



NATIONAL FOOTBALL
FOUNDATION

NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION - COLORADO CHAPTER DECEMBER 19, 2023

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2023 NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION - COLORADO CHAPTER AWARD WINNERS



OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JOHN MATOCHA, COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES (GR., QB, 5-11, 180, MAGNOLIA, TEXAS/MAGNOLIA WEST)

A 2023 Harlon Hill Award finalist and the RMAC Offensive Player of the Year, John Matocha helped the Orediggers to their second straight national title game. A four-time RMAC Player of the Week and the NFFCC Week 7 Player of the Week this year, Matocha is the NCAA Division II leader in passing efficiency (174.5) and ranks second overall in passing yards with 4,298. Selected as a 2023 NFCA All-American and the D2CCA Regional Player of the Year, he closed out this season completing 333-of-471 passes for 4,298 yards and 43 touchdowns. The first player in Orediggers history to earn All-America status in four seasons, Matocha added 106 carries for 449 rushing yards and five scores across 15 games.



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MOHAMED KAMARA, COLORADO STATE (GR., DL, 6-1, 250, NEWARK, N.J./CENTRAL)

A 2023 FWAA Second Team All-American and the Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year, Mohamed Kamara leads the MW and is No. 4 nationally with 13.0 sacks. The 13.0 sacks are the fourth-most in a season in Mountain West history. He also leads the MW and is No. 11 nationally with 17.0 tackles for loss and is PFF's No. 5 graded Pass Rusher, nationally and No. 2 graded MW defender overall. Kamara is the only defensive player in the MW to generate over 50 total pressures this season. He spearheaded a defensive line that led the MW with 33 total sacks and is PFF's only MW defender to post a 90+ pass rush grade with over 20 pass rushes. He scored eight points this season, six via a fumble recovery at Middle Tennessee and two on a sack-safety vs. San Diego State. He finishes his career No. 2 in career sacks and No. 3 in career TFLs.



SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BLAKE DOUD, COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES, P, 6-5, 205, PARKER, COLO./LEGEND

A two-time D2football.com National Special Teams Player of the Week and a three-time RMAC Special Teams Player of the Week in 2023, punter Blake Doud became Mines' first RMAC Special Teams Player of the Year since 2013, as he has excelled in his first year starting. Doud leads the RMAC by two full yards in punting average at 46 yards per punt on 41 boots; that total includes 15 beyond 50 yards and 19 inside the 20-yard line, and he has the RMAC's longest punt of the year at 77 yards. Opponents have managed only nine punt returns against the Orediggers this season, averaging 3.9 yards per. Doud's average would lead the nation but Mines has not punted enough for him to be ranked in the national stats; the Orediggers lead NCAA Division II in net punting at 41.1 yards per punt.



COACH OF THE YEAR

PETE STERBICK, COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

The 2023 AFCA Regional Coach of the Year, Pete Sterbick led the Orediggers to a 14-1 record and to the NCAA Division II National Championship game in his first season at the helm, and he guided Mines to their fifth consecutive RMAC title. The Orediggers wrapped up the 2023 season ranking first in net punting (41.1), second in total offense (508.5), and third in passing efficiency (174.1), scoring offense (46.5) and scoring defense (13.0).



2023 ALL-NFFCC TEAMS

2023 ALL-NFFCC FIRST TEAM - OFFENSE

QB - John Matocha, Colorado School of Mines (QB, 5-11, 180, Magnolia, Texas/Magnolia West)
RB - Deyvon Butler, Western Colorado, Fifth Year (RB, 5-10, 185, Thornton, Colo./Skyview)
RB - Kiahn Martinez, CSU Pueblo (Jr., RB, 5-8, 185, Denver, Colo./Regis Jesuit)
WR - Max McLeod, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., WR, 6-3, 200, Seattle, Wash./Bainbridge)
WR - Tory Horton, Colorado State (Sr., WR, 6-2, 190, Fresno, Calif./Union)
WR - Reggie Retzlaff, CSU Pueblo (Jr., WR, 6-3, 212, Corona, Calif./Centennial)
TE - Dallin Holker, Colorado State (Jr., TE, 6-5, 235, Lehi, Utah/Lehi)
OL - Levi Johnson, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., RT, 6-5, 285, Arvada, Colo./Ralston Valley)
OL - Steele Petty, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., C, 6-2, 295, The Woodlands, Texas/The Woodlands)
OL - Adam Karas, Air Force (6-4, 285, Sr., Arvada, Colo. / Pomona)
OL - Jacob Gardner, Colorado State (Sr., OL, 6-4, 310, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif./Los Osos)
OL - Thor Paglialong, Air Force (6-4, 300, Sr., Woodstock, Ill. / Marian Central Catholic)

2023 ALL-NFFCC FIRST TEAM - SPECIAL TEAMS

P - Blake Doud, Colorado School of Mines (P, 6-5, 205, Parker, Colo./Legend)
PK - Hunter Pearson, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., 6-3, 200, Seneca, S.C./Seneca)
RET - Moosah Alsaffar, CSU Pueblo (R-Fr., RB/KR, 5-8, 185, Aurora, Colo./Grandview)

