



NIU Athletics Hall of Fame

Steve Azar

Football, 2000-2003



A right-footed soccer-style kicker, Steve Azar became NIU's all-time leading scorer and the only player in NIU football history to earn all-conference honors four times. As a freshman in 2000, Azar not only earned All-MAC Honorable Mention recognition, but was also named a First Team Freshman All-America by *Football News* and a Second Team Freshman All-America by *The Sporting News*. During his sophomore campaign in 2001, Azar was a First Team All-MAC honoree and the league's Co-Special Teams Player of the Year as he set a school record with 20 field goals made, a mark he would break during his senior season with 21. An All-MAC Second Team honoree as a junior in 2002, Azar closed his career with his second First Team All-MAC honor in 2003, while being named the MAC's Special Teams Player of the Year and a Lou Groza Award semifinalist, both for the second time in his Huskie career. He was named MAC Player of the Week an amazing eight times. Azar established at least 15 school records, including Most Points Scored, Career (370); Most Field Goals Made, Career and Season (73/21); Most Field Goals Attempted, Career (92); and Highest Field Goal Percentage, Career and Season (.793/.933). His 370 career kick-scoring points and 73 field goals were not only NIU records, but also established new standards in Mid-American Conference history. In addition, Azar owned five of the six longest field goals in school history by the end of his career, including a record 52-yarder vs. nationally-ranked Maryland on national TV in the 2003 season opener at Huskie Stadium.

HUSKIE ILLUSTRATED

50 GREATEST PLAYERS IN HUSKIE STADIUM HISTORY

In honor of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Northern Illinois University's Huskie Stadium in 2015, NIU named the 50 Greatest Players in Huskie Stadium history (1965-present), presented by Compass Mortgage.

The honorees were selected by individual vote of a 13-person committee of current and former staff members, NIU's long-time radio broadcast team, Huskie Hall of Famers like Joe Novak and George Bork, and individuals whose experience with Huskie Football collectively dates back 100s of years.

Steve Azar, PK (2000-2003)

The leading scorer in NIU football history with 370 points, Steve Azar excelled at putting points on the board for the Huskies in each of his four seasons from 2000-03. Azar was a four-time All-MAC selection with two first team recognitions from the conference as he performed well season after season, resulting in the 11 NIU school records he still owns. Through his consistency and quality of kicking, Azar was twice named MAC Special Teams Player of the Year, became a two-time Honorable All-American and earned MAC Special Teams Player of the Week an incredible eight times.



To: El Paso Athletics Hall of Fame
From: Joe Novak, NIU Head Football Coach (retired)
Re: Steve Azar
Date: March 2025

Steve Azar simply is the best kicker I was around in my 40 years of coaching football, 34 years at the collegiate level.

I was the head coach at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL, from 1996 to 2007. In the spring of 2000 we received a letter from a young man in Colorado Springs, CO, 1,000 miles from our location, asking about an opportunity to walk on to our football program. We had just finished our recruiting for that year and had recruited and signed a young man from our area to replace our kicker who had graduated. Our recruiting coordinator watched some tape featuring Steve and liked what he saw, so he asked me what we wanted to do about him, since we had a kicker set for that recruiting class. I told him to explain the situation to Steve, but if he wanted to walk on, we'd give him an opportunity. Steve had researched all the Division I schools that had graduated their kickers and had written to all of them. Thank goodness we responded to his request to be a part of our program.

Steve arrived on campus in the fall of 2000 and within three weeks had won the placekicking job, clearly beating out the young man we had just recruited. Steve would be our kicker for the next four years, 48 games. What a career he had as a Huskie.

