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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOV. 20, 2007

Contact: Bruce Ludlow -- 972-422-9500 EXT. 106

2007 All-Southland Conference Football Teams Released

McNeese State's Bryan Smith Voted Player of the Year.

FRISCO, Texas — After leading McNeese State to a perfect 11-0 record in regular-season play, senior defensive lineman Bryan Smith has been voted Southland Conference Player of the Year while Cowboy head coach Matt Viator is the Coach of the Year.

Central Arkansas quarterback Nathan Brown is the 2007 Offensive Player of the Year while Nicholls State's Kareem Moore has been named Defensive Player of the Year. The Newcomer of the Year honor goes to Ladarius Webb of Nicholls State while Karrington Bush of Texas State is the Freshman of the Year.

Smith (6-3, 206), who missed the final game of the regular season with an injury, ranks third nationally with 1.05 quarterback sacks per game. He has 10.5 sacks among his 51 total tackles on the year. On his way to being named the SLC's Defensive Player of the Year in 2006, Smith finished with a league record 13.5 sacks as a junior. Included was an SLC record five sacks in one game. Smith was also voted first-team All-SLC as a defensive lineman in 2006 and again this year.

Smith is one of five players named first-team All-SLC two years in a row. Teammate Carlese Franklin (wide receiver) and Sam Houston State's Blake Martin (tight end) and Brandon Hale (lineman) repeat on the offensive first unit. Joining Smith again on the first-team defensive unit is punter Chris MacDonald of Texas State, the nation's leader in average at 45.9 yards per punt.

Viator guided McNeese to its second consecutive SLC regular-season title and an all-time SLC best 12th in school history. The Cowboys enter this week's NCAA Football Championship Subdivision Playoffs as the No. 2 seed. After taking over midseason in 2006, Viator has guided McNeese to a 17-2 record. Included in the Cowboys' 11-0 record this season was a 7-0 mark in SLC games. Viator is now 12-1 in SLC games during his tenure, including 12 wins in a row. McNeese's 12 regular-season SLC titles is eight more than any other active league member and at least four more than all former members. In addition, the seven other current SLC members have combined for 11 all-time regular-season crowns.

Brown, a junior who helped UCA (7-4 overall, 5-2 in SLC) to a second-place finish in the SLC standings in the Bears first season of play in the league, led the SLC in passing at 280.4 yards per game. He was also the total offense leader with 292.4 yards. The Russellville, Ark., native completed 256 of his 377 pass attempts (67.9 percent) with 26 touchdowns and 10 interceptions on his way to being named first-team All-SLC at quarterback.

Moore, a 6-0, 210-pound defensive back from Okolona, Miss., finished the regular season fourth in the SLC in tackles with 73 and second with four interceptions in 10 games played. He returned two of his picks for touchdowns in helping Nicholls to a 6-5 record on the season. Moore also finds himself on the All-SLC first team at defensive back.

Webb, who became the first Southland player ever to be named player of the week on offense, defense and special teams, led the SLC in interceptions with five, three of which he returned for touchdowns. The junior from Opelika, Ala., also led the Southland in kickoff return average (26.7) and was second in punt returns (17.1). Webb was also first in the SLC after the regular season with 13 passes defended. Webb was voted first-team All-SLC at defensive back and second-team at return specialist.

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Bush, who was also voted second-team All-SLC, finished the regular season ranked third in the SLC with 94.5 yards rushing per game. He ran for 1,039 yards and was the lone freshman among the top 10 in the league in rushing average. The Whitewright, Texas, product was fourth in the SLC in kickoff return average at 22.2 yards per attempt.

McNeese State leads all teams with 14 student-athletes named to the 2007 All-SLC first and second teams. Included are seven (two offense, five defense) spots on the first unit and seven (five offense, two defense) on the second.

UCA landed nine on the two teams with five (two offense, three defense) being on the first team. Nicholls State and Sam Houston State each have seven All-SLC team members while Northwestern State has six, South-eastern Louisiana five and Texas State four.

--get teams--

2007 All-Southland Conference Football Teams

First Team Offense

POS	NAME	UNIVERSITY	HT.	WT.	CL.	HOMETOWN
QB	Nathan Brown	Central Arkansas	6-2	209	Jr.	Russellville, Ark.
RB	Jay Lucas	Southeastern Louisiana	5-11	220	Jr.	Baton Rouge, La.
RB	Byron Lawrence	Northwestern State	5-8	197	Jr.	North Little Rock, Ark.
FB	Broderick Cole	Nicholls State	5-11	230	Sr.	New Orleans, La.
WR	Carlese Franklin	McNeese State	5-11	178	Sr.	Kentwood, La.
WR	Cameron Luke	Texas State	6-2	211	Jr.	Klein, Texas
TE	Blake Martin	Sam Houston State	6-3	236	Sr.	Hemphill, Texas
OL	Brandon Hale	Sam Houston State	6-3	311	Sr.	Grand Prairie, ,Texas
OL	Demetrius Bell	Northwestern State	6-5	263	Sr.	Summerfield, La.
OL	Eman Naghavi	McNeese State	6-2	325	Jr.	Katy, Texas
OL	Brad Gordon	Central Arkansas	6-1	295	Jr.	Little Rock, Ark.
OL	Ben Gombossy	Nicholls State	6-0	300	Sr.	Monroe, La.
PK	Jeff Turner	Southeastern Louisiana	5-9	170	So.	Houston, Texas

