Babineaux Special Teams Player of the Year

Magnolia, Ark. --- Southern Arkansas University cornerback-kick returner Jordan Babineaux was selected as the 2003 national NCAA Division II Special Teams Performer of the Year by Dopke.com. Babineaux, a 6-0, 202-pound senior from Port Arthur, Tex., returned two kickoffs for touchdowns against a good Delta State University team, one for 100 and the other for 96 yards, to lead the Muleriders to a 44-36 win. Babineaux was one of four players named as first-team Specialists.

Two SAU players, kicker Thomas LaToof, a 5-10, 185-pound senior from New Boston, Tex., and wide receiver-punt returner Nik Lewis, a 6-0, 190-pound senior from Jacksboro, Tex., were named as second-team Specialists.

There was only one Gulf South Conference player named to the first-team offense, wide receiver Ellis Debrow of Delta State, and none on the first-team defense and only one to the second-team offense, tight end Devon Stewart of Arkansas-Monticello, and none to the defense.

Three GSC players were on the Special Mention offense, quarterback Will Hall of North Alabama, who was named the Harlon Hill trophy winner as the best player in the nation in NCAA Division II, and linemen Torrey Howard of Valdosta State and Lance Ancar, North Alabama. Three from the GSC were on the Special Mention Defense, linemen Tommy Edwards of Arkansas Tech and Joey Sylve of Delta State, and linebacker Tim Polk of Harding University.

SAU’s Lewis was a first-team All-America pick by several publications in 2002 and ATU’s Edwards was a consensus choice for first-team honors.