



## COACH'S CORNER



Dear Alumni, Family, and Friends of Amherst Football:

Using momentum from the program's first-ever NESCAC title, Amherst stormed out of the gates in 2010 to quickly establish itself as the team to beat in the conference. The Lord Jeffs outscored Bates and Bowdoin by a combined 82-7 in the first two weeks but found themselves trailing 9-0 at halftime against Middlebury the following Saturday. Scoring 24 points in the third quarter, Amherst was able to complete the comeback for an impressive 38-31 win against the Panthers. The Jeffs got right back to work by outscoring Colby and Wesleyan by a 67-13 margin, but they would once again have their backs to the wall when Tufts came to town. The Jumbos took a 14-0 lead and held a 35-21 advantage with less than a minute to play in the first half, but Amherst scored the next 35 points and pulled away for a 70-49 victory.

Amherst's victory over Tufts tied the program record for longest winning streak (14) and made this year's Jeffs the first group in program history to open a season with six consecutive 30-point games. Both streaks would end the following Saturday as Trinity scored three unanswered touchdowns in the final 6:02 of regulation for a 28-13 result, marking the Bantams' 39th consecutive home victory. The season ended with the 125th meeting between Amherst and Williams, but it was the Ephs who broke a 10-10 halftime tie by scoring 21 points the rest of the way while holding the Jeffs to six. With a 6-2 record, Amherst finished among the top three teams in the NESCAC for the third consecutive year.

Amherst scored an average of 35.8 points per game while allowing only 19.9, as its explosive offense broke a 53-year old program record for scoring average (34.8, 1957). Thanks to an offensive line that allowed the fewest sacks in the NESCAC for a third consecutive year, the Jeffs featured one of the conference's most balanced attacks. Averaging 236 yards through the air and 174 on the ground, the Jeffs ranked third in the conference in total offense (410.0 ypg) and challenged the school record of 426.0 throughout the season. The team's running game was the best it has been in years, notably rushing for 367 yards against Tufts to mark Amherst's highest single-game total since 2004.



Leading the offense was quarterback and Team MVP **Alex Vetras '11**, whose efficiency constantly



left Amherst in a position to win games. He threw at least one touchdown pass in each of his 24 collegiate starts, and in 2010 he put together a dominant stretch of 221 consecutive passes without throwing an interception. His 5,141 career yards and 43 touchdowns are both school records, while his 16 TDs in 2010 also tied the program's single-season mark. Helping protect Vetras was an exceptional offensive line that included All-NESCAC First Team center **John Ceccio '13**, as well as tight end **Charlie Pratt '11**, who was voted the team's Most Valuable Offensive Lineman. Highlighting the running game was All-Conference selection **Eric Bunker '12**, who averaged 95 all-purpose yards per game to go along with 10 touchdowns. Bunker shared the team's Most Valuable Offensive Back Award with **Andre Gary '11** and **Brian Murphy '11**, who led an exceptional group of wide receivers.

The defense had another strong year, gaining a conference-high nine fumbles and intercepting nine passes while turning the ball over only eight times to lead the NESCAC in turnover margin (+10) for the second time in as many years. Outside linebacker **Jeff Katz '11** highlighted the group with another dominant year that earned him the team's Most Valuable Defensive Back Award, while **Kevin Ferber '12** and **Matt Sponheimer '13** shared Most Valuable Defensive Lineman honors. Ferber and Katz were each named to the All-NESCAC First Team, with Ferber also being

recognized by D3football.com as a Second Team All-American selection. Defensive back **Evan Rosenstein '12** had a breakout season to lead the team in tackles, while inside linebacker **Matt Pieterse '13** flourished as one of Amherst's Rookie of the Year honorees. Five Lord Jeffs finished among the top 20 in the conference in total tackles, four of whom will be returning next season. Highlighting the secondary was **Landrus Lewis '13**, who intercepted three passes and did a little bit of everything to earn the "Iron Jeff" Award. Amherst played disciplined football throughout the year, committing only 32 penalties for the lowest total in the conference.

Special teams were a big key to the team's success, as the Lord Jeffs led the NESCAC in kickoff coverage, touchbacks, and field goal and PAT percentage, also finishing second in punting.

**Matt Rawson '12** stood out throughout the year as the top kicker in the conference, going 34-of-36 on PAT tries and 9-of-10 on field goals for the league's best average in each category, also setting a program record for field goals made in a season. In addition to earning the team's Most Valuable Special Teams Award, Rawson was named to the All-Conference First Team and multiple All-Region squads. Newcomer **Phillip Nwosu '14** handled kickoff duties and quickly turned heads, with his eight touchbacks doubling the next highest total in the NESCAC. Several players contributed to the special teams success, including Co-Rookie of the Year **Ryan Silva '14**, who averaged 64.4 all-purpose yards per game as a running back and return specialist.

In the midst of one of the most accomplished seasons in program history, the 2010 Lord Jeffs excelled in the classroom to stand out among other teams in New England. Amherst's **Nick Edwards '11**, **Jeff Katz '11**, **Ian Mahoney '12**, and **Andrew Reed '12** were named to the ESPN Academic All-District First Team (College Division), as announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Twenty-six football players were named to the First Team for District 1, with Amherst College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute leading all schools with four selections apiece. Twelve Lord Jeffs were also named to the NESCAC All-Academic Team for maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.35, while Edwards earned the team's James E. Ostendarp Scholar-Athlete Award.

I would like to thank the 17 seniors, **Brady Benelli '11**, **Nick Edwards '11**, **Andre Gary '11**, **Tom Grossi '11**, **Jeff Katz '11**, **Sean Legister '11**, **Brian Merrigan '11**, **Ricky Morgan '11**, **Brian Murphy '11**, **Femi Oyalowo '11**, **Dan Pozner '11**, **Charlie Pratt '11**, **Marcus Richtel '11**, **Isaac Rowner '11**, **Brandon Quinn '11**, **Pat Sugrue '11**, and **Alex Vetras '11** for their effort and hard work during their time at Amherst College. Replacing the seniors will present a number of challenges this off-season, but the future looks bright for the Lord Jeffs. Four of the team's All-NESCAC selections will return to the sidelines in 2011, with Bunker, Ceccio, Ferber and Rawson ready to lead the offense, defense, and special teams, respectively. The Class of 2014 lived up to its expectations, and we are equally excited about what the Class of 2015 has to offer.

Beat Williams,



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## 2010 Team Awards

### Tom Ashley Award

#### Team Most Valuable Player

Alex Vetras

### George Cadigan Award

#### Most Valuable D-Line

Kevin Ferber

Matt Sponheimer

### Paul Eckley Award

#### Most Valuable O-Line

Charlie Pratt

#### Most Valuable D-Back

Jeff Katz

### Tracy Mehr Award

#### Most Valuable O-Back

Eric Bunker

Andre Gary

Brian Murphy

### Friends of Amherst "Coaches" Award

Sean Legister

Ricky Morgan

### Most Valuable Special Teams

Matt Rawson

### Hammer Award

Brandon Quinn

### James E. Ostendarp Scholar-Athlete

Nick Edwards

### "Iron Jeff" Award

Landrus Lewis

### Rookie of the Year Award

Matt Pieterse

Ryan Silva