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University of Florida Tight End Aaron Hernandez Named 2009 Walter Camp “Connecticut Player of the Year”

Former Bristol Central High School star will be honored on January 16

NEW HAVEN, CT – Former Bristol Central High School standout **Aaron Hernandez**, a junior tight end from the University of Florida, has been named by the Walter Camp Football Foundation as its 2009 “Connecticut Player of the Year.”

Awarded annually to the top college football player who is a resident of the state of Connecticut, the Connecticut Player of the Year is selected by the all-volunteer membership of the Walter Camp Football Foundation.

“We are pleased to announce Bristol native Aaron Hernandez as our Connecticut Player of the Year,” Foundation president Alphonse Paolillo, Jr. said. “Aaron has been an offensive force for the high-scoring Gators and we are honored to recognize him for his outstanding season.”

This season, Hernandez leads the third-ranked Gators (12-1) in receptions (59) and ranked first among tight ends in the Southeastern Conference in receptions, receiving yards (739) and receiving yards per game (56.8). Hernandez has four touchdown receptions on the season, including two in a win over Florida State on November 28. He also had a career-high eight catches for 85 yards in the SEC Championship Game against Alabama on December 5. Hernandez became the first UF tight end since 1990 to record eight catches in a single game.

For his efforts, Hernandez earned first team All-SEC honors and was recently awarded the John Mackey Award as the nation’s best collegiate tight end. In his 38-game collegiate career, Hernandez has made 102 receptions for 1,271 yards and 11 touchdowns.

A resident of Bristol, Hernandez had an accomplished high school athletic career at Bristol Central where he played two sports (football and basketball). Hernandez set Connecticut state records for receiving yards (1,807) and TDs (24) during his senior season (2006). He also tied a state record for career touchdown receptions with 31 and was named the 2006-07 Gatorade Football State Player of the Year. He was also named Player of the Year by the *Hartford Courant* and *New Haven Register*.

Hernandez, Walter Camp Player of the Year Colt McCoy (Texas) and members of the 2009 All-America team will be honored at the organization’s national awards banquet on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at the Yale University Commons in New Haven. In addition, the Foundation will honor three individuals – NFL Hall-of-Famer John Elway (Stanford), former NFL All-Pro David Fulcher and ABC broadcast personality Robin Roberts (Southeastern Louisiana) – with major awards. The Foundation is offering a "Holiday Ticket Promotion" for the National Awards Dinner. Buy two tickets for \$400 (you save \$150) before December 25. Please call **(203) 288-CAMP** (288-2267) for more information.

Walter Camp, “The Father of American football,” first selected an All-America team in 1889. Camp – a former Yale University athlete and football coach – is also credited with developing play from scrimmage, set plays, the numerical assessment of goals and tries and the restriction of play to eleven men per side. The Walter Camp Football Foundation – a New Haven-based all-volunteer group – was founded in 1967 to perpetuate the ideals of Camp and to continue the tradition of selecting annually an All-America team.

2009 Walter Camp Connecticut Player of the Year release cont.

Connecticut Player of the Year

Presented to the top college football player who is a resident of the state of Connecticut.

The award is voted on by the Walter Camp Football Foundation membership.

Year	Recipient, Pos.	School	Hometown
2009	Aaron Hernandez, TE	Florida	Bristol (Bristol Central HS)
2008	Kory Sheets, RB	Purdue	Manchester (Bloomfield HS)
2007	Mike McLeod, RB	Yale	New Britain
2006	Kory Sheets, RB	Purdue	Manchester (Bloomfield HS)
2005	John Sullivan, OL	Notre Dame	Greenwich
2004	Anttaj Hawthorne, DL	Wisconsin	Hamden
2004	Dan Orlovsky, QB	Connecticut	Shelton
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2002	Niko Koutouvides, LB	Purdue	Plainville
2001	Dwight Freeney, DE	Syracuse	Bloomfield
2000	Peter Mazza, LB	Yale	Cheshire
1999	Bobby Myers, DB	Wisconsin	Hamden
1998	Carl Bond, RB	Connecticut	Hamden
1997	Kyle McIntosh, RB	Syracuse	Cheshire
1996	Tarek Saleh, LB	Wisconsin	Woodbridge (Notre Dame-WH HS)
1995	Tarek Saleh, LB	Wisconsin	Woodbridge (Notre Dame-WH HS)
1994	Jason Miska, LB	Auburn	Bridgeport (ND-Fairfield HS)
1993	Chris Zingo, LB	Cornell	Fairfield (Fairfield Prep)
1992	Curtis Eller, DE	Villanova	Stratford
1991	Corey Vincent, DL	Holy Cross	Shelton
1990	Rob Thomson, DB	Syracuse	Southington
1989	Terry Wooden, LB	Syracuse	Farmington
1988	Glenn Antrum, WR	Connecticut	Ansonia
1987	Bill Romanowski, LB	Boston College	Vernon
1986	Richard Comizio, RB	Pennsylvania	New Fairfield
1985	Tom Patton, DE	Holy Cross	Meriden
1984	<i>no recipient</i>		
1983	Steve Young, QB	Brigham Young	Greenwich
1982	Mike Marshall, DB	Southern Connecticut	Bridgeport
1981	Rich Diana, RB	Yale	Hamden

www.waltercamp.org