





Senior Jerale Badon became ACU's career leader in catches and receiving yards.

single-season records for rushing yards with 2,165. He finished runner-up for the Harlon Hill Award, the Division II version of the Heisman Trophy.

Junior quarterback Billy Malone became the leading passer in LSC and ACU history with 8,799 yards. He'll enter his senior season as one of the leading active passers in the NCAA.

Senior wide receiver Jerale Badon set LSC and ACU records for career catches (235) and yards (3,311), while junior receiver Johnny Knox set LSC and ACU single-season records with 17 touchdown receptions.

The 2007 Wildcats, in fact, became the first team in NCAA history to produce a 3,500-yard passer, a 2,000-yard rusher and two 1,000-yard receivers in the same season.

The offensive production was nothing short of phenomenal. Each week, it seemed, a new hero emerged for the Wildcats.

Scott scored six touchdowns in a game – twice. Another week it was Malone throwing for five touchdowns. Or it might have been Knox with big play after big play. Or Badon. Or freshman Edmund Gates.

The roll-call of playmakers in ACU's arsenal seemed to have no end.

It all happened, though, because the Wildcats fielded arguably the finest offensive line in NCAA Division II. The quintet of Joseph Thompson, Cody Savage, Sam Collins, Nathan Young and Matt Raesner paved the way for Scott and kept Malone upright for most of the season. The Wildcats led the nation in fewest sacks allowed per game (0.69) and finished in the top 10 in five major offensive categories.

ACU's electrifying attack thrilled the thousands who saw it clicking in 2007. Seven times during the season the Wildcats scored at least 50 points, and twice they topped 70.

To put that in perspective, between 1973 (the year ACU joined the LSC) and 2006, the Wildcats had scored at least 50 points in a game only eight times. And you have to go back to 1922 to find the last time ACU scored 70 points in a game before the Wildcats did it again in a heart-stopping 70-63 win Oct. 27 at Tarleton State.

And that wasn't even the team's high-water mark for points scored in 2007. In a season-ending loss Nov. 24 at No. 2-ranked Chadron (Neb.) State, the Wildcats raced to a 49-20 lead going into the fourth quarter only to see the Eagles rally for a miraculous, heart-breaking, unthinkable 76-73

triple-overtime victory in the second round of the national playoffs.

And while the offense got most of the headlines for the Wildcats in 2007, the defense did have its own playmakers.

Senior middle linebacker Cody Stutts was voted all-America, and ACU's defense came up with plays when it had to have them throughout the regular season. None was bigger than Joe Edwards' sack of Tarleton State quarterback Scott Grantham on the ACU 23-yard line with 15 seconds to play in the game and the Wildcats clinging to a 70-63 lead.

The exciting thing for Wildcat fans – and, conversely, the ominous reality for 2008 opponents – is that most of this offensive juggernaut returns intact next season.

The Wildcats got a taste of post-season success in 2007 with the program's first playoff win (56-12 vs. Mesa State) in 30 years, but the drive next year will be for more.

Scott might have said it best in summarizing his runner-up finish for the Harlon Hill Award: "Maybe next year we can be [in Florence, Ala.] to win two trophies: the Harlon Hill and the national championship."



Senior guard Nathan Young was named first-team all-America.