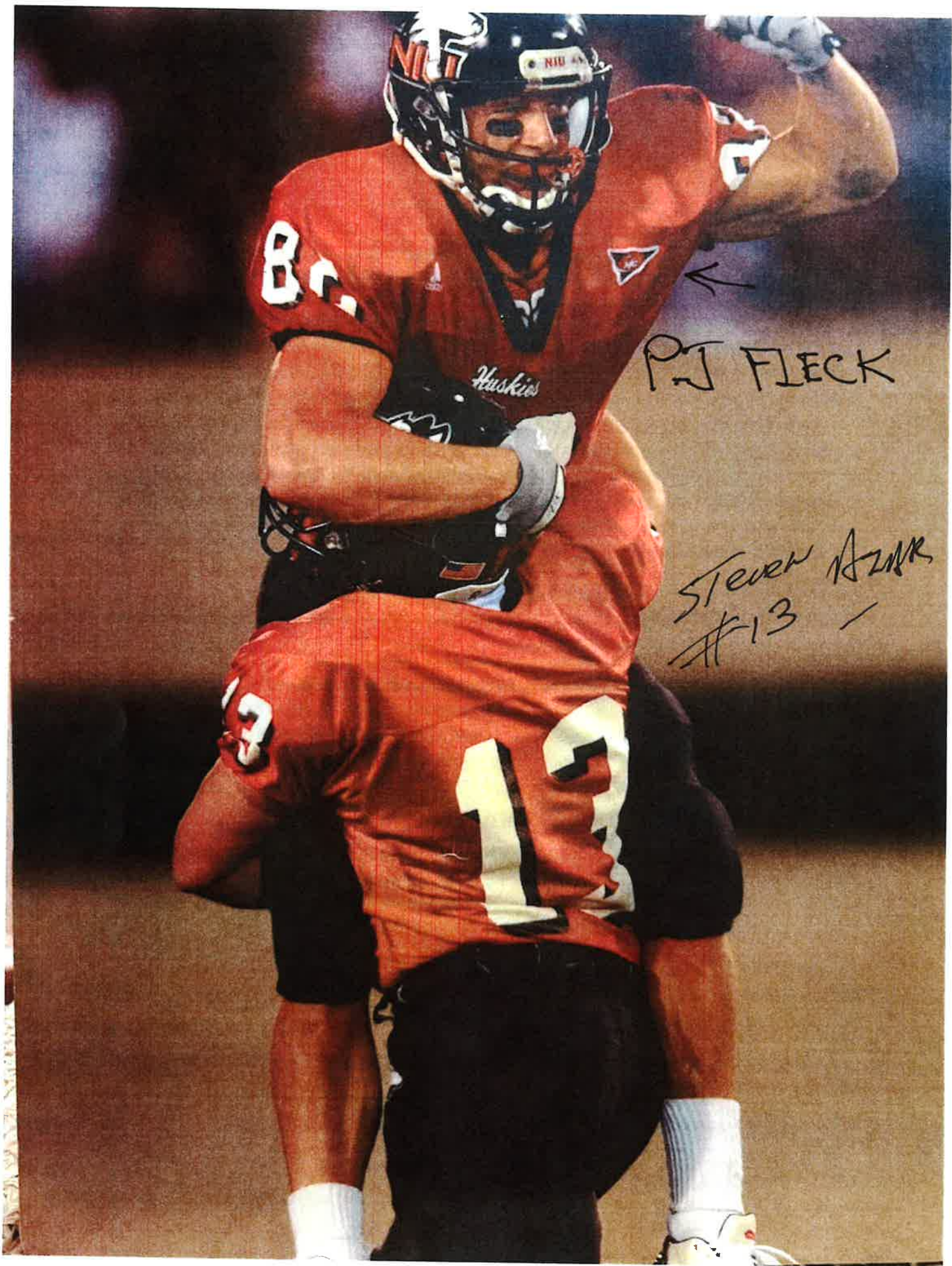
Through the 50+ years of NIU being a Division I football program they've had several All-Americans, two NCAA rushing leaders, and a Heisman Trophy finalist, but Steve Azar is NIU's leading scorer – with 370 points – in school history. He is the career leader in field goals, with 79, and the career leader in field goal percentage, with a stellar 79 percent. In addition, Steve won All MidAmerican Conference Honors all four years he was on our team, was twice named MAC Special Teams Player of the Year, and twice named a Lou Groza Award semi-finalist, a prestigious national award.

Steve was at his best in big games. In 2003 we had a magical football season. In our season opener we beat #12-ranked Maryland 20-13 in overtime. Steve had a 52-yard field goal in that game. A couple of weeks later we played in Tuscaloosa, AL, and beat #21-ranked Alabama 19-16. And Steve had a 50-yard field goal in that game. He was not only prolific and accurate, he was a clutch performer.

His is a great story of a young man seemingly out of nowhere and having what is a hall of fame career. Very shortly after becoming eligible for NIU's Athletics Hall of Fame, Steve was elected, before several of his teammates who had played in the NFL.

I proudly support Steve Azar's nomination for your Hall of Fame because I truly believe he is most deserving of that honor.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at my email address: p1gsk1n@aol.com



←
PJ FLECK

STEVEN AZAR
#13



**FROM THE DESK OF
COACH FLECK**

To: El Paso Athletics Hall of Fame
From: PJ Fleck, University of Minnesota Head Football Coach
Re: Steve Azar
Date: March 2025

I am writing this letter to support Steve Azar's nomination into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. He has the accolades, and accomplishments from his time as a kicker at NIU. He truly helped to elevate NIU back into the D1 football spotlight. A core memory of mine will be that 50 yd field goal Steve nailed to beat Alabama in 2003! Additionally, he was most notably All-MAC player of the year 2x, and 4x All-MAC team. At least 15 school records were established by Steve during his career at NIU.

I will forever cherish my time at NIU with Steve, not only as my teammate but as a friend. Steve will always be one of the best kickers I've had the pleasure of playing with and being around.

If nominated, he would join alongside his Father, Bob, who is 2014 EPAHOF inductee in the administrator category for the events he created in the International sports arena. A father/son membership would be absolutely outstanding and memorable for their family.

Without a doubt, I confidently recommend Steve Azar to the EPAHOF. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at my email address: pfleck@umn.edu.

