



Home of the Huskies

St. Cloud State University

# HUSKY ATHLETICS

Athletic Media Relations

Contact: Anne Abicht 320-308-2141 / aabicht@stcloudstate.edu

For Release: February 1, 2012

## St. Cloud State Football Announces 2012 Recruiting Class

St. Cloud, Minn. -- St. Cloud State University head football coach Scott Underwood and his staff announced the signing of 20 high school athletes to letters of intent to attend St. Cloud State in the fall and play football for the Huskies. Today is the first day of national signing for football recruits.

In addition to the signings, the Huskies have received a commitment from one athlete who signed an acceptance of admission letter at St. Cloud State University.

The incoming class includes athletes from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. They include 11 offensive players and 10 defensive players.

St. Cloud State's coaching staff brought in an athletic group of recruits. The quarterback, receiver and tight end spots are filled with athletic players. At running back are three players with the ability to play in a one back set or slot. "Size wise we brought in a big group on the offensive line," said Underwood. On the defensive line the Huskies bring in players that can play on the edge and the interior. The linebacker group boasts a top high school prospect in Nicholas McBeain. "The defensive backs have safety type bodies, are a little bigger and are good tacklers," Underwood said.

The Huskies finished the 2011 season with a 9-3 overall record, won a share of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) overall title and North Division title, and made their second straight NCAA Division II Football Playoff appearance.

**NOTABLES:** Kenneth Walker (Walworth, Wis.) is the younger brother of current Husky running back Michael Walker. Michael was the Huskies second leading rusher in 2011, gaining 689 yards and scoring 14 touchdowns. Cole Otto (Chanhassen) is the son of former Husky wide receiver Brent Otto. Brent was a member of the 1989 North Central Conference Championship team and was inducted into the St. Cloud State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002. Jason Hutchins (Marion, Iowa) is from Coach Underwood's hometown.

### St. Cloud State Recruiting Class

Scott Benedict	QB	6-2	200	Shorewood, Minn./Minnetonka H.S.
Devon Bzoskie	WR	6-3	185	Lakeville, Minn./Lakeville South H.S.
Jordan Edgeron	DE	6-7	245	Pewaukee, Wis./Pewaukee H.S.
Jacob Hutchins	TE	6-4	225	Marion Iowa/Marion H.S.
Lexis Jones	RB	5-9	205	Brooklyn Center, Minn./Bloomington-Kennedy H.S.
Mitch Knutson	OLB/DE	6-4	225	Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Eagan H.S.
Nicholas McBeain	LB	6-0	215	Shakopee, Minn./Shakopee H.S.
Connor McIntosh	OL	6-4	290	Muskego, Wis./Muskego H.S.
Justin Montanez	DE	6-3	155	Milwaukee, Wis./Riverside H.S.
Cole Otto	WR	6-5	180	Chanhassen, Minn./Chanhassen H.S.
Nick Parker	OL	6-5	350	South St. Paul, Minn./South St. Paul H.S.
Andrew Pollard	OL	6-5	310	Forest Lake, Minn./Forest Lake H.S.
Brandon Richmond	TE	6-3	201	Milwaukee, Wis./Riverside H.S.
Harrison Rund	QB	6-2	190	South St. Paul, Minn./South St. Paul H.S.
Stephen Schneider	DB	5-10	175	Ham Lake, Minn./Blaine H.S.
Sterling Smith	DE	6-2	240	Milwaukee, Wis./South Milwaukee H.S.
Casey Townsend	RB	5-10	185	Sussex, Wis./Catholic Memorial H.S.
Noah Waiwaiole	DB	6-0	185	Blaine, Minn./ Spring Lake Park H.S.
Kenneth Walker	RB	6-0	185	Walworth, Wis./Bigfoot H.S.
Ben Watters	DL	6-3	225	Verona, Wis./Verona H.S.

