

DREAM TEAM 2007 H- DNC stars reach endzone

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THE TIMES- STANDARD

What's the quickest way to stir up controversy in the sports world?

Make a list that ranks people according to your perception of their talents.

What's the quickest way to recognize the talents and accomplishments of athletes?

Make the same exact list.

Choosing players for the TimesStandard All-Conference football team was a process we all took very seriously, for having your performance noted by coaches is one thing, but having it noted by those in the media, some of whom are not too many years removed from their own playing days, is quite another. It's something for scrapbooks, bragging rights, college media guides, and perhaps most importantly, it's a way to recount the year that was 2007.

Our selections were based on how we felt football players from the entire Humboldt-Del Norte Conference played over the past season. We also considered input we received from coaches, media members and players throughout the year.

That said, these are partial lists, and you are bound to get into heated arguments, as we did, over who should make such an exclusive group. We could easily have mentioned dozens more players as who we thought had exceptional seasons, but then what would we have to argue about?

So instead, we'll talk about a few players who didn't make our first or second teams, but did spark debate and were a yelling match short of making the list.

Hoopla quarterback/safety Nolan Colegrove was a force in the Warriors' defensive backfield and would make a fine addition to any team. His teammate, Sonny Rojas, clogged the middle playing defensive tackle and was a big reason why the Warriors ran the double wing so effectively.

Perhaps no other signal caller could have run a spread offense like

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As one of Ferndale's team leaders, Jake Morris was second in the conference for touchdowns passes.

SELECTIONS

FROM C1

Fortuna quarterback Jason Johnson. If it wasn't for the ankle injury he suffered against Del Norte Sept. 28, and a concussion in the Eureka game Nov. 2, the senior's passing stats likely would have rivaled anyone's in the conference.

Khan Johnston made our second team as a linebacker, but the junior running back carried a heavy load as South Fork's running back. One of his best games was against St. Bernard's when he gained 166 yards rushing, scored twice and had two interceptions.

Jimmee Jessee ran Eureka's fly offense well at quarterback and he had the talent to run most any scheme out there. McKinleyville receivers Donald Cain and Jordan Sousa, along with running back Gavin Miller, gave Panthers quarterback Kyle Johnson legit options to get the ball to on offense. That's kind of the curse of the spread offense, though; the ball gets spread to so many players, often times it's tough to make one stand out.

Billy Paris, Chris Summers, Morgan Harper and a host of other Arcata Tigers deserve to be mentioned because all had standout performances throughout the season despite their not being on our first or second teams.

And the list could go on and on. In all reality, except for those that make lists, it should.

None of these players went out giving any less than their all during the games and no coach will tell you they want anything more or less.

It certainly won't hurt them later in life when they pursue other ventures beyond high school football.

As it stands, however, this is our list and we're sticking to it.

So let the debates begin.

Flood our inbox with letters to the editor — those should be addressed to Erik Fraser, by the way — and let us hear it out at games the rest of the year. The more players who are recognized the better.