2023 ALL-NFFCC FIRST TEAM - DEFENSE

DL - Mohamed Kamara, Colorado State (Gr., DL, 6-1, 250, Newark, N.J./Central)
DL - Kyle Bahnsen, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., NT, 6-2, 305, Greeley, Colo./University)
DL - Zach Hester, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., DE, 6-3, 255, Palmer Lake, Colo./Palmer Ridge)
DL - Ricky Freymond, Western Colorado (R-So., DL, 6-6, 265, Chino, Calif./ Ontario Christian)
LB - Nolan Reeve, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., 6-2, 220, Mission Viejo, Calif./Capistrano Valley)
LB - Kendall Lightfoot, Western Colorado (R-Sr., LB, 6-1, 240, Las Vegas, Nevada)
LB - Bo Richter, Air Force (6-2, 250, Sr., Naperville, Ill. / Naperville North)
LB - Jaden Healy, Colorado School of Mines (R-Jr., OLB, 6-0, 210, Allen, Texas/Allen)
DB - Travis Hunter, Colorado (Soph., ATH (CB/WR), 6-2, 175, Suwanee, Ga./Collins Hill)
DB - Daniel Bone III, CSU Pueblo (R-Jr., DB, 6-0, 195, Colorado Springs, Colo./Pine Creek)
DB - Trey Taylor, Air Force (6-0, 210, Sr., Frisco, Texas / Frisco Lone Star)
DB - Shilo Sanders, Colorado (Gr., S, 6-0, 195, Canton, Texas/Trinity Christian)

2023 ALL-NFFCC SECOND TEAM - OFFENSE

QB - Shedeur Sanders, Colorado (Jr., QB, 6-2, 215, Dallas, Texas/Trinity Christian)
RB - Emmanuel Michel, Air Force (5-10, 215, Sr., Lawrenceville, Ga., / Archer)
RB - Noah Roper, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., RB, 6-0, 210, Erie, Colo./Erie)
WR - Travis Hunter, Colorado (So., ATH (CB/WR), 6-2, 175, Suwanee, Ga./Collins Hill)
WR - Xavier Weaver, Colorado (Gr., WR, 6-1, 180, Orlando, Fla./Orlando Christian)
WR - Zack Rakowsky, CSU Pueblo (So., WR, 5-8, 141, Loveland, Colo./Loveland)
TE - Michael Harrison, Colorado (Jr., TE, 6-3, 215, San Francisco, Calif./St. Ignatius College Prep)
OL - Senon Chapple, CSU Pueblo (Fr., OL, 6-1, 275, Fort Worth, Texas/Fossil Ridge)
OL - Drew Moss, Colorado State (Jr., OL, 6-4, 300, Richardson, Texas/Richardson)
OL - Domingo Prince II, CSU Pueblo (R-So., OL, 6-2, 320, Aurora, Colo./Cherry Creek)
OL - Caelan Keenan, Colorado Mesa (Sr., OL, 6-0, 225, Boerne, Texas / Boerne)

2023 ALL-NFFCC SECOND TEAM - SPECIAL TEAMS

P - Hunter Villavicencio, Fort Lewis (Jr., P, 6-3, 190, Fort Worth, Texas / Haltom)
PK - Jordan Noyes, Colorado State (Gr., K, 5-11, 195, Dartford, Kent, England/Gad's Hill)
RET - Andrew Cook, CSU Pueblo (WR/PR, 5-10, 172, Tucson, Ariz./Ironwood Ridge)

2023 ALL-NFFCC SECOND TEAM - DEFENSE

DL - PJ Ramsey, Air Force (6-3, 260, Sr., Phenix City, Ala. / Central)
DL - Jordan Domineck, Colorado (Gr., DE, 6-3, 250, Lakeland, Fla./Jenkins)
DL - Makeah Scippio, CSU Pueblo (DE, 6-4, 225, Colorado Springs, Colo./Harrison)
DL - Grady Kelly, Colorado State (R-So., DL, 6-2, 285, Navarre, Fla./Navarre)
LB - Alec Mock, Air Force (6-3, 240, Sr., Weddington, N.C. / Weddington)
LB - Adrian Moreno, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., ILB, 6-0, 210, Bakersfield, Calif. / Bakersfield)
LB - Jon Nuschy, CSU Pueblo (R-Jr., LB, 5-11, 204, La Junta, Colo./La Junta)
LB - Chase Wilson, Colorado State (R-Jr., LB, 6-1, 225, Arvada, Colo./Ralston Valley)
DB - Jackson Zimmermann, Colorado School of Mines (R-So., CB, 6-1, 185, Highlands Ranch, Colo./Valor Christian)
DB - Jack Howell, Colorado State (Jr., DB, 5-10, 200, Fort Collins, Colo./Hamilton)
DB - Jaden Williams, Colorado School of Mines (R-Sr., SS, 5-11, 225, Fresno, Calif. / Central East)
DB - Henry Blackburn, Colorado State (Sr., DB, 6-0, 205, Boulder, Colo./Fairview)