Plus/minus grading approved, begins fall of '99

By NICOLE KING
News Editor

UCF's proposed plus/minus grading system has been approved by the university provost. It will be applied starting in the fall of 1999.

The system will not use either the A-, F- or F+ grades. A will be a 2.0 and a B- will be a 1.75, but a C- will be a 2.0 and a B+ will be a 2.75.

Dr. Terri Fine, chair of the Plus/Minus Implementation Committee, said the system was designed with a specific purpose in mind.

"We wanted a C- to be below a 2.0," Fine said. "We didn't want to encourage students to do less than C work."

"What it means is, students with a C- averaging right now from UCF have a 2.0 GPA," she said. "Under the new system, they wouldn't and every major and every college require a 2.0 GPA to graduate. So if you have that C-average, you are not going to graduate."

"The positioning of the C- on the grading scale does not sit well with many students.

"What about those individuals on the low end of the scale," said general management major Joe Balzer. "I think it is those individuals who are going to fall to the bottom of the scale. It's really going to hurt them." "Having a C- below a 2.0 is like saying you have a D," said Elizabeth Owens, '99, student body Vice President Richard Maxwell agreed.

"I was on the Senate when the Faculty Senate asked for a recommendation," Maxwell said. "I was one of the main ones against the way it was structured. I like the system but I think a C- should be a 2.0 and a C should be higher."

"The job here at the university is to help students get their diplomas and help them get established in their careers. The job here isn't to make it tough for them. If they are going to make the job harder for them now by sliding the scale down, it doesn't seem reasonable," Maxwell said he is concerned that students may have to retake classes they get low Cs in.

"Before, if you passed a class with a 70, you passed the class," he said. "With the new system, if you pass the class with a 70, you have below a 2.0, you have just failed that class and you have to retake it."

According to Terri Fine, one of the main purposes of the plus/minus system is to give students more recognition for their gains.

"The Faculty Senate's argument was that you have just failed the course," Fine said general management major Joe Balzer. "I think it is those individuals who are going to fall to the bottom of the scale. It's really going to hurt them.

Wireless service reaches out, touches UCF

By GWEN R. RHODES
Staff Writer

Beginning this fall, qualifying UCF engineering students will be eligible to receive scholarships from the AT&T Wireless Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Last week, AT&T Wireless Services Inc. donated $100,000 to establish a scholarship fund for students majoring in electrical engineering or electrical engineering technology.

Under a statewide matching program, the scholarship fund will be supplemented with an additional $50,000. Eligible students will be able to use the funds for tuition, books and other fees.

Students must be full-time juniors or seniors with at least a 3.2 grade point average. In addition, they must demonstrate financial need and leadership or community service.

AT&T Wireless Services Inc. is the largest digital wireless carrier in the United States. AT&T also provides messaging, wireless data and aviation communication services.

"Engineering students were chosen because radio frequency engineering is the backbone of building any wireless network," said Noel Perkins, director of media relations for AT&T.

"Our goal is to help those students who may one day have an interest in working for AT&T or working in the wireless industry. Many UCF engineering students are already majoring in radio frequency engineering."

"Public-private partnerships such as the one we have forged with UCF enhance the quality of life in the communities where we live and work," said Mike Funnion, AT&T Wireless Services. "It is our hope that students who benefit from this endowment will consider joining the AT&T team upon graduation."

UCF President John Hitt said the donation will have numerous benefits.

"I am delighted to accept the gift from AT&T Wireless on behalf of future students who will benefit from the company's generosity," said Hitt. "In a larger sense, all of society benefits when deserving students are given the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values that equip them to live a more fulfilling life and to contribute positively to the community."

Camp teaches children language is not foreign

By GWEN R. RHODES
Staff Writer

The Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies (CMMPS) said "in the future, we plan to offer more languages to the children, increasing the number of languages available for the children to learn."

The camp instructors were two UCF international students who are native speakers of Spanish. They were Alejandra Villarias, from Ecuador and Alejandra Morales from Venezuela.

"We also hope to have some of our students from the center who are from Spanish-speaking countries to come and visit the classes and talk to the children about their countries," Creasman said. "That way the children will not only experience learning the language but will also be exposed to students who come from Spanish-speaking countries."

