Defiance’s Bernard Edwards Headlines All-HCAC Basketball Selections

GREENWOOD, IN – Defiance College’s Bernard Edwards (Detroit, Mich./Warren Cousino) has been named the 2014-2015 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player and headlines the 12-member All-HCAC 1st and 2nd teams.

The senior forward led the Yellow Jackets to their second-straight HCAC men’s basketball title and first HCAC tournament crown since 2010. Defiance holds a 21-6 overall record heading into NCAA tournament play Friday evening.

Edwards led the conference in scoring (23.1 ppg) and ranked among the conference leaders in rebounds (5.0), free-throw percentage (86.6%), blocks (16), and three-point field goals made (43) during conference play this season. Overall for the season, Edwards averaged 21.1 points per game, 5.0 rebounds per contest, and shot 45.0% from the field.

Defiance compiled a 14-4 conference mark, claiming a share of the regular season title with Mount St. Joseph. Defiance will face defending national champion Wisconsin-Whitewater in the first round of the NCAA tournament Friday evening.

Hanover College’s Wes McKinney (Batesville, Ind./H.S.) has also received special recognition by the conference. The freshman forward has been named the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year. McKinney ranked third on the Panthers in scoring during conference play, averaging 10.9 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

Mount St. Joseph head coach Toby Carrigan has been named the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year for the first time. Carrigan led the Lions to the school’s first ever HCAC men’s basketball title, sharing the honor with Defiance. Mount St. Joseph finished the season 19-7 overall and 14-4 in conference play.

Edwards is one of 12 players named to the All-HCAC first or second team. There are six seniors, four juniors, and two sophomores on the team this season. The eight-member Honorable Mention All-HCAC team and All-Sportsmanship team has also been named. A complete list of the recipients of conference awards follow:

**HCAC Awards:**
**Player of the Year:** Bernard Edwards, Defiance College, Sr., F
**Freshman of the Year:** Wes McKinney, Hanover College, F
**Coach of the Year:** Toby Carrigan, Mount St. Joseph University
1st Team All-HCAC:
Max Mollaun, Anderson, Sr., G
Thayne Recker, Bluffton, Jr., C
Bernard Edwards, Defiance, Sr., F
Travis Schomaeker, Defiance, Sr., G
Joel Scudder, Mount St. Joseph, Jr., G
Femi Thompson, Mount St. Joseph, Jr., G

2nd Team All-HCAC:
Justin Jordan, Anderson, Sr., G
Mason Roth, Defiance, Sr., G
Aaron Mann, Franklin, So., G
Kyle James, Hanover, Sr., G
Alex Jones, Transylvania, So., G
Parker Stansberry, Transylvania, Jr., F

Honorable Mention All-HCAC:
Nathaniel Acree, Anderson, So., G
Trea Washington, Franklin, Jr., G
V.J. Billups, Hanover, So., F
Chase Casteel, Manchester, So., F
Ken Kunkel, Mount St. Joseph, Sr., F
Mark Allen, Mount St. Joseph, Sr., G
Tyler Duffy, Rose-Hulman, Jr., G
Jimmy Miller, Rose-Hulman, Jr., F

All-Sportsmanship Team:
Micah Smith, Anderson, Jr., G
Ryan Ebbeskotte, Bluffton, Sr., G
Wade Wooley, Defiance, Jr., C
Joe Adams, Earlham, Sr., F
Matt Niehoff, Franklin, So., F
Jacob Steinhart, Hanover, Sr., F
Glendon Yoder, Manchester, Sr., F
Andy Countryman, Mount St. Joseph, Sr., G
Corey Povaleri, Rose-Hulman, Sr., G
Isaiah Dooley, Transylvania, Sr., G

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