Sincerely,

PJ Fleck
Head Football Coach
Minnesota Football



Steven Azar

During my time at Northern Illinois University, our football team experienced a massive shift in success and culture. I came into a struggling program that had experienced a lot of turnover but also had faith in 2nd year head coach Joe Novak.

Joe Novak built a successful program based on hard work and believing in each other. His motto was "Those who Stay will be Champions". He worked hard to recruit the right people that would eventually become great teammates. His method was to build from within, not bring in transfer players from other schools. He looked for young talented athletes that could grow up with the program but also have an immediate impact.

Steve Azar exemplifies the exact type of student athlete that Joe Novak was looking for. His impact was felt immediately, not only on the field, but also in the locker room. During his time at Northern Illinois, Azar set several school records for field goals and scoring, contributing to the team's successes in the Mid-American Conference.

Eventually, the team capped off a 10-2 season in 2003 that was filled with highlights. On opening weekend, the Huskies beat No. 15 Maryland, then, traveled to Tuscaloosa and beat No. 21 Alabama. After beating Iowa State the following week, the Huskies were rolling and won their first 7 games. Following their week 5 win against Ohio, the first BCS standings were released, and by week 7 the Huskies had climbed to No. 10 overall.

There's no question that Steve's contributions were enormous to the success of this team. Azar's dedication to the sport and his achievements as a collegiate athlete have left a lasting legacy at NIU, where he is remembered as one of the standout kickers in the program's history.

As someone that was fortunate enough to play 11 seasons in the NFL, I was surrounded by some of the best kickers in the game including Mike Vanderjagt and Adam Vinatieri. Steve certainly had a similar impact at the college level for our teams at Northern Illinois University.

- Ryan Diem

Ryan Diem Bio:

Ryan, a Chicago native, attended Northern Illinois University where he served as captain on the football team and was awarded All American status. Diem was selected by the Indianapolis Colts in the 2001 NFL Draft. Over the course of 11 seasons with the Colts, he had 150 starts in 157 appearances, 106 wins as a starter, earning him a spot as 1 of only 13 Colts players to participate in 100+ career wins in the history of the franchise. During that period, the Colts Offensive Line was #1 in the NFL for least sacks allowed - totaling only 187 sacks over 160 games. On February 4th, 2007 Diem earned the crowning achievement of his career as a Super Bowl XLI Champion.

STEVEN AZAR joined 6 other FIRST TEAM OFFENSIVE FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICANS that have reached the pinnacle of their careers as Hall of Fame inductees representing their respective universities. WHAT A SPECIAL CLASS OF WINNERS.



All-Freshman/National Awards

FIRST TEAM

Offense

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| QB | ✓ | Phillip Rivers, North Carolina State | Phillip Rivers |
| RB | ✓ | Rich Alexis, Washington | |
| RB | ✓ | Mexelde Moore, Tulane | |
| WR | ✓ | Jabar Gaffney, Florida | |
| WR | ✓ | Roy Williams, Texas | Roy Williams |
| TE | ✓ | Jeremy Johnson, Fresno State | |
| OL | ✓ | Michael Muncy, Tennessee | |
| OL | ✓ | Lenny Vandermade, USC | |
| OL | ✓ | Mark Wilson, California | |
| OL | ✓ | John Bennett, Georgia Tech | |
| OL | ✓ | Travell Wharton, South Carolina | |
| PK | ✓ | Steve Azar, Northern Illinois | Steve Azar |

Defense

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| DE | ✓ | Darrell Dockett, Florida State |
| DE | ✓ | DeMarco McNeil, Auburn |
| DE | ✓ | Tenell Suggs, Arizona State |
| DE | ✓ | Nathaniel Adibi, Virginia Tech |
| LB | ✓ | Richard Bagler, Oregon State |
| LB | ✓ | Dary Smith, Georgia Tech |
| LB | ✓ | Grant Wiley, West Virginia |
| CB | ✓ | Ray Johnson, Florida |
| CB | ✓ | Travis Thompson, Purdue |
| CB | ✓ | David Williams, Arizona |
| CB | ✓ | David Williams, Arizona |

Inside

IN COLLEGE
 AWARD WINNER

Offensive Player of the Year

Sports

Huskie PK Azar named to Frosh All-America squad

FROM STAFF REPORTS

DeKALB — For the 2000 Northern Illinois University football team and head coach Joe Novak, the postseason honors continue to accumulate.

The latest individual accolade for Novak's Huskies? Placekicker Steve Azar (Colorado Springs, CO / Highlands Ranch) made The Sporting News Second-Team Freshman All-America squad. The major-college all-frosh team is featured in the Dec. 4 issue of TSN, the weekly sports tabloid which is currently on the newsstands.

Earlier this week, the 5-foot-7, 182-pound red-shirt freshman kicking specialist made the coaches' Honorable Mention All-Mid-American Conference team and was the only frosh performer on the 60-man all-league team.

