

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Bob Shreve, National Coordinator  
Edinboro University Sports Information Director  
Phone: 814-732-1834  
E-mail: rshreve@edinboro.edu



### **Shorter's Phil Taylor Selected DII Conference Commissioner's Association Men's Basketball Ron Lenz Player of the Year**

**EDINBORO, Pa.** – Phil Taylor of Shorter University was today named the Division II Conference Commissioners Association 2017 Men's Basketball Ron Lenz National Player of the Year. Taylor headlines the D2CCA Men's Basketball All-American Teams. Voting was conducted by the NCAA Division II Sports Information Directors from institutions and conference offices.

Taylor was joined on the first team by Northwest Missouri State's Justin Pitts, Matt Bingaya of Fairmont State, California Baptist's Michael Smith, and Dustin Sleva of Shippensburg. Pitts and Smith earned honorable mention All-American honors in 2016.

Delta State's Devin Schmidt is the only other returning All-American from 2016. A first team selection a year ago, he was named to the 2017 third team.

Taylor, a 5'9" senior who played two seasons at Shorter after transferring from Florida International, was previously named the D2CCA South Region Player of the Year. He enjoyed a prolific scoring season while leading the Hawks to a 16-12 record. He finished as the leading scorer in Division II at 34.0 ppg., a figure which leads all three NCAA divisions.

In fact, he leads Division II in four different offensive categories, and is in the top five in three others. Not only is the Brooklyn, N.Y. native the top scorer in the country, he also leads in total points (919), free throws made (297) and free throws attempted (344).

Taylor ranks second in minutes per game (39), third in field goal attempts (607) and fourth in field goals made (263); shooting 43.3 pct. from the field, and connecting on 39.2 pct. on 3-pointers. He shot 86.3 pct. from the line. He added 4.6 rebounds per game, 4.3 assists per game, and 1.9 steals per game.

He etched his name in the Gulf South Conference record book in 2017, finishing with the GSC record for single season total points and points per game; while also tallying the most points in a single game when he scored 62 points against Carver College on November 28. He would score 50-or-more points in three more games during the season.

In 2015-16, Taylor broke the GSC records for free throws, only to break those records again this season. He also set the single-game high in both categories when he went a perfect 26-for-26 from the line against Valdosta State on February 23.

During his two seasons at Shorter, Taylor tallied 1,647 total points, an average of 29.4 points per game. He made 539-of-641 free throws (84 pct.).

Pitts is one of five players on the D2CCA All-American teams who will take part in this week's Elite Eight. A 5'9" junior, he has helped Northwest Missouri State to a 32-1 record and the number two seed in the Elite Eight. The Bearcats will play St. Thomas Aquinas, who is led by second team All-American Justin Reyes.

Pitts is a two-time Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association Player of the Year and was the D2CCA Central Region Player of the Year. He is averaging 20.5 ppg. and 5.2 assists, with 18 games of 20-or-more points. In just three seasons, he is already the Bearcats' career scoring leader with 1,850 points.

Bingaya is a 6'4" swingman who has paced Fairmont State to a 32-2 record and the number one seed in the Elite Eight. The Falcons will play Rollins in a quarterfinal game on Wednesday, March 22. The senior was the D2CCA Atlantic Region Player of the Year and was the Mountain East Conference Player of the Year. He is shooting 59 percent from the floor while averaging 19.4 points and 7.3 rebounds. He paces a Fairmont State offense that averages 96.2 ppg., the third-highest figure in Division II.

An honorable mention All-American a year ago, Smith is a 6'4" guard who led California Baptist to a 26-5 finish and a fourth straight NCAA West Regional appearance. The senior was the D2CCA West Region Player of the Year and a two-time PacWest Conference Player of the Year. The Lancer's and PacWest's all-time leading scorer with 2,031 career points, he ranks third in Division II in scoring at 24.9 ppg., with 22 games of 20-or-more points. He added 6.3 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game.

