



Mount Union Football

RAIDERS Newsletter



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10 Time Division III Football National Champions
1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008

Postseason Edition— January 2009

2008 National Champs



For the fourth straight year, Mount Union and Wisconsin-Whitewater battled for the NCAA Division III National Championship. In the 36th edition of the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the Purple Raiders jumped out to a quick 14-0 lead and never trailed on their way to a 31-26 victory and an unprecedented 10th title. Senior quarterback Greg Micheli was named the games Most Outstanding Player. The signal-caller threw for 262 yards with two touchdowns.

During the game, senior running back Nate Kmic scored his 16th touchdown of the playoffs, a Division III record. He also became the first player in any NCAA division to rush for 8,000 career yards, ending with 8,074 in his outstanding career.

The win marked the third time in the last four years that the Purple Raiders have beaten the Warharks in the NCAA Division III National Championship.

The Purple Raider's senior class compiled a 58-2 record during their four years, appearing in four Stagg Bowl games and capturing four OAC titles.





Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction



Get
your
tickets
now!

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Skyland Pines

3550 Columbus Rd. NE, Canton, OH

\$100 ticket

(includes admission, raffle number, dinner and cash bar for one.)

Additional dinner tickets are available

(no raffle) for \$25 a piece.

Call (330) 823-2030 to purchase your ticket!

Visit www.muc.edu/alumni for more information.

Only 200 tickets will be sold.

A Message from Coach Kehres

Raiders: I am serving as President of M Club. The reverse raffle is an important fund raiser for the Athletic department. I am asking the football captains who have led the teams during my 23 years to step up as leaders and purchase a raffle ticket. I know these are tough times, but I have seldom asked for your participation in a fund-raiser. This is an important event and I feel responsible for making it successful. I need your help. Call or email me if you have questions. I realize you may not be able to attend but it will mean a lot to me to know you helped by buying a ticket.

Questions? -Call the office at (330) 823-2030 or email alumni@muc.edu.

Coach Larry Kehres Named Liberty Mutual National Coach of the Year



Mount Union College head football coach Larry Kehres has been named the Liberty Mutual Division III National Coach of the Year. A 1971 graduate of Mount Union, Kehres has compiled a record of 275-21-3 (.924) at his alma mater. During his coaching career, his teams have won 19 Ohio Athletic Conference championships and 10 NCAA Division III National Championships, including a 31-26 win over the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the 2008 Stagg Bowl.

As a part of this prestigious award, Liberty Mutual will grant \$50,000 to support a civic and charitable organization of Coach Kehres' choice, as well as provide \$20,000 in scholarship funding to Mount Union.

Also, Coach Kehres was named American Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year for a record 13th time.

***For more information on the award, visit www.coachoftheyear.com.**



Mount Union's Nate Kmic Runs Away with Numerous Records



Over the past four years, Nate Kmic proved to be a steady, reliable weapon for the Purple Raider offense. In a career that left him with several records and accolades, Kmic definitely ended his time at Mount Union on top. The senior co-captain was the backbone of the team's success and guided the Purple Raiders to a perfect 15-0 record in 2008. Kmic, who finished with a record 2,790 rushing yards accompanied by 44 touchdowns, concluded his illustrious collegiate career with three National Championship rings.

Not only did Kmic break the record for the most single season rushing yards in 2008, but also became the all-time leading rusher in NCAA history and ended with 8,074 yards in his career. Also, he was named to the Associated Press Little All-America Team, which includes players from NCAA Division II, III, and NAIA.

These awards cap off a season in which Kmic earned the Bob Packard Award, given to the top offensive back in the Ohio Athletic Conference. He also was named to the D3Football.com North Region team and received National Player of the Year awards.



Senior Quarterback Greg Micheli Wins Gagliardi Trophy

Senior quarterback Greg Micheli has been named the recipient of the 2008 Gagliardi Trophy, which is given annually to the best all-around player in Division III football. The award honors excellence in athletics, academics, and community service, all of which are personified in the Purple Raider co-captain.

Even though he lead the MUC offense on the field, he may even be more talented off the gridiron. Micheli, who has earned a GPA of 3.84 with a double major in Math and Physics, has already been named the *ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American of the Year*. Also, he received an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship as one of 15 finalists (all-divisions) for the Draddy Trophy, which is known as the Academic Heisman. Most recently, the senior signal-caller was named a recipient of the "Top 8 Award", a special honor given to the top eight scholar athletes in all sports and divisions for the 2008 calendar year.



In 2008, Micheli was the nation's top rated quarterback with a 209.13 passer rating. The first-team All-American completed 75% of his passes (240/320) for 3743 yards and 36 TD's. In his career, his overall passing rating of 197.0 makes him the highest rated passer in college football history, just ahead of former Purple Raider Bill Borchert (1994-97) who had a 194.2 rating.





Mount Union's defense stood strong against UW-Whitewater, highlighted by Drew McClain's 78-yard interception return for a TD.



James Herbert, a junior All-American, sparked the Purple Raider defense with 6 tackles, a forced fumble, and a sack in the National Championship

2008 Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl CHAMPIONS



Cecil Shorts III helped MUC jump out to an early lead. He led the receiving corps with 7 receptions for 178 yards and 2 TD's in the Stagg Bowl.

If you know other people who would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please contact Coach Vince Kehres by email at kehresvg@muc.edu. The newsletter is written by Jay Carpenter and Chris Kappas. Any comments, questions, or ideas for newsletter articles can be forwarded to Carpenjb@muc.edu or Kappascw@muc.edu.

* All photos found in newsletter are courtesy of www.muc.edu or www.mtunionfootball.com