"Many people don't realize that there are over 800 international students at UCF, and there are 34 countries represented by the center."

"This started as a personal project for me. I wanted my son to learn another language. I had him go through the two week Spanish day camp here before he started his Spanish program at high school. Sure enough what he learned during the summer helped him so much in high school.

"Americans have this mental block about learning another language, as if, in fact, there is an stigma to it."

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Studying does not need to be a lonely experience

By LINDA RAMOS
Staff Writer

According to 1990 research conducted by the Harvard assessment seminar group, students who partake in study groups on a regular basis usually perform higher in terms of GPA than students who study by themselves.

While some students prefer to review material on their own because the solitude clears their thinking, other students can benefit from the social experience of the study group.

A study group's purpose is to clarify confusing and complicated material in preparation for an exam; however, forming, organizing and maintaining a study group is not as easy as it seems.

The first step in forming a group is to choose a place that is accessible to all members, but yet not so demanding that members would need to involuntarily play host or hostess. The library is the most effective location.

Group members should prepare prior to each session, according to Jeanne Shay Schumm and Shawn A. Post of Executive Learning.

Each member should have reading assignments completed, a list of questions on material they don't understand and prepared mock test questions to quiz other group members.

During the study session, Diane Loulou's article "Making the A: How to Study for Tests" suggests that group sessions follow a structured format.

First, members should go over notes to make sure that all other members are up to date. Second, members can ask their questions on the material they don't understand. Third, members can go over their assignments (maybe each group member had to read a chapter). Fourth, members can quiz each other on mock test questions that they each have prepared. Fifth, some time should be spent on preparing the next session's agenda.

After the study session, members should keep up with their group assignments. The point to the study group is for students to pool their unique backgrounds, knowledge and resources to help each other to succeed.
Sometimes it seems that our system was involuntarily withdrawn from the production of this column. I am still uncertain as to whether or not all the work that I have done for the last month and a half will count on the record. If I discover that it will not, I hereby officially announce that I am completely irresponsible for my actions.

There are several reasons why a student may be withdrawn from his/her classes, and I am sure that at least 50% of the time it is for a legitimate reason. Though my numbers can in no way be perceived as even close to accurate; because my survey was composed of only two people, in which case the percentage should be even more outrageous, the point is made. Often students are made aware of their unstable enrollment status by way of sheer luck. They haphazardly go into financial aid to check up on a loan, and the kind financial aid employee informs them, with a look of complete bewilderment, that they aren't enrolled in any classes and, shouldn't they know that anyway?

One of the key factors in this conspiracy is that the lines of communication, which seem to have gotten much more convenient by way of E-mail or even the postal service, have completely shut down. It is my firm belief that when a student is withdrawn from classes they have the right to know, as soon as possible. Most students do not seek to be withdrawn from their classes, and if they do they too much time on their hands and desire it in the first place, so they should receive notice. Please, somebody tell me, am I so wrong? Even the I.R.S., the epitome of a government run machine whose purpose seems only to make our lives difficult, gives ample warning to those who are going to receive an audit.

How has obtaining a college degree become such a difficult task? This is not even considering the academic side of the whole charade, this is only in reference to the other half of academics which requires a student to check up three times a day on their financial package, to call at least four hundred times to register for classes, to go through the painstaking process of trying to get the right classes to graduate, and all this while trying to find a parking space to get to class on time. At some point the focus has been lost. At one time college was a center for learning, where the next generation went to exercise their minds and change the world. But now there are so many distractions it is amazing that a student is able to graduate at all! I am happy to say that it seems as if we are doing a fine job of handling this mess, because a good number of us do manage to graduate every so often.

On the other hand, maybe this is a class unto itself. "The man" is much smarter than we give him credit for. Perhaps the intricate system of delays, cancellations, paperwork, yadda, yadda, yadda, is teaching us to deal with something much more powerful than the education "man"; it is teaching us to deal with the United States government, the king of all power brokers in which we are all just tiny game pieces moving around their gameboard. These past six weeks it has been nothing but a fine job of handling this mess, because a good number of us do manage to graduate every so often.