"This is another opportunity-makes-good story," Novak said. "Steve literally walked in out of the blue and wanted a chance to kick. Our All-MAC kicker Kent Baker graduated last year.

"Steve eventually won our placekicking job and kicked beyond our expectations. He's a good game day kicker. The 14 field goals in a row, I've never been around that type of kicking before. He sure had a solid year for us."

Nationally, Azar ranks in two NCAA Division I-A statistic categories this week — No. 9 in field goals (1.56 per game average) and No. 19 in overall scoring (2.9 ppg. average).

In both NCAA categories, he is the top freshman in the country. In the MAC, Azar appears in four league stats areas — No. 1 in kick-scoring (26 points), No. 1 in field-goal percentage (.833), No. 2 in overall scoring, and No. 5 in PAT kick completion (.850).

During the 2000 season, Azar missed several Huskie home games — 13 the most — but he still made 14 of 17 attempts, with PAT hits (10) and field goals (4).

Novak said Azar's performance was a surprise. "I didn't expect him to be a kicker," he said. "I thought he was just a freshman who was going to be a player."

Azar's performance was a surprise. "I didn't expect him to be a kicker," he said. "I thought he was just a freshman who was going to be a player."

Central Michigan duplicated NIU's second-best single-game trey output. Those 16 kick-scoring points vs. CMU represented the third-best single-game performance in school history.

The 28 consecutive PAT streak was the third longest in NIU annals and the 14 field goals marked the fourth-best all-time single-season total. Azar's 44-yard field goal vs. Central Florida tied the seventh-longest such kick in the Northern Illinois Record Book.

This past season, he converted 38-of-40 PATs and 14-of-15 field goals for 80 points.

Two other Mid-Am players made TSN 2000 Frosh All-America team — Central Michigan punter Brian Brandt (second-team defense) and Miami (OH) linebacker Terrell Jones (third-team defense). Azar was the first Huskie frosh All-America football selection since fullback Adam Dach made The Sporting News honor unit in 1988.



Colorado photo / DON VAUGHAN
Northern Illinois freshman placekicker Steve Azar (13) was named to The Sporting News Freshman All-America team for his consistency throughout the season. He was also the only player to earn some form of league recognition, gaining the league's Freshman All-SEC American Conference selection.



**2001
MID-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE
FOOTBALL
SPECIAL TEAMS
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

STEVE AZAR
Northern Illinois University

*Selected by the
MAC News Media Association*

They return all 3 starters and have a very talented secondary.

The rest of the Top 25:

16. N Carolina	21. Penn St
17. Georgia Tech	22. USC
18. Auburn	23. Kansas St
19. Purdue	24. Nebraska
20. Louisville	25. Boston College



Georgia Tech's Willie Pile

8. **AUBURN** K Damon Duval has a powerful leg and hit 17 of 27 FG's with a long of 51 including 3 game winners, and averaged a super 39.9 net punting. Their return game was only fair and should be improved. They should fare better than their solid #18 finish last year.
9. **ILLINOIS** The Huskies were #8 in my special teams rankings in 2000. They slipped a little last year, dropping to #23. P Jimmy Irwin had a solid net of 36.4 and KR Michael Turner averaged 35.4 on 9 ret's. NI blocked 3 punts and had 2 TD's on returns and were +3 in the TD/Blk category. K Steve Azar hit 20 of 26 FG's despite being only 90% last year due to an injury. They not only have the MAC's top special teams unit but are a contender for the top spot overall.
10. **NEBRASKA** The Huskers normally finish in my top 20. After a rare off-year in 2000 when the team finished #64, they showed great improvement last year (#2). Josh Davis averaged 26.5 on 30 KR's and this team's lowest PR average recently has been 10.46. Last year DeJuan Groce averaged 15.4 on 36 returns, P Kyle Larson had a net of 36.7 and 2 VHT kickers are back including Josh Brown who hit 10 of 14 with 1 miss from 50+. NU has blocked 11 punts the last 3 years.
11. **LSU** Saban plays a lot of starters on this unit, showing it's a priority. Coach Ron Turner of Illinois said after their bowl game, "Just look at their coverage team, they look like a team of world class sprinters." P Donnie Jones had a net of 39.4 and Domanick Davis averaged 13.4 on PR's last year and 23.4 on KR's in 2000. Devery Henderson averaged 25.3 on 7 KR's last year. They allowed just 15.2 on KR's due to their coverage units and with everyone back they will contend for top 10 honors.
12. **TCU** TCU finished #3 in my special teams rankings in 2000 but had to replace super K Chris Kaylakie. Nick Browne, a member of TCU's soccer team, hit 14 of 20 FG's with a long of 50 and is back. Jason Goss averaged 9.8 on PR's. LaTarence Dunbar, who averaged 33.5 on KR's in 2000, slipped to 19.5 last year and should return to form. Shane Hudnall records many TB's on KO's and the team allowed just 18.2 on KR's. P Joey Biasatti had a net of 39.2, and all of the key components are back.
13. **GEORGIA TECH** Last year O'Leary experimented with some walk-ons on special teams and their KR defense average slipped from 16.3 to 22.5. P's Dan Dyke and Chris Moorehouse averaged 41.3 with the net of 37.8. PR Kelly Rhino set an ACC record with 520 PR yards (10.4). KR Kelly Campbell averaged 23.1. Luke Manget hit 20 of 29 FG's with a long of 51 and with everyone back, GT will improve upon its #47 finish last year.
14. **TENNESSEE** P Dustin Colquitt fixed some mechanical flaws midseason and averaged 45.1 over the last 6 games and should have a strong year. KR Leonard Scott returns and led the SEC in KR's in 1999 with a 26.3 average. PR Rashad Baker averaged 9.1. K Alex Walls hit 16 of 21 with a long of 51 and frosh James Wilhoit had 78% of his KO's go for TB's including 11 through the uprights in HS.
15. **E CAROLINA** JUCO P Jarad Preston came in and simply averaged 44.1 per boot (#12 in NCAA). K Kevin Miller, who handled both the FG and P jobs in 2000 concentrated on just FG's and hit 18 of 21 and was a Groza semifinalist. KR coverage as been outstanding here with only 1 return last year over 29 yards. Marvin Townes averaged 25.0 on KR's and all of the top PR's are back as well.