Shippensburg's Sleva rounds out the D2CCA first team. A 6'8" junior, he helped the Red Raiders to a school-record 27 wins and a first-ever NCAA tournament victory as they went dancing for the first time since the 2005-06 season. The 6'8" junior was named the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division Player of the Year after averaging 21.7 points, 11.2 rebounds, and 3.4 assists per game. He is the only NCAA basketball player averaging 21 points, 11 rebounds and three assists per game while having made at least 55 three-pointers. He set the SU single-season record for points (674) and ranks second in the country with 20 double-doubles as the Red Raiders finished with a 27-4 record.

In addition to Bingaya, Pitts, and Reyes playing in the Elite Eight, other 2017 D2CCA All-Americans still battling for the national championship include third-teamers Luquon Choice of Lincoln Memorial and Gokul Natesan Colorado School of Mines.

The Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-America Men's Basketball Team is sponsored by the Division II Conference Commissioners Association. The Division II Conference Commissioners Association encourages and promotes Division II athletics and high standards of sportsmanship as important elements of higher education. The CCA is a key communications link among the conferences as they discuss views, policies and regulations that impact Division II intercollegiate athletics and works closely with the NCAA as a communications channel to NCAA Division II member colleges and universities.

## 2016-17 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Men's Basketball All-American Team

### FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
Phil Taylor**%	Shorter	G	5-9	175	Sr.	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Justin Pitts	NW Missouri State	G	5-9	143	Jr.	Blue Springs, Mo.
Matt Bingaya	Fairmont State	G/F	6-4	210	Sr.	Delaware, Ohio
Michael Smith%	California Baptist	G	6-4	195	Sr.	San Francisco, Cal.
Dustin Sleva	Shippensburg	F	6-8	220	Jr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.

**\*\* Ron Lenz National Player of the Year**

### SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Will Vorhees	Notre Dame College	F	6-8	240	Jr.	Columbus Grove, Ohio
Justin Reyes	St. Thomas Aquinas	G/F	6-4	205	Jr.	Haverhill, Mass.
Javonte Douglas	Montevallo	F	6-8		Sr.	Charlotte, N.C.
Zach Hankins	Ferris State	C	6-10	234	So.	Charlevoix, Mich.
Keshun Sherrill	Augusta	G	5-9	160	Sr.	Cleveland, N.C.

### THIRD TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Luquon Choice	Lincoln Memorial	G	6-3	235	Sr.	Laurens, S.C.
Michael Mallory	Southern Connecticut State	G	6-1		Sr.	Waterbury, Conn.
Gokul Natesan	Colorado School of Mines	G/F	6-5	190	Sr.	Santa Clara, Calif.
Devin Schmidt#	Delta State	G	6-4	215	Sr.	Sevierville, Tenn.
Devin Gilligan	Southern New Hampshire	F	6-5	220	Sr.	Amherst, N.H.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Deshon Francis, UT Permian Basin; Dan Monteroso, West Liberty; Braxton Reeves, East Central; Chauncey Orr, Hawaii Pacific; Gage Davis, St. Cloud State; Jordan Spencer, Augustana(SD)

# 2016 first team All-American

% 2016 honorable mention All-American

## 2016-17 Division II Conference Commissioners Association Men's Basketball All-Region Teams

### All-Atlantic Region

#### FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Matt Bingaya**	Fairmont State	G/F	6-4	210	Sr.	Delaware, Ohio
Jacobo Diaz	IUP	G	6-9	205	So.	Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain
Dan Monteroso	West Liberty	G/F	6-3	195	Jr.	St. Clairsville, Ohio
Dustin Sleva	Shippensburg	F	6-8	220	Jr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Will Vorhees	Notre Dame College	F	6-8	240	Jr.	Columbus Grove, Ohio

