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Academic Heisman

11.30.2007 | Athletics, Students University of Dayton senior safety Brandon Cramer of Toledo has earned the highest academic honor bestowed upon any University of Dayton student-athlete. He has been named the 2007 ESPN The Magazine University Division Academic All-America of the Year.

Cramer is the first of UD's 46 All-Americans to be named the Academic All-America of the Year in any sport.

A 2004 graduate of Anthony Wayne High School, Cramer was also named First Team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America for the second straight year. He is the only member of this year's teams to have three Academic All-America citations (second team in 2005, first team in 2006 and 2007).

The 2007 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America First Team includes such players as Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, Ohio State receiver Brian Robiske, Harvard defensive back Andrew Berry, West Virginia linebacker Reed Williams and Missouri punter Adam Crossett.

Cramer carries a perfect 4.0 grade point average as a pre-medicine major. He is a finalist for the 2007 National Football Foundation Draddy Trophy, an award sometimes referred to as the "Academic Heisman." Cramer and the other 14 Draddy finalists will be honored guests at the NFF's annual awards dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City on Dec. 4.

The Flyer co-captain is a three-time Academic All-Pioneer Football League honoree and the 2006-07 recipient of the UD Presidential Scholar-Athlete Award, which goes to top male and female Flyer student-athletes.

Cramer is one of the defensive stars for a 10-1 Dayton Flyer team that is set to play Albany in the 2007 Gridiron Classic (PFL champion vs. NEC champion) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, at Welcome Stadium.

Cramer has 57 tackles and a pair of interceptions for the Flyers. He is second on the team in solo hits (33) and passes broken up (seven).

To be nominated, student-athletes must be a starter or important reserve, and carry a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher. Team members are selected by a vote of members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) within the district.

The Dayton football program has produced 14 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans since the 2000 season. That's most at any level of college football.

In the history of the Academic All-America program, UD has had 46 football Academic All-Americans. Among schools currently playing Division I football, only Nebraska (81) and Notre Dame (48) have had more. UD has had at least one football player named an Academic All-American in 16 of the last 17 years.