

## *Big Sky* football preseason media poll

1. Weber State (14)
2. Montana (4)
3. Eastern Washington (3)
4. Montana State (3)
5. Sacramento State
6. UC Davis
7. Northern Arizona
8. Idaho
9. Idaho State
10. Portland State
11. Southern Utah
12. Northern Colorado
13. Cal Poly

## *Big Sky* football preseason coaches poll

1. Weber State (7)
2. Montana (2)
3. Eastern Washington (2)
4. Montana State (1)
5. Sacramento State (1)
6. UC Davis

7. Northern Arizona
8. Idaho
9. Idaho State
10. Portland State
11. Southern Utah
12. Cal Poly
13. Northern Colorado

### **All Conference:**

Big Sky Announces Spring 2021 All-Conference Football Teams and Individual Award Winners

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FARMINGTON, Utah (April 21, 2021) – Following the conclusion of an exciting yet unconventional campaign, the Big Sky Conference office has announced its annual All-Conference football teams and individual award winners for the Spring 2021 season. Two days removed from being named a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, Eastern Washington's Eric Barriere has been named the Big Sky's Offensive Player of the Year. The senior led the Big Sky in the vast majority of passing categories. He completed 166 passes for 2,188 yards and 18 touchdowns. He connected on 62 percent of his passes and averaged 364.7 yards per game through the air. The Eagles scored at an incredibly high clip, averaging 40.67 points per game. EWU finished the season with the sixth-highest scoring offense in the FCS.

Earning the title of Defensive Player of the Year is Weber State's Conner Mortensen. The top defensive player on the Big Sky Championship team was more than deserving of the award, finishing the season with 44 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss, an interception, and a sack. The Wildcats held opposing offenses to 17.6 points per game and only allowed teams to move the ball on an average of 138 yards per game.

After transferring to Idaho State from Wyoming, Bengal quarterback Tyler Vander Waal has been named Newcomer of the Year by the Big Sky Conference. The first year ISU player completed 116 passes for 1,843 yards and 12 touchdowns. He averaged 307.2 yards per game through the air and completed 54 percent of his passes.

Freshman of the Year honors was split between UC Davis's Chubba Maae and Weber State's Dontae McMillan.

While the stats don't necessarily reflect it, Maae was an absolute force on the defensive line for the Aggies. The Long Beach, California native was a nightmare for opposing offensive lines. He had 12 tackles and a tackle for loss.

McMillan had a big year on the ground in his first regular-season outing with the Wildcats. He had 49 carries for 308 yards and five touchdowns. He averaged 61.6 yards

per game on the ground. McMillan was a strong complement to first-team honoree Josh Davis, the leading rusher for the Wildcats.

Highlighting the all-conference first-team, Weber State's Rashid Shaheed earned his third honor of his career on the top team, along with WSU offensive lineman Ty Whitworth and running back Davis.

A number of players were unanimous selections to the all-conference first-team, headlined by Barriere, at the quarterback spot.

The Big Sky All-Conference team and individual award winners were selected by the eight head football coaches that competed in a Big Sky season. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own players. The conference's Coach of the Year award will be announced on Thursday.

While Cal Poly was eligible to nominate players for the all-conference teams, their football program respectfully declined the opportunity after opting out for the remainder of their campaign and playing only three games.

The all-conference teams were cut down from the traditional three teams to two due to only eight teams playing a shortened schedule.

#### Spring 2021 Big Sky Football All-Conference

Offensive Player of the Year: Eric Barriere, QB, Eastern Washington

Defensive Player of the Year: Conner Mortensen, LB, Weber State

Newcomer of the Year: Tyler Vander Waal, QB, Idaho State

Co-Freshman of the Year: Chubba Maae, DT, UC Davis & Dontae McMillan, RB, Weber State

\*-Unanimous All-First Team Selection

\$ - Two-Time All-Big Sky First Team Selection

% - Three-Time All-Big Sky First Team Selection

#### First Team All-Big Sky

##### FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

	Player	Year	School
Quarterback	Eric Barriere*	Sr.	Eastern Washington
Wide Receiver	Talolo Limu-Jones*	Sr.	Eastern Washington
Wide Receiver	Tanner Conner	Sr.	Idaho State
Wide Receiver	Hayden Hatten	So.	Idaho
Offensive Line	Nick Amoah*	Jr.	UC Davis
Offensive Line	Ty Whitworth*%	Sr.	Weber State
Offensive Line	Noah Atagi	So.	Weber State
Offensive Line	Braxton Jones	Jr.	Southern Utah
Offensive Line	Connor Pettek	Jr.	UC Davis
Offensive Line	Tristen Taylor	Sr.	Eastern Washington
Running Back	Josh Davis*%	Jr.	Weber State
Running Back	Tamarick Pierce	Sr.	Eastern Washington
Tight End	McCallan Castles*	So.	UC Davis
Fullback	Logan Kendall*	Jr.	Idaho
Kicker	Luis Aguilar*\$	Sr.	Northern Arizona
Punt Returner	Rashid Shaheed*%	Sr.	Weber State