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ks in the 36.6 avg h a 14.4 ecruiting .K Dusty nove up. nder Hill it of 38.5 ie NCAA r FSU

The rest of the Top 25:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 16. Oregon | 21. Clemson |
| 17. Boise St | 22. Louisville |
| 18. Kansas St | 23. Virginia Tech |
| 19. Florida | 24. Minnesota |
| 20. Miami, Fla | 25. UAB |



Illinois K Steve Azar

SPECIAL TEAMS 2002's Top Special Teams Units





**2003
MID-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE
FOOTBALL
SPECIAL TEAMS
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

STEVE AZAR

Northern Illinois University

*Selected by the
MAC News Media Association*

NIU's Steve Azar leaves a lasting footprint on Huskie record book

By Bobbie Manning
Chicago Sports Staff



Northern Illinois' Steve Azar is shown in action during his final appearance in today's 1995 game against Iowa State. Azar is shown in action during his final appearance in today's 1995 game against Iowa State. Azar is shown in action during his final appearance in today's 1995 game against Iowa State.

We're so spoiled with Steve. I put it on the scoreboard when he goes out there and kicks. I have so much confidence in Steve. In my 37 years of coaching, I've only coached two kickers out of sight and that's (Indiana's) Pete Stoyanovich who played in the pros and Steve.

—ARI coach Joe Novak on former placekicker Steve Azar

They were a powerful field with long punts and a wide receiver's height. Azar's best kick punts and kickoffs combined to give Novak's "Ironhorse Kickers" a reputation for reliability across the country.

NIU punting coach Mike Patzek was impressed by Azar's potential and offered a coaching position.

"I told Steve that we were interested and wanted to try him out. If you can get 100 yards in 10 punts, we'll make it an official tryout and put you on the tryout roster."

Azar wanted to attend the University of Minnesota, but his mother was overruled in favor of Northern Illinois. The University of Illinois was interested, but uncommitted. With a little persuasion and some money, he signed with NIU.

"We're so spoiled with Steve," said NIU coach Joe Novak. "I put it on the scoreboard when he goes out there and kicks. I have so much confidence in Steve. In my 37 years of coaching, I've only coached two kickers out of sight and that's (Indiana's) Pete Stoyanovich who played in the pros and Steve."

Taking a chance Azar's prep career began in El Paso, Texas, but his family moved to Chicago during his senior year. He attended Chicago's Catholic Central High School in the state title in winter and the state title in football during his senior year.

Chicago's junior year was his best. He finished the year with 13 punts and 13 kickoffs.

Novak said he had a lot of ability, but I never dreamed that he would be so good. The team here would open all the attention to him. He was 'getting' said Azar, who is credited with 28.6 percent of the team's success.

As Azar prepares for his final game in a Huskie uniform today against Michigan, he'll be remembered for his 11-year career as a punter and kicker. He'll be remembered for his 11-year career as a punter and kicker. He'll be remembered for his 11-year career as a punter and kicker.

