SAU’s Babineaux Participates in Cactus Bowl

Kingsville, Tex. --- Offensive Player of the Game Tyler Paul, out of Emporia State, caught a 35-yard pass from Midwestern State’s Phillip Boggs on the first play of the first overtime to lift the West All-Stars to a 30-27 victory over the East All-Stars in the Whataburger Cactus Bowl Friday night in Texas A&M-Kingsville’s Javelina Stadium.

The win by the West broke a two-game losing skid to the East in the annual bowl game, which features 80 of the top senior players from NCAA Division II schools throughout the country. The game gives players a chance to display their talent before professional scouts.

Paul had 113 total yards and three scores to earn MVP honors. He had three receptions for 89 yards and two touchdowns, as well as seven carries for 24 yards and a score.

Earning Defensive Player of the Game honors was Eric McDowell (Missouri Western) who had a game-high 10 total tackles, including three for losses, and had two sacks for the West squad. Alan Dunn, of Tusculum, was named the winner of the Jim Langer Award, the top offensive lineman in the game.

Southern Arkansas Mulerider cornerback Jordan Babineaux was a participant for the East team. Babineaux was credited with two solo tackles in the game, and led the East in kickoff returns with two for 29 yards, including a long return of 21 yards. He had a longer return called back due to a penalty and was only credited for eight yards on the return. Babineaux led the Gulf South Conference and was 15th in Division II in kickoff returns this year, averaging 28.6 yards per return. He tied two NCAA Division II and one GSC record, and broke two GSC and SAU records by returning three kickoffs for 208 yards against Delta State this season. Two of the returns were for 100 and 96 yards for touchdowns.

Babineaux, 6-0, 202 pounds from Port Arthur, Tex., was named this season as D2Football.com Second Team All-America, Dopke.com Division II National Special Teams Performer of the Year, First Team Daktronics and Football Gazette All-South Region, and First Team All-GSC.