Education system getting away from education

BY JASON HERONIMUS
Opinion Editor

Have you ever felt like the man is trying to keep you down? Have you ever felt like the system was specifically designed to keep you from attaining your personal and/or professional goals? Well, whatever invented the notion of "the man" as an overwhelming conglomerate who seeks to hold the average person from achieving seems to have some legitimacy. As some of us enter the second semester of a grueling summer session we are deep in the midst of a fight with just such a system. (Mind you, I am fresh from a screening of the new X-Files movie so feel free to scoff and smirk.)

Sometimes it seems that our system was created with many intricate twists and turns that have been constructed just so that you will slip up. You may, or may not, want to know what has spawned this disgust for the system that we are now entangled in. It has come to light that many students are being involuntarily withdrawn from classes without any prior notice to remedy the situation. I have had the unfortunate pleasure of being just one of these students for the last six weeks. Upon the production of this column I am still uncertain as to whether or not all the work that I have done for the last month and a half will count on the record. If I discover that it will not, I hereby officially announce that I am completely irresponsible for my actions.

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How has obtaining a college degree become such a difficult task? This is not even considering the academic side of the system that we are now entangled in. It felt like the system was specifically made to keep you down? Have you ever felt like the man is trying to keep you down? Have you ever felt like the system was specifically made to keep you down?
High school is so cool!

By STACEY COPELAND
Staff Writer

Has the Breakfast Club reconvened? It almost seems like this is the case in the new teen drama "Can't Hardly Wait." We have the popular prom queen, the superjock, the nerd, the outcast, the quiet writer and the annoying oddball. This is a '90s version of the classic John Hughes teen comedies. This one just involves a high school graduation party instead of detention. The film takes place on the night of Huntington Hills High School's senior graduation. But none of the fun actually starts until long after the ceremony is over. All the main characters find themselves thrown together at a huge celebration party where anything goes.

Preston (Ethan Embry), an aspiring writer, has been in love with Amanda (Jennifer Love Hewitt), the popular beauty, ever since the first day he laid eyes on her in their freshman English class. Too bad she's been dating the dim-witted superjock Mike (Peter Facinelli) for the last four years. Right before graduation Mike decides to dump Amanda so he'll be free to date other girls in college. Preston, whose infatuation with Amanda has grown more intense with each passing year, spends the last four years trying to work up the nerve to actually tell the girl about his feelings. Embry's portrayal of the lovesick teen is so convincing that it makes you want to smack the boy on the head and yell, "If you don't tell her how you feel, nothing will ever happen!"

Lauren Ambrose plays Denise, a super-intelligent introvert who has never quite fit in. The sensitive teen clowns up getting locked in a bathroom with the class clown, Kenny (Seth Green). Kenny, a white guy pretending to be a homeboy, also turns out to be an old childhood friend. The two of them spend most of the evening unloading emotional baggage on one another and finally realize they don't hate each other as much as they thought they did.

Meanwhile, William (Charlie Korsmo), the sci-fi loving class valedictorian is, on top of the garage with his former high school jocks who find that fate will only take him so far then it's up to him to get lost. Tommy Lee Jones provides the voice of Chip Hazard, the new teen dramedy "Can't Hardly Wait,"定向 by Steven S. Stamper, and hoping for the best. But don't worry if you're a fan of the past "Lethal Weapons," they probably added lots of gun fire and explosions to make up for the lack of actual action plot line.

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE
Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) leads a squad of soldiers behind enemy lines to retrieve one man (Matt Damon) in the World War II action drama "Saving Private Ryan," directed by Steven Spielberg.

July movies keep the temperature rising

By STACEY COPELAND
Staff Writer

Are you tired of the summer reruns on tv yet? With NBC's lame tag "It's New To You!" ringing in your ears, you're probably ready to hit the theaters to catch something new. Well hang on to your seats, folks! July looks like it's going to be chock full of entertaining flicks.