First Team Defense

DL	Bryan Smith	McNeese State	6-3	206	Sr.	Newton, Texas
DL	Taylor Scott	Central Arkansas	6-4	256	So.	Little Rock, Ark.
DL	Vaalyn Jackson	McNeese State	6-0	280	Jr.	Sulphur, La.
DL	Chris Brown	Sam Houston State	6-3	218	Jr.	Texarkana, Texas
LB	Trey Bennett	McNeese State	6-1	227	Sr.	Newton, Texas
LB	Allen Nelson	McNeese State	6-1	210	Jr.	Beaumont, Texas
DB	Ladarius Webb	Nicholls State	5-11	180	Jr.	Opelika, Ala.
DB	Kareem Moore	Nicholls State	6-0	210	Sr.	Okolona, Miss.
DB	Tristan Jackson	Central Arkansas	5-9	192	Sr.	Beaumont, Miss.
DB	Byran Richmond	Sam Houston State	5-9	226	Sr.	Humble, Texas
DB	Jonathan Walker	McNeese State	5-11	175	Sr.	Lake Charles, La.
P	Chris MacDonald	Texas State	6-4	215	Sr.	Mesa, Ariz.
RS	Tristan Jackson	Central Arkansas	5-9	192	Sr.	Beaumont, Miss.

Second Team Offense

QB	Derrick Fourroux	McNeese State	6-1	187	So.	Erath, La.
RB	Chris Poullard	Sam Houston State	5-10	193	So.	Killeen, Texas
RB	Karrington Bush	Texas State	5-10	182	Fr.	Whitewright, Texas
FB	Jordy Johnson	McNeese State	6-0	212	Sr.	Baton Rouge, La.
WR	Quinten Lawrence	McNeese State	6-1	180	Jr.	Carencro, La.
WR	Preston Echols	Central Arkansas	6-0	202	So.	Forrest City, Ark.
TE	Marquez Branson	Central Arkansas	6-3	242	Jr.	Starkville, Miss.
OL	Earl Cager	Southeastern Louisiana	6-6	365	Sr.	New Orleans, La.
OL	Lance Fremin	McNeese State	6-1	314	Sr.	Starkville, Miss.
OL	Kyle Link	McNeese State	6-6	272	Jr.	Lake Charles, La.
OL	Crawford May	Texas State	6-2	305	Sr.	Miami, Fla.
OL	Lane Freiwald	Central Arkansas	6-7	317	So.	Little Rock, Ark.
PK	Taylor Wilkins	Sam Houston State	5-7	151	So.	LaMarque, Texas

Second Team Defense

DL	Jordan Stone	Nicholls State	6-1	290	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.
DL	Albert Smith	Northwestern State	6-0	300	So.	Matthews, La.
DL	Kenneth Lundy	McNeese State	6-1	260	Jr.	Bogalusa, La.
DL	Ray Martin	Northwestern State	6-0	223	Sr.	Lafayette, La.
LB	Garrick Spain	Nicholls State	6-0	205	So.	Franklin, La.
LB	Nolan Bucek	Sam Houston State	5-10	194	Jr.	Houston, Texas
DB	C.L. Grogan	Northwestern State	5-10	177	Sr.	Patterson, La.
DB	Gary Riggs	Northwestern State	6-1	215	So.	Jennings, La.
DB	Eric Jackson	Southeastern Louisiana	6-0	182	Jr.	Amite, La.
DB	Tommy Connors	Southeastern Louisiana	6-0	195	So.	Marrero, La.
DB	Kody Knox	McNeese State	6-3	196	Sr.	Houston, Texas
P	James Paul	Central Arkansas	6-2	200	Sr.	Jacksonville, Ark.
RS	Ladarius Webb	Nicholls State	5-11	180	Jr.	Opelika, Ala.

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2007 All-Southland Conference Football Teams continued

Honorable Mention: **QB:** Rhett Bomar, SHSU. **RB:** Brent Grimes, UCA; Kris Bush, McN; Joseph Tobias, NICH. **FB:** Blake Burton, TXST. **WR:** Michael Okoronkwo, NICH; Byron Ross, SLU; Aaron Rhea, SFA. **TE:** Clay Broyles, NWLa. **OL:** Jeremy Ford, UCA; Jesse Frazier, NICH; Tim Henderson, NWLa.; Brennan Williams, SHSU; Ryan Dretke, SHSU; Hunter Schmidt, SHSU; Taylor Cobb, SFA; Scott Dover, SFA; Brock Pasteur, SFA. **PK:** Andrew Ireland, TXST. **DL:** Jairus Jarvis, NICH; Dominic Cooper, NICH; David Branch, SHSU; Jerod Brown, SHSU; Eric Mikolajchak, SHSU; Tim Knicky, SFA; Nick Clark, TXST. **LB:** James Lancaster, UCA; Corey McMurrian, UCA; Mack Dampier, NWLa.; Mark Newbill, SLU; Antonio Richardson, SLU; Marcus Clark, TXST. **DB:** Brant Linde, McN; Marcus Brown, McN; Jermaine Boggan, NICH; Lester Brooks, NICH; Carleton Coby, SHSU. **P:** Michael Capparelli, SHSU; Ryan Gooch, SFA. **RS:** Eric Jackson, SLU.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Bryan Smith, McNeese State

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Nathan Brown, Central Arkansas

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Kareem Moore, Nicholls State

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Karrington Bush, Texas State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR: Ladarius Webb, Nicholls State

COACH OF THE YEAR: Matt Viator, McNeese State

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