

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BRANDON JEFFERSON OF METRO STATE NAMED 2014 DAKTRONICS DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL RON LENZ NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

EDINBORO, Pa. – Metropolitan State University of Denver senior Brandon Jefferson has been named the Daktronics Division II Men's Basketball Ron Lenz National Player of the Year. Jefferson has led the top-ranked Roadrunners to a 31-1 record. Last Tuesday night he led Metro State to their 28<sup>th</sup> straight win 78-56 over Midwestern State in the South Central Regional Championship. Now the Roadrunners move on to the Elite Eight in Evansville, Ind. where they will face Tuskegee.

A 5'9" guard from Flower Mound, Texas, Jefferson is wrapping up an outstanding career. He ranks third in career scoring with 1,888 points, along with ranking fourth in career steals (246) and eighth in career assists (292). He is also one of the top 3-point shooters in school history, standing third in career 3-point field goals made (269) and second in 3-point field goal attempts (668). Despite his diminutive size, he even ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in career rebounds (358).

Jefferson is averaging a team-leading 21.5 ppg. and also paces the Roadrunners in steals (77) and 3-point field goals made and attempted (92 of 198), along with ranking second in assists with 77. He ranks among the top free throw shooters in the country at 9.23 percent (215 of 233). He was named the Most Outstanding Player in the South Central Regional, contributing 15 points, seven steals, six rebounds and four assists in the win over Midwestern State.

He was recognized as the 2014 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Player of the Year and is a three-time All-RMAC choice, earning first team honors the last two years.

Jefferson is one of three players on the Daktronics All-America Teams who will head to the Elite Eight this week. He will be joined in Evansville by West Liberty's Cedric Harris, another first team member, and Greg Langston of Southern Connecticut State, who was selected to the third team.

Harris is a 6'0" guard from Zanesville, Ohio who has led the Hilltoppers to a 29-3 record and the Atlantic Regional Championship. West Liberty will play defending national champion Drury in Wednesday's quarterfinals. The Hilltoppers are making their fourth consecutive Elite Eight appearance.

Harris was recently named the Mountain East Conference Player of the Year and the Daktronics Atlantic Region Player of the Year. He was also selected the Most Valuable Player in the Atlantic Region tournament. He leads the nation's highest-scoring team in scoring at 17.9 ppg. and led the MEC in assists per game (5.63), steals per game (2.34), and assist/turnover ratio (2.90). He ranks in the top 20 nationally in assists, steals and assists/turnover ratio. He was previously a three-time All-WVIAC selection.

The University of the Sciences' Garret Kerr is the lone returnee from last year's Daktronics All-America Teams. The 6'4", 240 lb. forward from Moorestown, New Jersey moves up from the second team. The junior is also the lone non-senior on the first team.

Kerr helped the Devils finish with a 17-11 record and is the only player in Division II to rank in the top five in scoring and rebounding. He averaged 24.8 ppg., good for third nationally, along with 12.5 rpg., which is second in Division II. In addition, his 23 double-doubles are second in the country. He was the Daktronics East Region Player of the Year and was named the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Player of the Year for the second straight season.

Seniors Vincent Bailey of Lincoln Memorial and Southern Indiana's Aaron Nelson round out the first team. Bailey is a 6'7", 245 lb. forward from Jennings, Florida. He helped the Railsplitters to a 28-3 record, winning the South Atlantic Conference championship and reaching the Southeast Regional semifinal before losing to Montevallo. He averaged 21.5 ppg. and 10.1 rpg., both team highs, and ranks in the top ten in career scoring and rebounding. Bailey was selected the Daktronics Southeast Region Player of the Year and was the 2014 SAC Player of the Year, marking the third time he owned all-conference honors.

Nelson is a powerful 6-8, 249 lb. senior forward who helped Southern Indiana to a 25-6 finish and the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship. The Screaming Eagles lost in the quarterfinals of the Midwest Regional. After missing of the final 15 games of the 2012-13 season with a knee injury he returned this year to lead Division II in rebounding at 12.7 per game, along with averaging a team-high 19.3 ppg. He was voted the GLVC co-Player of the Year. He set a USI school record with 368 rebounds and also set the single-game rebounds record with 27 against Kentucky State. He had a school-record 24 double-doubles. Nelson, a native of Chicago Heights, Illinois, played two seasons at Southern Indiana after playing at Highland Community College and Southwestern Illinois College.

The second team features four players who were recognized as their region's player of the year -- Florida Southern's Kevin Capers, Josh Gibbs of Central Oklahoma, Zach Monghan of Minnesota State and David Downs of Seattle Pacific. Findlay's Greg Kahlig, the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Year, rounds out the second team.

The third team is led by the third member of the 2014 Daktronics All-American Team headed to the Elite Eight. Greg Langston has helped lead Southern Connecticut State to the Elite Eight. He's one of four seniors on the third team, joined by Mark McLaughlin of Central Washington, Tim Dezelski of

Hillsdale and Truman State's Mike Carlson. Derrick White of Colorado, University at Colorado Springs is the lone sophomore to earn All-American accolades.

The D2SIDA All-America men's basketball team is sponsored by Daktronics, Inc., an acknowledged world leader in scoring, timing and programmable display systems for virtually every sport at every level of competition. The teams are voted on by the members of D2SIDA, NCAA Division II Sports Information Directors Association.

The online nomination and voting processes are powered by Sidearm Sports. Headquartered in Syracuse, NY, Sidearm Sports is the official provider of college athletic websites for over 6000 sports organizations at all levels of competition. To receive more information on how your institution can partner with Sidearm Sports for a customized website solution, visit [www.sidearmsports.com](http://www.sidearmsports.com).

### 2014 DAKTRONICS ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

#### FIRST TEAM

Vincent Bailey, Lincoln Memorial	F	6-7	245	Sr.	Jennings, Fla.
Cedric Harris, West Liberty	G	6-0	175	Sr.	Zanesville, Oh.
Brandon Jefferson, Metro State	G	5-9	175	Sr.	Flower Mound, Tex.
Garret Kerr, Univ. of the Sciences	F	6-4	240	Jr.	Moorestown, N.J.
Aaron Nelson, Southern Indiana	F	6-8	249	Sr.	Chicago Heights, Ill.

**RON LENZ PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Brandon Jefferson, Metro State (Colo.)

#### SECOND TEAM

Kevin Capers, Florida Southern	G	6-2	170	Jr.	Winter Haven, Fla.
David Downs, Seattle Pacific	G	6-2	190	Sr.	Kirkland, Wash.
Josh Gibbs, Central Oklahoma	F	6-5	235	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo.
Greg Kahlig, Findlay	F	6-6	215	Sr.	Fort Recovery, Oh.
Zach Monaghan, Minnesota State	G	6-3	180	Jr.	Palatine, Ill.

#### THIRD TEAM

Mike Carlson, Truman State	F	6-9	200	Sr.	Superior, Wisc.
Tim Dezelski, Hillsdale	F	6-6	230	Sr.	Northville, Mich.
Greg Langston, Southern Connecticut St.	G/F	6-3		Sr.	Stratford, Conn.
Mark McLaughlin, Central Washington	G	6-6	212	R-Sr.	Bothell, Wash.
Derrick White, Colo., Univ. at Colorado Springs	G	6-5	165	So.	Parker, Colo.