Steve Azar's top MAC career rankings

1. Kick return yards	1995
2. Field Goals	1995
3. Kick PAT	1995
4. Kick PAT	1995
5. Kick PAT	1995
6. Kick PAT	1995
7. Kick PAT	1995
8. Kick PAT	1995
9. Kick PAT	1995
10. Kick PAT	1995

Azar by season

Season	PAT	PG	Long	PA
1995	14-13	44	64	4
1996	14-13	44	64	4
1997	14-13	44	64	4
1998	14-13	44	64	4
1999	14-13	44	64	4
2000	14-13	44	64	4
2001	14-13	44	64	4
2002	14-13	44	64	4
2003	14-13	44	64	4



Northern Illinois punter Steve Azar (15) and kicker P.J. Mack (32) on the field during a game.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
HUSKIE FOOTBALL

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

#13

STEVE AZAR

PLACEKICKER

**Northern Illinois University
2000 - 2003**

- Two-time Lou Groza Collegiate Placekicker Award National semifinalist (2001, 2003)
- Selected for two time national all-star games (Blue-Gray Classic in 2003 and Hula Bowl in 2004)
- Three-Time All-American (First-Team Football News Frosh All-America and Second-Team, The Sporting News Frosh All-America in 2000, Honorable Mention Football News All-America in 2001, and Honorable Mention Collegefootballnews.com All-America in 2003)
- Rates as No. 9 all time NCAA Division 1-A career kick-scorer (370 points) and No. 9 in all-time NCAA Division 1-A field goal (73)
- Ranked among Top 10 NCAA Division 1-A field goal leaders for four consecutive years (No. 9 in 2000, No. 3 in 2001 and 2003, and No. 8 in 2003)
- Two-time MAC Special Teams Player of the Year (2001, 2003)
- Led Mid-Am in kick-scoring and field goals for four straight years
- Set MAC career kick-scoring and field goal records
- Named MAC Player of the Week eight times during career
- Became school's first four-time All-MAC football player (First Team All-MAC in 2001 and 2003, Second-Team All-MAC in 2002, and Honorable Mention All-MAC in 2000)
- Set at least 18 major Northern Illinois records
- Kicked five of the six longest field goals in NIU history - including 52-yarder vs. No. 13 Maryland (2003)
- Averaged 8.4 ppg, and scored in 43 of 44 career appearances



3 SENIOR BOWLS

COMBINED POINTS 18

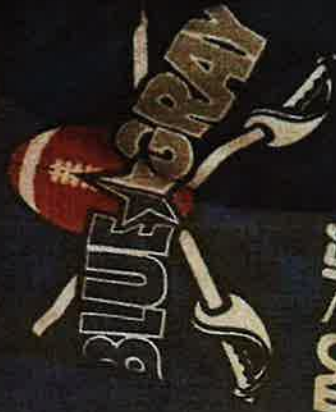
BLUE/GREYCOACH BY JOE NOVACK

HULA BOWL.....COACHED BY JIM TRESSEL

ROTARY GRIDIRON BOWL FLORIDA







NO > FALLERY



NO > FALLERY

BLUE GRAY

88



2003 Blue-Gray Classic Presented by Movie Gallery -
Dec. 25, 2003 - Steve Azar, Randee Drew



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DELL

Northern Illinois University

NCAA DIVISION 1 Collegiate Summary

Level Of Achievement

1. Notable performance

1. **2003** NIU vs #21 Alabama: had 51-yard field goal and 2 extra points [espn box score niu vs alabama](#)
2. **2003**: NIU vs #15 Maryland: 52- yard field goal and game tying 26 yard. 2 extra points [https://niuhuskies.com/news/2003/8/28/Huskies work overtime to defeat Maryland 20 13 to open 2003 football season](https://niuhuskies.com/news/2003/8/28/Huskies_work_overtime_to_defeat_Maryland_20_13_to_open_2003_football_season)

MID AMERICAN CONFERENCE ALL TIME

#4 Scoring all time with 370

#8 FG percentage 79.3

Team conference Season stat leader MAC:

2000: Field goal percentage 93.3

<https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/conferences/mac/2000-leaders.html>

2001: FG attempts 23, FG made 20, Points 91

<https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/conferences/mac/2001-leaders.html>

2002: FG attempt 25, FG Made 18

2003: FG attempt 21, FG made 16, Point Kicking 104

SENIOR Bowl Games:

Senior bowls: Blue Grey **2003**, Hula bowl **2004** and Gridiron Classic **2004**

COMBINED 18 PTS

[https://niuhuskies.com/news/2003/12/19/Northern Illinois PK Steve Azar to play in Blue Gray Classic Dec 25 and Hula Bowl Jan 17](https://niuhuskies.com/news/2003/12/19/Northern_Illinois_PK_Steve_Azar_to_play_in_Blue_Gray_Classic_Dec_25_and_Hula_Bowl_Jan_17)

MID AMERICAN CONFERENCE SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE YEAR
2001 and 2003

<https://niuhuskies.com/honors/hall-of-fame/steveazar/227#:~:text=An%20All%2DMAC%20Second%20Team,time%20in%20his%20Huskie%20career.>

NCAA ALL- AMERICA TEAM

2000: First Team Freshman All-America by Football News and a Second Team Freshman All America by The Sporting News

2001— PK (Honorable Mention Football News)

2003— PK (Honorable Mention collegefootballnews.com)

NIU Stat Leader & RECORDED HOLDER

1st All-time leading scorer 370 points -- 1st Most kick scoring points by a kicker: 370

