



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 29, 2009

SPANN LEADS HUSKIES EXPLOSIVE RUNNING ATTACK INTO TORONTO

NIU RUNNING BACK ONE TOUCHDOWN AWAY FROM SCHOOL RECORD

Toronto, ON – Junior running back Chad Spann had a breakout season for the Northern Illinois Huskies in 2009, tying the NIU single-season record for rushing touchdowns with 19 en route to receiving his first career All-MAC first-team selection.

Spann joins a long list of NIU first-team All-MAC tailbacks that includes Thomas Hammock (2000-01), Michael Turner (2002, 2003) and Garrett Wolfe (2004, 2005, 2006).

Heading into their International Bowl match-up against the University of South Florida Bulls on January 2 at the Rogers Centre, Spann will be looking to find his way into the end zone at least once to have the school's all-time single-season rushing touchdown mark.

He is currently tied with All-Pro running back Michael Turner and Stacey Robinson, who did it on two separate occasions, after finding the end zone in the Huskies season finale at Central Michigan. Spann's 19 rushing scores on the season also placed him in a tie for seventh all-time in the Mid American Conference record book.

Spann will be looking to extend his streak of seven games with at least one rushing touchdown against a Bulls defence that has two of the most dominant defensive ends in college football. He needs only 55 rushing yards to surpass the 1,000 yard mark for the first time in his collegiate career.

With a season that saw him gain 945 yards on 159 carries to average 5.9 yards per rush, Spann was part of Huskies team that ranked 17th in the nation in rushing yards with 202.4 per game. The Huskies running attack was complimented by sophomore Me'co Brown, who has 645 yards and four scores of his own.

During the regular season he rushed for at least 100 yards on four occasions, including a season high 174 yards on 11 carries and two touchdowns in Northern Illinois's 50 -6 victory over Eastern Michigan on November 5th. He also scored at least two touchdowns six times during the season, including three against Western Michigan.

Northern Illinois Single Season Rushing Touchdowns

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chad Spann	2009	19*
Michael Turner	2002	19
Stacey Robinson	1990	19
Garrett Wolfe	2004	18
Garrett Wolfe	2006	18

*with one game to go in the season

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BOWL:

The International Bowl is the only NCAA Division I football game played outside the U.S. The fourth annual International Bowl will be played on Saturday, January 2, 2010 at Rogers Centre with a noon kick-off. Tickets are now on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at Ticketmaster.ca or by calling 416-872-5000.

For further information, including media credential requests, please visit the official International Bowl website at www.internationalbowl.org.

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