•Armageddon (July 1) - Starring Bruce Willis, Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler, Billy Bob Thornton, Steve Buscemi. This is the second time this summer an asteroid has threatened the earth. But nobody panic, Bruce will save us! As Harry S. Stamper, an expert on drilling holes in big rocks, Willis risks his life to keep the plummeting asteroid from killing all the good people of Earth. Ben Affleck (who plays Bruce Willis' daughter, played by Liv Tyler) and Steve Buscemi join him in the fight to save the planet while Billy Bob Thornton directs the crew of misfits. The verdict? It certainly looks more promising than "Deep Impact."-

•Lethal Weapon 4 (July 10) - Starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Rene Russo, Chris Rock. Warner Brothers has admitted to the fact that they were scrambling to get a sequel, any sequel, into theaters this summer. So much so, in fact, that the actors found themselves improvising unfinished dialogue on an unfinished set. Everyone in the cast is just crossing their fingers and hoping for the best. But don't worry if you're a fan of the past "Lethal Weapons," they probably added lots of gun fire and explosions to make up for the lack of actual action plot line.

•Small Soldiers (July 10) - Starring Kirsten Dunst, Jay Mohr, Phil Hartman, Dennis Leary, the voice of Tommy Lee Jones. The director of this movie, Joe Dante, claims that this film is "Toy Story with teeth." This commando comedy is about little playthings waging warfare against each other and their owners. Plot lines beyond that are sketchy but a merchandising extravaganza is sure to unfold as the release date draws near. Rumor has it that this flick might be one of the best of the summer.

•There's Something About Mary (July 15) - Starring Cameron Diaz, Matt Dillon, Ben Stiller, Chris Elliot. Do you remember that guy you ditched on the night of senior prom in high school? You might want to watch out if he happens to see this movie, he might learn a trick of two from it. Stiller plays a loser who hires a sleazy private investigator (Dillon) to track down the girl who broke his heart in high school. When Dillon does find the girl (Cameron) he falls in love with her too. It sounds sweet doesn't it? Just a word of warning. This movie was directed by Peter and Bobby Farrelly, the brains behind "Dumb and Dumber." They've described the movie as "Sleepless in Seattle with a lot more toilet humor mixed in." Sounds, um, interesting...

•Mask of Zorro (July 17) - Starring Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones. Hopkins plays the fiftysomething original Zorro teaming with a young Mexican (Rinderas) in the arts of love and swordplay. The plot line gets a little blurry beyond that. With a confusing trailer for the film currently running at theaters, no one is actually sure what the movie is actually about. Too bad many people won't take the time to find out...

•Saving Private Ryan (July 24) - Starring Tom Hanks, Matt Damon, Tom Sizemore, Ted Danson, Edward Burns. Spielberg has once again decided to go against the flow and place a human story amidst the sea of monster and demolition movies out this summer. During WWII, eight American soldiers sneak behind enemy lines to find lost paratrooper James Ryan (Damon). The government has realized that he is the sole surviving brother of four siblings who went to war and they have decided that it would be extremely good public relations to get him home safely. The film kicks off with an emotional reenactment of D-Day with thousands of soldiers. Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey play cat and mouse in this action-packed adventure.
Senate finishes drawing up budget

By JOHN TURNER
Staff Writer

The activity and service fee budget, first introduced in November 1997, ended its process on June 11.

"It was a long and arduous task and not every­ one will be pleased, but I am proud in the way the senators worked on a budget with so little money to work with," said the Senate Appropriations Chair David Siegel.

The Senate passed it with more than two thirds voting in the affirmative.

The budget process started in the activity and service fee committee, which sends a recommenda­ tion to the Organizations Appropriations and Finance Committee (OAF).

This Senate committee can either accept all the recommendations or make revisions to the budget. The OAF Committee opted to revise the budget, which ended at $4.8 million for fiscal year ’98-’99.

Because of the lack of monies this year, some clubs were reduced in their original budget requests. There are more clubs than in the past budgeted in this allocation.

"Some organizations like the Greek Council were zero budgeted from its $43,000 request this year, because it did not use most of the money that was allocated to it by the Senate last year."

Senate elects new president pro tempore

By JOHN TURNER
Staff Writer

The Senate of the Student Government Association (SGA) officially accepted the resignation of Senate President Pro Tempore James Barnard and elected Sen. Jamie Halscott as the official spokesman of the legislative branch.

Barnard resigned due to career advancement and a sched­ ule conflict with his graduate program.

The Senate nominated three senators, Halscott, Dominick Fortille and Charlie Lee.

Lee said he dropped out of the election because he lost interest in the position.