**\*\* Atlantic Region Player of the Year**

#### SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Ray Anderson	Virginia Union	G	6-3	175	Sr.	Wilmington, Del.
Amir Hinton	Lock Haven	G	6-5	180	Fr.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Josh Johnson	Kutztown	F	6-8	195	Sr.	Norristown, Pa.
Jaymon Mason	Edinboro	G	6-3	190	Jr.	Edinboro, Pa.
Thomas Wimbush	Fairmont State	F/G	6-7	195	Sr.	Lorain, Ohio

### All-East Region

#### FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Devin Gilligan**	Southern New Hampshire	F	6-5	220	Sr.	Amherst, N.H.
Justin Reyes	Saint Thomas Aquinas	G/F	6-4	205	Jr.	Haverhill, Mass.
Michael Mallory	Southern Connecticut State	G	6-1		Sr.	Waterbury, Conn.
Tyaire Ponzo-Meek	Wilmington	G	5-11		Sr.	Wilmington, Del
Tim Guers	Saint Anselm	G	6-3		So.	Langhorne, Pa.

**\*\* East Region Player of the Year**

#### SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Matt Bonds	Saint Michael's	F	6-5		Sr.	Accokeek, Md.
Charlie Marquardt	Molloy	G	6-3		Sr.	Rockaway Beach, N.Y.
Jon Feiler	NYIT	F	6-8		Gr.	Smithtown, N.Y.
Nick Davidson	Bloomfield	F	6-6		Jr.	Lumberton, N.J.
Chris Walters	Southern New Hampshire	F	6-4		Jr.	Stamford, Conn.
Jaylen Morris	Molloy	G	6-5		Sr.	Amherst, N.Y.

### All-Southeast Region

#### FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Keshun Sherrill**	Augusta	G	5-9	160	Sr.	Cleveland, N.C.
Charles Clark	Carson-Newman	G	6-2		Jr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Luquon Choice	Lincoln Memorial	G	6-3	235	Sr.	Laurens, S.C.
Javonte Douglas	Montevallo	F	6-8		Sr.	Charlotte, N.C.
A.J. Clark	Pfeiffer	G	5-10		Sr.	Burlington, N.C.

**\*\* Southeast Region Player of the Year**

**SECOND TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Chris Perry	Lincoln Memorial	F	6-8		Sr.	Bartow, Fla.
Shaun Stewart	Limestone	G	6-0		Sr.	Indian Trail, N.C.
Shaq Dance	Limestone	G	6-4		Sr.	Garner, N.C.
Jalin Alexander	Queens(NC)	G	6-3		Jr.	Newberry, S.C.
C.J. Wilson	Young Harris	G	5-11		Sr.	Conyers, Ga.
Randall Shaw	Anderson	G	6-3		So.	Greenville, S.C.

**All-South Region****FIRST TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Phil Taylor**	Shorter	G	5-9	175	Sr.	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Seab Webster	Alabama-Huntsville	F	6-6	215	Sr.	Gurley, Ala.
Jeremiah Hill	Valdosta State	G	6-2	170	Sr.	Savannah, Ga.
Elvar Fridriksson	Barry	G	6-0	165	jr.	Njardvik, Iceland
Delvin Schmidt	Delta State	G	6-4	215	Sr.	Sevierville, Tenn.

**\*\* South Region Player of the Year**

**SECOND TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Adrian Gonzalez	Barry	F	6-5	225	Sr.	Miami, Fla.
Marcus Dewberry	Saint Leo	G	6-0	180	Sr.	Lake Wales, fla.
Drushaun McLaurn	Eckerd	G/F	6-5	190	So.	Jacksonville, Fla.
Kenarius Ash	Lane	F	6-7	185	So.	Decatur, Ga.
Adam Dieball	Christian Brothers	F	6-8	220	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio

**All-South Central Region****FIRST TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Daeshon Francis**	UT Permian Basin	G	6-4	210	Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind.
Gokul Natesan	Colorado School of Mines	G/F	6-5	190	Sr.	Santa Clara, Calif.
Joshua Blaylock	Fort Lewis	F	6-2	175	Sr.	Lancaster, Calif.
Romond Jenkins	Tarleton State	F	6-7	200	Sr.	Midwest City, Okla.
David Chavlovich	West Texas A&M	G	5-11		Jr.	Arlington, Texas

