

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

During Central Washington University's era as a NAIA member, a total of 12 Wildcat football players won 14 NAIA Academic All-American certificates. The program was inaugurated in 1982.

Larry Bellinger and Jeff Nordstrom became the first two-time Academic All-Americans in 1993 and 1994.

Winners of the NAIA academic award have also included defensive back Mark Bergsma and defensive tackle Tim DeGross in 1983, linebacker Dennis Edwards in 1984, wide receiver Mark Robinson, defensive back and punt return specialist Ron Nelson and running back Ed Watson in 1986, offensive lineman Wayne Kilburn in 1987, linebacker Eric Granberg and defensive tackle Alan Kesti in 1989 and defensive end Andy Lwanga in 1995.

In addition to being named to the Academic All-American team, DeGross and Bellinger were selected the District 1 Scholar-Athletes for football in 1983 and 1993, respectively. That program was disbanded following the 1993 season.

Tight end Rod Handley, who now works for the national office of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was selected to CoSIDA's Academic All-American squad in 1981.

With CWU's move to the NCAA, CWU players are now eligible for the GTE Academic All-American team.

Two players - Brandon Christensen and Dan Murphy - were named to the 1998 GTE Academic All-American West Region team. Murphy was a repeat selection last fall.