### The following players signed a written letter of acceptance with the University.

Garrett Eide	DL	6-1	280	Blair, Wis./Blair-Taylor H.S.
--------------	----	-----	-----	-------------------------------

**Scott Benedict, QB, 6-2, 200, Shorewood, Minn./Minnetonka H.S.**

Two-year starter and letterwinner in football...All-Conference Honorable Mention as a junior and senior...had a quarterback rating of 134.85 in four games played in 2011 with eight touchdown passes and zero interceptions...missed latter part of the season due to injury...honored as Minnesota Preps QB of the Week for "Most Efficient Passer" twice during the 2011 season...coached by Dave Nelson...son of Julie and Greg Benedict.

**Devon Bzoskie, WR, 6-3, 185, Lakeville, Minn./Lakeville South H.S.**

Four-sport letterwinner in football, basketball, baseball, track and field...three-year letterwinner in football...two-year starter in football...two-year All-Conference Honorable Mention...All-Metro and All-State Honorable Mention senior year...Community involvement with "Operation Christmas" and "Feed the Starving Children" for four years... son of Dawn Bzoskie.

**Jordan Edgerson, DE, 6-7, 245, Pewaukee, Wis./Pewaukee H.S.**

Two-time First Team All-Conference defensive end... All-Area, All-Region and Wisconsin Football Coaches Association (WFCA) Honorable Mention All-State...team leader in sacks and tackles for loss...elected to Wisconsin All-Star team.

**Jacob Hutchins, TE, 6-4, 225, Marion Iowa/Marion H.S.**

Honorable Mention All-Conference player...three-year starter...leading receiver last two seasons for Marion...two-year letter winner in basketball...son of Connie and Kent Hutchins

**Lexis Jones, RB, 5-9, 205, Brooklyn Center, Minn./Bloomington-Kennedy H.S.**

Three-year letterwinner in football...All-Conference two years...Team MVP two years...All-Metro senior year...All-State Honorable Mention junior year...two consecutive years over 1,000 yards rushing...two-year letterwinner in Track-and-Field...son of Bobbie and Jackie Jones.

**Mitch Knutson, OLB/DE, 6-4, 225, Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Eagan H.S.**

Senior team captain and two-year starter and letterwinner in football...All-Conference senior year...2011 team Defensive MVP...Team Long Snapper... Two-year letterwinner in basketball...son of Alice Hill and Mike Knutson.

**Nicholas McBeain, LB, 6-0, 215, Shakopee, Minn./Shakopee H.S.**

Named First Team All-Conference twice...two-time All-State Honorable Mention...Pioneer Press All-Metro Honorable Mention team...two-time Star Tribune All-Metro second team selection...Minnesota Vikings All-State team member...named to KARE 11 All-Metro Preseason team...football team won two conference titles...team captain in football and track...set school record for most tackles in a year with 129 and most tackles in a game with 27... had four pick sixes in one season...conference champions in track...All-Conference wrestler...son of Janell and Dan McBeain.

**Connor McIntosh, OL, 6-4, 290, Muskego, Wis./Muskego H.S.**

Southeast second team All-Conference

**Justin Montanez, DE, 6-3, 155, Milwaukee, Wis./Riverside H.S.**

First Team All-Conference defensive tackle in 2010 and 2011...Conference Defensive Lineman of the Year in 2011...First Team All-Region in 2010 and 2011...All-State Honorable Mention in 2011...team captain in 2010 and 2011...ESPNHS All-Wisconsin...Rivals 2 Star rated...Rivals #7 overall recruit in Wisconsin.

**Cole Otto, WR, 6-5, 180, Chanhassen, Minn./Chanhassen H.S.**

Senior team captain and three-year letterwinner in football...two-time All Conference as a junior and senior...2010 team Offensive MVP... starting quarterback sophomore year...starting wide receiver junior and senior years...holds school record for receiving yards/receptions/touchdowns...three-year letterwinner in basketball...2011 Most Improved Player...son of Lisa Hart and Brent Otto...both parents are St. Cloud State alums.

