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# Bearcats Honored At All Conference Banquet

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*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

POPLAR BLUFF - The Annual SEMO Conference Banquet was held Wednesday night at the Black River Coliseum, with Bearcat coaches and players all receiving awards after a great football season.

Dexter head coach Aaron Pixley was named SEMO Central Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year. In the last two seasons under Pixley's tutelage, the Bearcats have amassed a 17-7 record, back-to-back District Titles, a SEMO Conference Championship, and made it to the state quarterfinals in the '09-'10 season. Pixley is the winningest coach in DHS history, with a 76-50 career record, including four District Titles since his first season in 2000.

DHS Left Tackle Zach Lacy was given the Lineman of the Year award for the SEMO Central division; he was joined by Farmington's Ethan Hennes and Zach Estes of Scott City.

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SEMO Conference's most prestigious award, the Carr Trophy, went to Caruthersville's Elbie Fonda. The running back ran for 1,889 yards and 25 touchdowns during the regular season, leading the SEMO Conference in both aspects, and led the Tigers to an

11-2 record - their only two losses came in a 56-55 shootout against the Bearcats, and in the State Quarterfinals, where they fell 36-29 to Maplewood-Richmond Heights.

The other finalists for the Carr Trophy were Sikeston's James Watson, who rushed for 1,485 yards, Farmington quarterback Chase Busenbark, who threw for 1,698 yards, Chaffee's Tyson Estes, who ran for 1,431 yards, and DHS quarterback Cody Stevens, who threw for 1,375 yards and ran for 1,184 yards.

Stevens was the first Bearcat in school history to throw and run for over 1,000 yards in a season, and he also became the only second-generation member of the 1,000 Yard Club - his father, Nate, ran for over 1,000 in the '85 and '86 seasons.

Farmington linebacker Roper Garrett was presented with the inaugural Derland Moore Award for the most outstanding defensive player in the conference. Garrett was an integral part of the Knights' defense, with 127 tackles (82 solo, 45 assists), six sacks, and three forced fumbles.

Moore, a native of Poplar Bluff, was a walk-on defensive lineman at the University of Oklahoma and had a 14-year NFL career with the New Orleans Saints. At the time of his drafting, Moore was the highest-picked walk-on player in NFL history.

After a 41-year career, Jackson assistant coach Bob Sink was given the Same Giambelluca Lifetime Achievement Award. Sink announced his retirement last month, during Jackson's Football Banquet.

The Bearcats were well represented on the All-Conference Team, with 11 First Team members. They are:

</images/Sports/2011/Football/All-Conference Banquet/firstteamAC.jpg>

***Congratulations to all the players and coaches that were honored!***

***Thanks to Bearcat Mom Tracy Miller for the photos!***

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