Halscott was elected by a vote of 18-1. He is the second freshman senator elected to this office. The first was in the fall of 1995.

Halscott qualified for the position because he has held numerous posts with the Senate.

Some of his positions on the legislative branch include: a membership on the activity and service fee committee, chair of the operations review committee and three other memberships on committees of the Senate.

Halscott is currently the vice president of New Member Education for the InterFraternity Council.

Halscott has set goals for the legislative session.

He said he will make clubs and organizations on campus aware of what the Senate can do for them with respect to funding.

Halscott also said he plans to seek reform in some aspects of the legislative branch, including the revisions of some laws currently on the books.

It was reported by the student government accountant to the OAF Committee chair that the Greek Council, which received more than $17,000 last year, left about $10,000.

This was reported to the Senate, and no action was taken to add monies to its budget.

"This should be a sobering message to the Greek Council coming from a Senate that is over fifty percent Greek," said Matt Henderson, a student with a Greek affiliation. "It they only used less than 45 percent of their budget this passed year, then why on earth did they request for almost double this year?"

"The Student Body President Jason Murphy said he was pleased with the outcome of the budget.

"It is absolutely wonderful that for the first time in years the annual budget is going to administration in an appropriate time," Murphy said. "I think they will be happy with that."

The Senate was very professional in the han­ dling of the budget," said Richard Maxwell, stu­ dent body vice president. "The process was smooth, there were no discrepancies in the bud­ get, and it was passed by two thirds. I believe administration will be happy with the budget."

Senate President Pro Tempore Jaime Halscott said he was happy with the results of the budget.

"I hope to see the trust fund issues addressed by the executive branch with the administr­ ation," Halscott said.

The fiscal year 1998-1999 budget will now go to administration for approval.
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Site brings World Cup flavor home

By VICKI DeSORMIER
Staff Writer

If you love soccer like most of the rest of the world does, you probably are glued to a television every spare second, watching broadcasts of World Cup matches from France.

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There are classes, for example, and jobs. And boyfriends and assignments, all of which demand attention, taking precious time away from the games.

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UCF loses 10 to pro baseball

By JEFF CASE
Staff Writer

With the major league baseball draft looming, Jay Bergman said the Major League Baseball draft is like a double-edged sword, a device that can give a team instant credibility while ripping apart its private, season-long chemistry. He may find that true that is after ten players, seven of whom are underclassmen, decided to forego their eligibility and sign with MLB contracts.

Bergman will have to find replacements for three starters (shortstop Erik Rigs, outfielder Efray Sned and catcher Mike Maroth) and four pitchers who were going to play big roles on next year's team (Mike Maroth, Kevin Gordon, Lester Victoria, Travis Held).

Maroth, the Golden Knights top selection in the June draft, said he decided to sign with his club for several reasons: He had already improved his delivery, he knew he'd get drafted after his senior year, he wasn't worried about being drafted, and he had some of the tools that made him UCF's most effective player this season.

"My goal was to get drafted in the 10th round. As the year passed on, people kept talking and saying if I got drafted I'd go low, but I just worked as hard as I could and did what I had to do," Maroth said. "I got off to a good start in the fall and did well. I hit 91 miles per hour [on my pitches] on scout day this year, which was up from 88 mph last year. I knew I'd get drafted after that."

Maroth's selection wasn't surprising, but the number of his teammates selected by the big leagues was. Even more astounding is the fact that not one of the ten members of last year's team chosen in the draft will return to UCF.

Selected in the fourth round by the Los Angeles Dodgers, Rigs may be the hardest for Bergman to replace. The All-TAC shortstop led the Golden Knights in batting average (.394), runs (64), hits (87), doubles (26), RBI (67) and slugging percentage (.697). Rigs had dreamed of being drafted all his life and took the drastic step of giving up his collegiate basketball career to make it happen. The Brownsburg, Ind., native was reported to the Dodgers minor league system, and will be switched to second base.

In a few years, Gordon and Johnson could be reunited in a UCF game of pitch and catch as the battery for the Colorado Rockies.

