



4161 EAST 7TH AVENUE • TAMPA, FL • 33605 • TELEPHONE: 813-248-2101 • FAX: 813-248-6768

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2008

For more information contact:

Gordon Blickle, Director of Marketing, gblickle@gardner-gibson.com, 813-367-0282 x2203

Outstanding Tampa teens earn Football All-America Honors

Gardner-Gibson football sponsorship yields All-American results



TAMPA, FL—Two Tampa-area football stars have been named first-team All-Americans by FBU, a nationally recognized program sponsored by the US Army, *Sports Illustrated for Kids* magazine and the National Football Combine.

Eighth graders Jacob Meier, a 13-year-old offensive lineman from New Tampa, and 14-year-old fullback/linebacker Jake Kennedy of Lutz were selected to participate in the U.S. Army Youth All-American Bowl. Meier and Kennedy participate in youth football as part of the New Tampa Wildcat football program.

At left: Tampa's Jake Kennedy (42) and Jacob Meier (77) close out a championship year and head for the US Army Youth All-American Bowl in San Antonio.

THE GAMES AND THE ALL-AMERICAN BOWL WEEK

Three All-American games were played over New Years weekend, one for each age group. The games were played in the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas and televised live via web cast. Youth All-Americans participated in a host of true bowl week activities: hearing from Pro Football Hall-of-Famers, meeting current and former NFL stars, and spending time with the nation's top high school All-Americans during the biggest week of football in their careers.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Junior All-American selection process starts with 60 FBU regional directors and scouts located throughout the United States identifying the top youth talent in America. The scouts attend youth games, speak with area coaches and local media to find the top players. FBU meets with coaches in their region during "selection night," whereby nominations are made. After getting nominated as an elite player, FBU will have our Player Development Directors contact and interview the player as well as review a game or highlight tape of the player showcasing their ability. Each player nominated will be ranked based on their ability.

After reviewing thousands of nominations the FBU Player Development Directors select 50 athletes (25 East and 25 West) per game that have distinguished themselves to be named an FBU All-American. Once selected a number of players will be profiled in SI for Kids as Junior All-Americans.

LINKS

US Army All-American Bowl Links:

<http://www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com/>

<http://www.footballuniversity.org/index.php>

THE NEW TAMPA WILDCATS

A community-based football program that develops teamwork, football skills and leadership, the New Tampa Wildcats are one of the most competitive programs in the Tampa and across the state. Gardner-Gibson is a proud sponsor of the New Tampa Wildcats football program, which develops fine young athletes and men like Jacob Meier and Jake Kennedy.

NEW TAMPA WILDCAT 2009 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-COUNTY PLAYERS

After graduating from the Wildcat program, many of our teens enjoy successful high school careers. This year several New Tampa Wildcat high school players earned all-county honors, including:

FIRST TEAM: DB Jairus Jones of Wharton HS; Sr.—Safety led Hillsborough County with 188 tackles and led team with four INTs this season

SECOND TEAM: OL Hunter Stout of Wharton HS; Sr.; DL Brandon Green of Tampa Catholic HS; Sr.

HONORABLE MENTION: **Freedom HS:** Coril Joseph, Josh Grady, Carl Saunders, Sherrod Cunningham. **Tampa Catholic HS:** Christian Green. **Wharton HS:** Andrew Clifford, Chase Boswell. New Tampa Wildcats website: <http://newtampawildcats.org/>

Gardner-Gibson has been a leading manufacturer and distributor of roof coatings, driveway sealers, caulks and adhesives for over 60 years. The customer base spans the globe. Products are marketed under the brands of APOC, Black Jack, Leak Stopper, Sta-Kool, Gardner, Shur-Stik, Fields and Atco brands. For more information on the company, visit www.gardner-gibson.com.

###