Kick Returner	Rashid Shaheed*%	Sr.	Weber State
Special Teams Player	Colton Belnap*	Sr.	Idaho State
<b>FIRST TEAM DEFENSE</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>
Defensive Tackle	Jared Schiess*\$	Sr.	Weber State
Defensive Tackle	Bryce Rodgers	Sr.	UC Davis
Defensive End	Mitchell Johnson	Jr.	Eastern Washington
Defensive End	Francis Bemiy	Jr.	Southern Utah
Outside Linebacker	Christian Elliss\$	Sr.	Idaho
Outside Linebacker	La'akea K-Davis	Jr.	Southern Utah
Inside Linebacker	Conner Mortensen*	Sr.	Weber State
Inside Linebacker	Tre Walker*	Jr.	Idaho
Defensive Back	Morgan Vest*	Jr.	Northern Arizona
Defensive Back	Jayden Dawson	Jr.	Idaho State
Defensive Back	Eddie Heckard	So.	Weber State
Defensive Back	Jordan Perryman	Jr.	UC Davis
Defensive Back	Anthony Smith	Jr.	Eastern Washington
Defensive Back	Preston Smith	Sr.	Weber State
Defensive Back	Desmond Williams	Jr.	Weber State
Punter	Daniel Whelan *	Sr.	UC Davis

**Second Team All-Big Sky**

**SECOND TEAM OFFENSE**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>
Quarterback	Tyler Vander Waal	Jr.	Idaho State
Wide Receiver	Freddie Roberson	So.	Eastern Washington
Wide Receiver	Landen Measom	Sr.	Southern Utah
Wide Receiver	Stacy Chukwumezie	Sr.	Northern Arizona
Offensive Line	Luke Rudolph	Sr.	Northern Arizona
Offensive Line	Terron Carey	So.	Idaho State
Offensive Line	Jonas Leader	RJr.	Northern Arizona
Offensive Line	Wyatt Musser	Jr.	Eastern Washington
Offensive Line	Jacob Angel	So.	Idaho State
Offensive Line	Jordan Ford	So.	UC Davis
Running Back	Lan Larison	Fr.	UC Davis
Running Back	Dontae McMillan	Fr.	Weber State
Tight End	Matthew Kempton	RJr.	Northern Arizona
Kicker	Seth Harrison	So.	Eastern Washington
Punt Returner	Isaiah Thomas	Sr.	UC Davis
Kick Returner	Nick Romano	So.	Idaho
Special Teams Player	Treyson Johnson	Fr.	Southern Utah

**SECOND TEAM DEFENSE**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>
Defensive Tackle	Chubba Maae	Fr.	UC Davis
Defensive Tackle	Sione Lapuaho	Sr.	Weber State
Defensive End	George Tarlas	Jr.	Weber State
Defensive End	Luka Nixon	Jr.	UC Davis

Outside Linebacker	Oshea Trujillo	Sr.	Idaho State
Outside Linebacker	Connor Airey	Sr.	UC Davis
Inside Linebacker	Cole Hansen	Jr.	UC Davis
Inside Linebacker	Harrison Beemiller	Sr.	Northern Arizona
Inside Linebacker	Sherwin Lavaka	Sr.	Weber State
Defensive Back	Anthony Sweeney	Jr.	Northern Arizona
Defensive Back	LJ Davis	Jr.	Southern Utah
Defensive Back	Tyrese Dedmon	Sr.	Idaho
Defensive Back	Jalen Hoover	Sr.	Idaho
Defensive Back	Tre Weed	So.	Eastern Washington
Punter	Cade Coffey	Sr.	Idaho

### **Honorable Mention**

Quarterback: Justin Miller (SUU) and Keondre Wudtee (NAU)

Offensive Line: Logan Floyd (UI)

Running Back: Malakai Rango (ISU) and Dennis Merritt (EWU)

Kicker: Cade Coffey (UI) and Manny Berz (SUU)

Punt Returner: Judd Cockett (SUU)

Kick Returner: Judd Cockett (SUU)

Defensive Line: Joshua Jerome (EWU), Kainoa Fuiava (ISU), Jonah Kim (UI) and Rashaan Crawford (UI)

Defensive End: Carson Taylor (NAU) and Terrence Jones (ISU)

Outside Linebacker: Fa'ave Fa'ave (UI)

Inside Linebacker: Connor Wills (ISU), Ty Graham (EWU) and Tristen Vance (NAU)

Punter: DJ Arnson (NAU)