AMHERST COLLEGE

Football

JANUARY 2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR AMHERST COLLEGE ATHLETICS

"THE JEFF REPORT"

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Amherst Football:

On behalf of the entire Amherst College Football Program, I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. As we enter 2012 I would like to take a moment to reflect upon what a legendary year 2011 was for the Lord Jeffs. Winning our second NESCAC championship in three years was an amazing accomplishment for the 2011 squad. The class of 2012 has had a remarkable impact on our program, boasting an overall record of 27-5 including two undefeated seasons and two NESCAC & Little III Championships. However, none of this would be possible without the loyal support that we receive from the alumni, parents and friends of the football program – I sincerely thank you for all that you do.

The 2011 Lord Jeffs were dominant on both sides of the ball. The offensive unit led the league in scoring (29.9 ppg) while the defense ranked second in rushing defense (88.1 ypg) and scoring defense (12.6 ppg). Amherst also ranked first in turnover margin (+9). Offensively, the Jeffs were led by their rushing attack that was spearheaded by running back **Eric Bunker '12** (Topsfield, Mass.) who averaged a league-leading 106.6 yards per game and averaged 5.3 yards per carry. For his superior efforts on the field, Eric was voted NESCAC Offensive Player of the Year, made the D3football.com All-East Region 2nd Team, and was awarded the Golden Helmet from the New England Sports writers following his 117 yard and 2 touchdown outing against Trinity.

Leading the Defense was **Kevin Ferber '12** DE (Mahwah, N.J.) who set the single season record for sacks at Amherst (11). Ferber also took home a number of post-season honors as he received a 1st Team All-American nod from D3Football.com in addition to being named to their All-East Region 1st team and received the same honor from the NESCAC. Rounding out Amherst's 1st Team All NESCAC performers were: **John Ceccio '13** OL (Stony Point, N.Y.), **Rob Wasielewski '14** OL (Winnetka, Ill.), **Ben Kettering '12** WR (Fairmont, W.Va.), **Matt Sponheimer '13** DL (Orange, Conn.), **Matt Pieterse '13** LB (Springfield, Mass.), **Landrus**

2011 Team Awards

Tom Ashley Award
Team Most Valuable Player
Eric Bunker '12
Kevin Ferber '12
George Cadigan Award
Most Valuable D-Line
Matt Sponheimer '13
Sam Clark '13
Matt Pieterse '13
Paul Eckley Award
Most Valuable O-Line
John Ceccio '13
Most Valuable Defensive Back
Landrus Lewis '13
Kevin Heller '12
Tracy Mehr Award
Most Valuable Offensive Back
Brian McMahon '12
Ben Kettering '12
Mike Samela '12
Friends of Amherst "Coaches" Award
Arlen Greenberg '12
Rob Moran '12
Most Valuable Special Teams
Matt Rawson '12
Hammer Award
Louis Jacoubs '13
James E. Ostendarp Scholar-Athlete
Andrew Reed '12
"Iron Jeff" Award
Landrus Lewis '13
Rookie of the Year Award
Scott Mergner '15
Comeback Player of the Year
Mike Aldo '13
Unsung Hero Award
Blake Grauer '13

Lewis '13 DB (Pennsauken, N.J.), and kicker **Matt Rawson '12** (Bethesda, Md.). Jeffs earning 2nd team honors include: **Brian McMahon '12** QB (Basking Ridge, N.J.), **Sam Clark '13** LB (Andover, Mass.), **Kevin Heller '12** DB (Brooklyn, N.Y.), and return specialist **Landrus Lewis '13** (Pennsauken, N.J.).

7th Annual Friends of Amherst Football Golf Outing

When: Monday, June 4
Where: Orchards Golf Club

More information to follow….

I am proud of the group we had this year and all of our accomplishments on and off the field of play. While we reaped the benefits of standout players, this year's successes were truly a team effort embodying the "Band of Brothers" mantra we adopted at the start of this year's campaign. Each of our players played a pivotal role in our success this season. We look forward to the challenges that lie ahead in our quest of repeating as NESCAC and Little III Champions in 2012.

Once again, I would like to thank the 18 seniors from the class of 2012: **Eric Bunker, Kevin Ferber, Doug Gebhardt, Blake Grauer, Arlen Greenberg, Kevin Heller, Ben Kettering, Greg Kutzin, Gordie Lockbaum, Ian Mahoney, Brian McMahon, Rob Moran, Trevor Rappa, Matt Rawson, Andrew Reed, Will Reed, Evan Rosenstein,** and **Mike Samela** for their efforts and hard work during their time at Amherst College. These seniors will be missed and their legacy of excellence embraced by those who remain. The future looks bright for the Lord Jeffs. Six of the team's All-NESCAC selections will return to the sidelines in 2012, with **Ceccio '13, Clark '13, Lewis '13, Pieterse '13, Sponheimer '13, and Wasielewski '14** ready to lead the offense, defense, and special teams, respectively. The Class of 2012 lived up to its expectations, and we are equally excited about what the Class of 2013 has to offer.

Beat Williams,

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