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**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S ERIC PETERMAN NAMED WINNER OF
2008 NATIONAL ARA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

Wildcat receiver noted for his gracious style on and off the field

Glenview, Ill., (December 17, 2008) –Purple Pride runs deep today with the announcement of Northwestern University's receiver, Eric Peterman, as recipient of this year's ARA Sportsmanship Award, presented by the Awards and Recognition Association (ARA) www.arasportsmanshipaward.com. The award will be given today, Wednesday, December 17th, at 1:00 p.m. by renowned Brigham Young University football coach LaVell Edwards at Northwestern University's Nicolet Football Center at 1501 Central Street, Evanston, Ill.

“The ARA Sportsmanship Award is the only national award that recognizes an athlete's character and leadership as it translates to sportsmanship,” said Cathy Garcia, president of the ARA. I am thrilled that this year's winner continues our tradition of recognizing outstanding young men who exemplify the best in sports and life.”

“Our blue ribbon panel sifted through no shortage of stand out Bowl Division players this year,” said Coach Edwards, “but Peterman rose to the top with his honest, understated approach on and off the field. He's an all-around class act. We're all deeply honored to name him the 2008 recipient of the ARA Sportsmanship Award.

“We look for players that have integrity in their game and in their lives and there's no finer example than Eric,” added Edwards.

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2008 NATIONAL ARA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD –Add One

A smart, versatile, standout receiver and significant contributor, Peterman has won athletic accolades and praises and, has earned impressive stats. The Wildcat owns a 12.6 yards per reception career average and began his final year ranked 16th on NU's all-time receiving yardage list with 1, 274 yards.

Off of the field, he has made, and continues to make, an impact. He serves on the Northwestern Football Leadership Council and Student Athlete Advisory Council Committee; volunteers with community service events and departmental peer mentor programs; and is one of four representatives of the educational APPLE/athletic prevention program for improving substance abuse. He's actively involved with the McCormick Student Advisory Board, as part of the School of Engineering, where he has a 3.229 GPA. He also is a member of the peer mentor group for the football team, Peers Urging Responsible Practices Through Leadership and Education. In addition, he is a member of and recruiter for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA); coordinating FCA member visits, signing autographs, speaking to children and assisting with weekly Bible studies. After every game, Peterman and other members of the team invite their opponents—win or lose—to come together in prayer. "I can think of no finer example for today's youth," says Edwards.

The ARA Sportsmanship Award is presented to the NCAA Bowl Division collegiate football player who most exemplifies sportsmanship on and off the field. Peterman, 22, was selected from 10 finalists representing schools across the country.

Previous winners are former Washington State quarterback Alex Brink (2007), St. Louis Rams running back Brian Leonard (2006) and Carolina Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams (2005).

To qualify for the award, an athlete must be a starting player or significant contributor on his team; be a senior in good academic standing; demonstrate great respect for competitors, school, teammates and coaches; show an ability to accept victory and defeat graciously; convey a high degree of humility and integrity; and demonstrate commitment in the classroom and to the community.

2008 NATIONAL ARA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD –Add Two

All NCAA Bowl Division schools were eligible to submit nominations for the ARA Sportsmanship Award. The finalists were selected in a blinded process by representatives from ARA; the winner was selected by a blue-ribbon panel comprised of famous retired college coaches, members of the sports media and representatives from other complementary organizations.

The Awards and Recognition Association is the official sponsor of the ARA Sportsmanship Award. ARA is a membership organization of 4,000 companies dedicated to increasing the professionalism of recognition specialists and advancing the awards and engraving industry. The ARA is headquartered in Glenview, Ill. For more information about the award, visit www.arasportsmanshipaward.com. For more information about ARA, visit www.ara.org.

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