Gordon, a sophomore, was beginning to show steady improvement in his second season. After a redshirting in 1996 and posting a 2.33 record with a 4.75 ERA in 1997, Gordon became an effective part of Bergman's pitching staff this year. A drafter of the pitching-starved Colorado Rockies, Gordon posted a 3-1 mark last year with a 2.63 ERA, placing him in the top five among UCF's regular pitchers. Contract negotiation with the second UCF player selected went smoother for Gordon than Maroth, as both third-round picks were in the same predication.

Johnson's decision to sign with the Rockies is surprising considering a disappointing junior season. After posting career highs in batting average (.384), hits (77), RBI (42) and doubles (17) in 1997, Johnson saw his average drop last season.

He also split time behind the plate with junior college transfer Shane Garrett, which might have caused several teams to pass him over until the 21st round.

The remaining seniors who have left UCF are pitchers Travis Held (St. Louis, 9th), and Lester Victoria (Minnesota, 29th), and outfielder Efray Sned (St. Louis, 18th).

Held struggled with injuries last season, but still displayed some of the tools that made him UCF's most effective starter in 1997. Sned's speed and improvement over the past few years also caught the Cardinals eye. The pair of former Knights may start out on their major league quest together at the same Class A affiliate. Victoria's decision to sign with the Twins was a surprise, considering that he only played a year of Division I baseball.

Three UCF seniors, (pitchers Matt Lubozynski, Todd Bellhorn and outfielder Will Croud) also signed major league contracts. Bellhorn, a ninth-round selection by the New York Mets, is currently in their farm system while Croud (Anaheim, 40th) and Lubozynski (Anaheim, 42nd) will soon report to the Angels.

The three members of UCF's recruiting class who were drafted remain unsigned by the pros. Pitcher/utility player Pedro Cavallin (Milwaukee, 43rd), catcher Jeremy Frost (Houston, 37th) and left-handed pitcher Eric Tatum (Pittsburgh, 31st) should all be at UCF next season.

Beorlegui signing addresses punting situation

UCF has signed Merritt Island punter Xavier Beorlegui, who played only once all last season.

Beorlegui (6-foot-2, 220 pounds) handled Merritt Island's kicking duties last year and only posted during a postseason county all-star game. That past went 67 yards. He also will be punting in Saturday's North-South High School All-Star Game.

Senior Chad Downey enters fall as the No. 1 punter, but Beorlegui will be given every opportunity to win the job. Even if Beorlegui can't come through as a punter, he likely will be senior Fred Wacelewski's successor on kickoffs. Beorlegui consistently hit his the end zone on kickoffs.

Beorlegui, who also was recruited by Alabama-Birmingham, will be competing with another incoming freshman, Ryan Fain (6-foot-5, 190 pounds) from Lehigh Acres. Fain is a preferred walk-on at UCF.

Orlando University High, will also be competing with Downey, Beorlegui and Fain.

Draft determines Jones' fate

Mark Jones will be watching Wednesday night's NBA draft with a little more at stake than the casual observer.

The 6'9" guard has been working out with the Orlando Magic and the players they have brought in for visits and is a possible second-round pick.

Jones is rated the 76th best player available by ESPN draft analyst Chris Matera and would be a good fit in Miami or Denver, both of which have picks in the latter part of the draft. Former Minnesota teammates Vincent Lyles and Ralph Sampson are present in Jones' shooting guard, and gave Jones tips on how to get out of a shooting slump earlier this season.

Bobby Jackson, who entered the Golden Gophers program out of high school in the same year as Jones, is the Nuggets' point guard.

Whether or not Jones is selected, he will be in a training camp later this year, looking to earn a spot.

Six named Independent All-Americans

UCF quarterback Daunte Culpepper was named a second-team pre-season All-American by Football News and he and five teammates were honored as All-Independent All-Americans.

UCF's Code McNair was named first-team quarterback, placing Culpepper ahead of Washington's Brock Huard, Kentucky's Tim Couch, and Louisiana Tech's Tim Rattay.

Joining Culpepper on the All-Independent team from UCF are: wide receiver Stretch Burke, offensive tackle Garrett Green, kicker Fred Wacelewski, linebacker Mike Palmer and cornerback Reggie Doster.

Only Notre Dame, who placed seven on the first-team, had more selections than the Knights. The teams will be featured in the August issue of Football News.