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2005 Men's Soccer News Releases

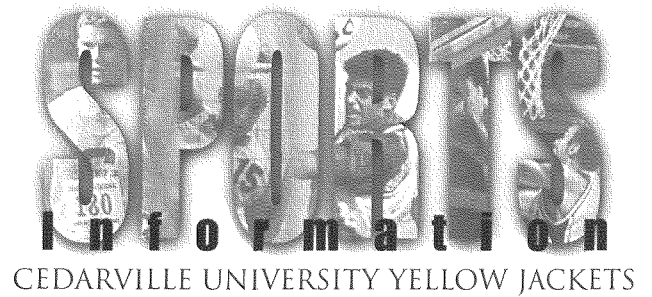
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November 18, 2005

ALSO E-MAILED with PORTRAIT

Phil Ellis named NCCAA Kyle Rote, Jr. Men's Soccer Player of the Year

CEDARVILLE, Ohio - Cedarville University senior Phil Ellis has been selected the 2005 Kyle Rote, Jr. Player of the Year in men's soccer by the National Christian College Athletic Association. He is the first Yellow Jacket player to earn the honor which is presented in the name of the former professional player, who is also the lead member of the selection committee.

Ellis, a 6-foot-1 defender from Cincinnati (Kings H.S.), paced the Yellow Jackets to a 15-4-1 record, a No. 1 ranking in the NCCAA poll, and a berth in the NAIA Region IX Final Four. After playing midfield during the first three years of his career, he moved back to anchor a defense that posted nine shutouts and allowed just 17 goals in 20 matches. Ellis was also named the NCCAA Midwest Region Player of the Year.

"Phil has had an immediate and consistent impact on our team on the field, but he also sustains us as a spiritual leader.," stated CU head coach Ben Belleman. "He is very focused in both areas and Cedarville would not be the program it is without his influence."

Ellis has been extensively involved in missions work throughout his college career. He has worked the On Goal soccer camp, International Children's Outreach soccer camp, and the Cedarville University soccer camp. He was part of a 2005 spring break New York City missions trip through CU's Missions Involvement Service and has also been on Yellow Jacket soccer missions trips to Vancouver and Brazil.

A Dean's Honor List student as a business finance major, Ellis is an NAIA and NCCAA All-America Scholar-Athlete. Phil and his wife, Lauren, reside in Cedarville.

Mark Womack, Director

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