Brandin Jordan, Southern Illinois	5-10	220	Fr.	Kenner (La.) John Curtis Christian High
DL Chuck Kinney, UNI	6-3	255	Fr.	Council Bluffs (Iowa) High
LB Chauncey Mixon, Southern Illinois	6-1	215	Fr.	Mobile (Ala.) Davidson High
LB Jeron Poole, Missouri State	6-1	240	Jr.	Austin (Texas) James Bowie High [College of Sequoias]
P Scott Ravanese, Southern Illinois	6-1	190	Fr.	Carol Stream (Ill.) Glenbard North High
DE James Ruffin, UNI	6-4	235	Fr.	Burnsville (Minn.) High
DB Patrick Stoudamire, Western Illinois	5-11	185	Fr.	Portland (Ore.) Centennial High
DT Andre Tillman, Southern Illinois	5-11	285	Jr.	Thibodaux (La.) High [Coffeyville Community College]