**\*\* South Central Region Player of the Year**

**SECOND TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Quay King	Angelo State	G	6-4	215	Sr.	Atlanta, Ga.
Jeylyn Sharpe	Rogers State	F	6-4	205	Sr.	Ketchum, Okla.
Josh Moon	Oklahoma Christian	C	7-0		Sr.	Crescent, Okla.
Rasmus Bach	Fort Lewis	G	6-4	185	Jr.	Austin, Texas
Seth Youngblood	Arkansas-Fort Smith	G	6-1	181	Sr.	Roland, Okla.

## All-Central Region

### FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Justin Pitts**	Northwest Missouri St.	G	5-9	143	Jr.	Blue Springs, Mo.
Gage Davis	St. Cloud State	G	6-4	185	So.	Bolingbrook, Ill.
Aaron Lien	Minnesota St. Moorhead	G	6-4		Sr.	Moorhead, Minn.
Braxton Reeves	East Central	F	6-4	195	Sr.	Fort Worth, Texas
Jordan Spencer	Augustana(SD)	G	6-2	180	Jr.	Milton Keynes, England

**\*\* Central Region Player of the Year**

### SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Rob Davis	Fort Hays State	G	5-11	185	Sr.	Detroit, Mich.
Derylton Hill	Arkansas Monticello	F	6-5		Jr.	Palm Bay, Fla.
Tyler Rudolph	Minot State	F	6-6	230	Jr.	Bismarck, N.D.
Brady Skeens	Washburn	F	6-7	211	Jr.	Lenexa, Kan.
Anthony Virdure	Lincoln	G	6-0	169	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo,

## All-Midwest Region

### FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Zach Hankins**	Ferris State	C	6-10	234	So.	Charlevoix, Mich.
Jeril Taylor	Southern Indiana	G	6-4	195	Sr.	Louisville, Ky.
Akaemji Williams	Lake Superior State	G	5-8	147	Jr.	Pontiac, Mich.
Martyce Kimbrough	Findlay	G	6-1	180	Jr.	Lima, Ohio
Joseph Tagarelli	Quincy	F	6-5	235	Sr.	Waumakee, Wis.

**\*\* Midwest Region Player of the Year**

### SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Zac Carter	Walsh	G	5-9	168	Sr.	Ironton, Ohio
Kyle Monroe	Michigan Tech	F	6-5	195	So.	Green Bay, Wis.
Adam Eberhard	Bellarmino	F	6-8	195	So.	Evansville, Ind.
Taren Sullivan	Findlay	F	6-6	220	Jr.	Lima, Ohio
Ken-Jah Bosley	Kentucky Wesleyan	G	6-1	190	Sr.	Richmond, Ky.

## All-West Region

### FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Michael Smith**	California Baptist	G	6-4	195	Sr.	San Francisco, Calif.
Taylor Stafford	Western Washington	G	6-1	180	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.
Adam Kile	UC San Diego	G	6-4	205	Sr.	Anchorage, Alaska
Chauncey Orr	Hawaii Pacific	G/F	6-4	207	Gr.	Bowling Green, Ohio
Sekou "Suki" Wiggs	Alaska Anchorage	G	6-4	195	Sr.	Seattle, Wash.

**\*\* West Region Player of the Year**

**SECOND TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
Kalidou Diouf	California Baptist	F	6-9	235	Jr.	Heidelberg, Germany
Warren Jackson	San Francisco State	G	6-0	170	Jr.	Detroit, Mich.
Tanner Omlid	Western Oregon	F	6-3	215	Jr.	Monmouth, Ore.
Connor Looney	Hawaii Pacific	G	6-2	182	Sr.	Palmer, Alaska
Rohndell Goodwin	Chaminade	G	6-5	202	Sr.	Oakland, Calif.