1st Most FG MADE: 73 -- 1st Most FG attempted: 92

1st Highest FG %: .933 season

CAREER FG: 79.3%

1st Most Consecutive FG made: 14 season -- 1st Most PAT made: 10 in one game

FOUR TIME ALL MAC CONFERENCE HONORS

2000 Honorable mention // 2001st Team All MAC // 2002 2nd Team All MAC // 2003 1st Team All MAC

7 Time Mac player of the week

<https://niuhuskies.com/documents/2024/9/1/NIU Football 2024 Guide Record Book.pdf>

MAC Season Stat Leader:

2000: Field goal percentage 93.3 attempts 12, FG made 11

<https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/conferences/mac/2000-leaders.html>

2001 FG attempts 23, FG made 20, Points 91 <https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/conferences/mac/2001-leaders.html>

2002 FG attempt 25, FG Made 18

2003: FG attempt 21, FG made 16, Point Kicking 104

Conference season Record Holder

All time 4th in points with 370

<https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/conferences/mac/leaders/total-points-playerseason.html>

2017 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE INTO NIU HOF

<https://niuhuskies.com/honors/hall-of-fame/steveazar/227#:~:text=An%20All%2DMAC%20Second%20Team,time%20in%20his%20Huskie%20career.>

BEST OF THE BEST OF THE BEST



SEASON POINTS PER GAME

Player, Team	Years	G	TD	Extra Pts.	Scored	FG	Pts.	PLPG
Barry Sanders, Oklahoma St.	†1988	11	*39	0	0	0	*234	*21.3
Bobby Reynolds, Nebraska	†1950	9	22	25	0	0	157	17.4
Art Luppino, Arizona	†1954	10	24	22	0	0	166	16.6
Ed Marinaro, Cornell	†1971	9	24	4	0	0	146	16.2
Lydell Mitchell, Penn St.	1971	11	29	0	0	0	174	15.8
Marshall Faulk, San Diego St.	†1991	9	23	2	0	0	140	15.6
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	†1998	12	31	0	0	0	186	15.5
Luke Staley, Brigham Young	†2001	11	28	2	0	0	170	15.5
Byron "Whizzer" White, Colorado	†1937	8	16	23	1	122	15.3	15.3
Lee Suggs, Virginia Tech	†2000	11	28	0	0	0	168	15.3
Ricky Williams, Texas	1998	11	28	0	0	0	168	15.3

*Record. †National champion.

CAREER POINTS (Non-Kickers)

Player, Team	Years	TD	Extra Pts.	Scored	FG	Pts.
Travis Prentice, Miami (Ohio)	1996-99	*78	0	0	0	*468
Ricky Williams, Texas	1995-98	75	2	0	0	452
Brock Forsey, Boise St.	1999-02	68	0	0	0	408
Anthony Thompson, Indiana	1986-89	65	4	0	0	394
Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	1996-99	63	0	0	0	378
Marshall Faulk, San Diego St.	1991-93	†62	4	0	0	†376
Eric Crouch, Nebraska (QB)	1998-01	59	20	0	0	374
Dwone Hicks, Middle Tenn.	1999-02	59	4	0	0	358
Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh	1973-76	59	2	0	0	356
Glenn Davis, Army	1943-46	59	0	0	0	354
Ken Simonton, Oregon St.	1998-01	57	4	0	0	346
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	1995-98	57	0	0	0	342
Art Luppino, Arizona	1953-56	48	49	0	0	337
Lee Suggs, Virginia Tech	1999-02	56	0	0	0	336
Chris Lemon, Nevada	1996-99	56	0	0	0	336
Steve Owens, Oklahoma	1967-69	56	0	0	0	336
Wilford White, Arizona St.	1047-50	40	0	0	0	336
LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU						
Skip Hicks, UCLA						
Barry Sanders, Oklahoma						
Allen Pinkett, Notre Dame						
Kevin Faulk, LSU						
Pete Johnson, Ohio St.						
Ed Marinaro, Cornell						
Herschel Walker, Georgia						
James Gray, Texas Tech						
Mike Rozier, Nebraska						
Ted Brown, North Carolina						
Leon Johnson, North Carolina						
John Harvey, UTEP						
Eddie Talboom, Wyoming						
Shaun Alexander, Alabama						
Anthony Davis, Southern Co						
Anthony Thomas, Michigan						
Dalon Hilliard, LSU						
Billy Sims, Oklahoma						

*Record. \$ See page 10 for

CAREER POINTS (Kickers)

Player, Team	Attempts	Goals
Roman Anderson, Houston	92	73
Billy Bennett, Georgia	92	73
Carlos Huerta, Miami (Fla.)	92	73
Jason Elam, Hawaii	92	73
Derek Schmidt, Florida St.	92	73
Kris Brown, Nebraska	92	73
Shayne Graham, Virginia Tech	92	73
Jeff Hall, Tennessee	92	73
Steve Azar, Northern Ill.	92	73
Jeff Chandler, Florida	92	73
Luis Zendejas, Arizona St.	92	73
Nate Kaeding, Iowa	92	73
Jeff Jaeger, Washington	92	73
John Lee, UCLA	92	73
Max Zendejas, Arizona	92	73
Kevin Butler, Georgia	92	73
Derek Mahoney, Fresno St.	92	73
Martin Gramatica, Kansas St.	92	73
Nick Calaycay, Boise St.	92	73
Philip Doyle, Alabama	92	73
Josh Scobee, Louisiana Tech	92	73



Steve Azar successfully converted 73 of 92 attempts for Northern Illinois from 2000 to 2003 to tie for ninth in field goals made in Division I-A.

