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OPSU's Tankerson Honored as Oklahoma Player of the Year
Oklahoma City, Okla.-Oklahoma Panhandle State University junior Kevin Tankerson was honored as a College Player of the Year along with seven other Oklahoma college football players at the 30th Annual All Sports Scholar-Athlete Awards Luncheon Thursday afternoon.

The luncheon was hosted by the National Football Foundation's Oklahoma Chapter and held at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Thorpe Museum; the event also included scholarship and award presentations for graduating high school seniors as well as two coach's awards.

The NFF states that "honoring top young Scholar-Athletes in the state of Oklahoma brings recognition to those young men who have excelled on the playing field, in their classrooms and in their communities;" OPSU Head Football Coach Russell Gaskamp feels that Kevin Tankerson is a great representation of all of those qualities.

Originally from Lake Charles, La., Tankerson started eleven games his freshman season for the Aggies as an offensive lineman; he started two games this past season before an injury kept him off the field. Gaskamp will be happy to have "Tank" back on the O-Line this coming season and looks forward to watching him continue to grow during summer workouts.

Gaskamp continues, "I am so proud of Kevin; he exemplifies everything a college football player should be about. It is guys like him that give purpose and reason to what I do, as well as strengthen my love for coaching." In addition to Tank's abilities on the field, he continues to be a leader off the field through his strong faith and exceptional character.

Tankerson is currently an intern for the OPSU Methodist Student Center and is a leader of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes group on campus; he aspires to become a preacher after college. Tank has also excelled in the classroom throughout the years, earning spots on both the Dean's and President's Honor Rolls while carrying an overall grade point average of 3.5.

The other seven recipients of the College Player of the Year award were: Blake Bell (University of Oklahoma), Alex Hemberger (Northwestern Oklahoma State University), Michael Hicks (Southern Nazarene University), Christian Hood (University of Central Oklahoma), DeAndre Jennings (Northeastern Oklahoma A&M), Shaun Lewis (Oklahoma State University), and Gabe Moyer (The University of Tulsa).

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Justine Gaskamp

OPSU