**Nick Parker, OL, 6-5, 350, South St. Paul, Minn./South St. Paul H.S.**

Three-year starter in Football...two-time Honorable Mention All-Conference...Team won 27 games in three years...Lettered in Track-and-Field...son of Chris and John Parker.

**Andrew Pollard, OL, 6-5, 310, Forest Lake, Minn./Forest Lake H.S.**

First Team All-Conference offensive line...offensive line MVP as a senior...two-year letterwinner in football and weight training...track and field letterwinner and team captain in 2012...parents are Angela and Darrell Pollard.

**Brandon Richmond, TE, 6-3, 201, Milwaukee, Wis./Riverside H.S.**

First Team All-Conference at tight end in 2011...Second Team All-Conference in 2010.

**Harrison Rund, QB, 6-2, 190, South St. Paul, Minn./South St. Paul H.S.**

Four-sport letterwinner in football, basketball, baseball, track and field...team captain senior year...team offensive MVP junior and senior year...All-Conference junior and senior year...All-State Honorable Mention senior year...20-3 record as starting QB at South St. Paul...Led team to State Tournament senior year...son of Jane and Harry Rund.

**Stephen Schneider, DB, 5-10, 175, Ham Lake, Minn./Blaine H.S.**

Senior team captain and three-year letterwinner in football...two-year starter in football...two-time All-Conference...All-State senior year third team... 2011 team Defensive MVP...eighth all-time in Blaine H.S. solo tackles...two-year letterwinner in baseball...four-year academic letterwinner... National Honor Society...son of Sharon and Gary Schneider.

**Sterling Smith, DE, 6-2, 240, Milwaukee, Wis./South Milwaukee H.S.**

Two-time First Team All-Conference...best defensive lineman in Woodland Black Conference...Honorable Mention in shot put...state power lifter.

**Casey Townsend, RB, 5-10, 185, Sussex, Wis./Catholic Memorial H.S.**

Classic 8 First Team All-Conference team.

**Noah Waiwaiolo, DB, 6-0, 185, Blaine, Minn./ Spring Lake Park H.S.**

Three-year letterwinner in football...All Conference junior and senior year...team leader in tackles and interceptions junior year...one-year letterwinner in baseball...son of Linda and Brent Waiwaiolo.

**Kenneth Walker, RB, 6-0, 185, Walworth, Wis./Bigfoot H.S.**

Three-year football letterwinner...team won the 2009 Wisconsin D4 State Championship and were runner in 2008...First Team WFLA All-State running back and defensive back in 2011, first team defensive back in 2010...Rock Valley South Offensive Back of the Year...Team MVP...All-District running back and defensive back...Associated Press All-State Honorable Mention running back and defensive back...BDN All-Area...Lake Geneva Regional News Athlete of the Year...Wisconsin State Journal First-Team All-Area Large Schools...three-year basketball letterwinner...Second Team All-Conference ... conference champions in 2009-10...fourth-year track and field letterwinner...state qualifier in 4x100 relay...two-time Team MVP...was the 2011 conference and regional champ in the 100 meter hurdles and 300 meter hurdles...section champion in the 300 meter hurdles...state qualifier in 100 and 300 meter hurdles...younger brother of current Husky running back Michael Walker...son of Laurie and Kenneth Walker.

**Ben Watters, DL, 6-3, 225, Verona, Wis./Verona H.S.**

Captain of team that went 12-1 and advanced to the DI State semifinals...Honorable Mention All-Area large school defensive line...First Team All-Big 8 Defensive Lineman...maintained a 4.0 grade point average through high school...son of Susan and Ben Watters.

**SIGNED LETTERS OF ADMISSION****Garrett Eide, DL, 6-1, 280, Blair, Wis./Blair-Taylor H.S.**

First Team All-State WFLA...First Team Associated Press All-State...parents are Dana and Jeff Eide.