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Georgia Southern University Athletics



Wesley Kennedy III One of 44 Players Named to 2019 Paul Hornung Award Watch List

Award given to most versatile player in major college football

Football

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Louisville Sports Commission today named 44 multi-talented college football players to the 2019 Watch List for the Paul Hornung Award presented by Texas Roadhouse. Among those on the list are Georgia Southern junior [Wesley Kennedy III](#).

The Paul Hornung Award, now in its 10th season, is given annually to the most versatile player in major college football by the Louisville Sports Commission and football legend and Louisville native Paul Hornung. The winner and his family will be honored at the annual Paul Hornung Award dinner to be held at the Galt House Hotel in downtown Louisville on March 4, 2020. This will be The Paul Hornung Award's third year as an associate member of the National College Football Awards Association.

Kennedy III, a junior from Savannah, was an honorable mention All-Sun Belt performer in 2018 from the conference and a second-team all-conference selection by both Southern Pigskin and Pro Football Focus. He started the season at slot back, but moved to running back midway through and played both spots down the stretch. He also was the Eagles' kick and punt returner, seeing action on 416 total plays (302 offensive, 114 special teams). He led the team with 15 receptions that went for 182 yards with a long of 40 yards and averaged 12.1 yards per catch. He rushed 63 times for 495 yards and three scores, averaged 9.1 yards on 11 punt returns and 22.0 yards on 24 kickoff returns. In all, he led the team with 1,306 all-purpose yards.

The 2019 Watch List is comprised of 13 seniors, 27 juniors and four sophomores who play a total of eight different positions. They represent 44 universities in 27 states coast-to-coast across the 10 conferences that are part of the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), as well as one independent school.

Players on this year's Watch List accounted for 15,343 rushing yards, 18,538 receiving yards, 14,401 kickoff return yards, 2,897 punt return yards and 323 total tackles in 2018. Reminiscent of Hornung during his playing days, members of the Watch List demonstrated a knack for scoring numerous ways.

Hornung earned NFL MVP honors for the Packers in 1961 by setting a single-season NFL scoring record that stood 46 years. He is a member of the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame, and Vince Lombardi once called him, "The most versatile man ever to play the game."

The 2019 Watch List was compiled by a panel of college football experts based on a combination of 2018 statistics, career performance, SID recommendations, and expectations heading into the 2019 season.

Information about the Award can be found at www.paulhornungaward.com. Players will be added to the Watch List during the 2019 regular season based on performance.

2019 Watch List Selections

Salvon Ahmed, Washington
LeVante Bellamy, Western Michigan
Eno Benjamin, Arizona State
Raheem Blackshear, Rutgers
Lynn Bowden, Jr., Kentucky
Britain Covey, Utah
Ashtyn Davis, Cal
Clyde Edwards-Helaire, LSU
Darryton Evans, App State
Maurice Ffrench, Pittsburgh
KJ Hamler, Penn State
Travell Harris, Washington State
Connor Heyward, Michigan State
Darnay Holmes, UCLA
Chuba Hubbard, Oklahoma State
Jason Huntley, New Mexico State
Noah Igbinoghene, Auburn
Wesley Kennedy, III, Georgia Southern
Adrian Killins, Jr. UCF
Javon Leake, Maryland
John Lovett, Baylor
Kirk Merritt, Arkansas State
Tra Minter, South Alabama
Rondale Moore, Purdue
Dazz Newsome, North Carolina
Jamal Parker, Kent State
Donovan Peoples-Jones, Michigan
James Proche, SMU
Jalen Reagor, TCU
Joe Reed, Virginia
Sean Riley, Syracuse
Ronnie Rivers, Fresno State
Laviska Shenault, Jr., Colorado
Ihmir Smith-Marsette, Iowa
JD Spielman, Nebraska
Marquez Stevenson, Houston
Keylon Stokes, Tulsa
Kadarius Toney, Florida
DeAndre Torrey, North Texas
AJ Turner, South Carolina
Tyler Vaughns, USC
Juwan Washington, San Diego State
Avery Williams, Boise State
Isaiah Wright, Temple

With numerous Georgia Southern University alumni serving in various positions within the bank and on the Board of Directors, the 2019 Georgia Southern Football Season is presented by Morris Bank. Morris Bank and Georgia Southern have a shared focus on impactfully growing Middle and South Georgia educationally and economically. The five-year commitment is a significant financial investment that is a testament to Morris' purposeful vision for community involvement.