Official 2004
NCAA Football

Divisions I-A & I-AA

Individual and Team
Collegiate Records

Coaching Records

Bowl-Game Schedule
and Records

2003 Statistical Leaders

All-Americans and
Other Award Winners

Attendance Records

Streaks and Rivalries

2003 Conference Standings

Records

NCAA

All-Time Leading Scorers In College Football History

September 15, 2024 | 2:47 PM EDT

The world of college football has seen some illustrious scorers throughout history. With over 150 years of playing the great sport, you can only believe how many points have been scored since college football first started.

Here are the all-time leaders in points scored.

Most Points Scored in College Football History

Rank	Player	Points	To	From	College
1	Will Relchard	547	2019	2023	Alabama
2	Keenan Reynolds	530	2012	2015	Navy
18	Ricky Williams	450	1995	1998	Texas
55	Cedric Benson	404	2001	2004	Texas
66	Jason Elam	395	1988	1992	Hawaii
67	Nick Novak	393	2001	2004	Maryland
72	Cameron Dicker	386	2018	2021	Texas
74	Pat McAfee	384	2005	2008	West Virginia
98	Steve Azar	370	2000	2003	Northern Illinois



Appearances on Leaderboards, Awards, and Honors Expand all Leaderboards

Points	Extra Point Attempts	Extra Points Made	Field Goal Attempts
2000 80 (#7) MAC	2000 40 (#6) MAC	2000 38 (#5) MAC	2000 15 (#7) MAC
2001 91 (#3) MAC	2001 32 (#5) MAC	2001 31 (#4) MAC	2001 26 (#5) NCAA
2002 95 (#5) MAC	2002 43 (#6) MAC	2002 41 (#6) MAC	2001 26 (#1) MAC
2003 104 (#2) MAC	2003 43 (#6) MAC	2003 41 (#6) MAC	2002 25 (#1) MAC
Career 370 (#5) MAC**	Career 158 (#16) MAC**	Career 151 (#17) MAC**	2003 26 (#1) MAC
** Since 1956	** Since 1956	** Since 1956	Career 82 (#5) MAC**
			** Since 1956

Field Goals Made	Field Goal Percentage	Points Kicking	Points
2000 14 (#2) MAC	2000 93.3 (#2) NCAA	2000 80 (#3) MAC	2000 80 (#7) MAC
2001 20 (#3) NCAA	2000 93.3 (#1) MAC	2001 91 (#1) MAC	2001 91 (#3) MAC
2001 20 (#1) MAC	2001 75.9 (#2) MAC	2002 95 (#2) MAC	2002 95 (#5) MAC
2002 18 (#1) MAC	2002 72 (#7) MAC	2003 104 (#1) MAC	2003 104 (#2) MAC
2003 21 (#1) MAC	2003 80.8 (#3) MAC	Career 370 (#4) MAC**	Career 370 (#5) MAC**
Career 73 (#2) MAC**	Career 79.3 (#8) MAC**	** Since 1956	** Since 1956
** Since 1956	** Since 1956		

Steve Azar
Position: Placekicker/Punter
College: Northern Illinois
Height: 5-7
Weight: 200
Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.

Analysis | Agility | High School | Personal
OVERVIEW

One of the premier placekickers in the country, he became the first player in school history to earn All-Mid American Conference honors four times in a career. Cool under pressure, he proved to be an invaluable performer with several victories produced by his leg in the final seconds of games. He has that air of confidence to him that only quality kickers possess. In 44 games, he set the school career record with 370 points, making 73 of 92 field goals (79.3 percent) and 151 of 158 extra point (95.6 percent) attempts. His 370 points broke the previous school mark of 253 points by John Ivanic (1987-90) and the Mid American Conference kick-scoring record of 320 points by Toledo's Todd France (1998-2001). His 151 PATs topped the old Huskie all-time record of 115 by Ivanic and his 73 field goals shattered Ivanic's previous NIU record of 46.

ANALYSIS

Positives: Has a short frame, but it displays good bone structure and well-built thighs and calves. Has a strong leg that delivers pop and explosion. Gets the ball up and off the ground with a quick rise. Very accurate on intermediate field goals. Has little problems kicking in poor weather conditions. Handles pressure well. Hard worker in the weight room. Right-footed soccer-style kicker who gets good distance upon contact. Can kick from either hash point with equal success. Knows how

to adjust his kicking motion and style based on field position and weather conditions.

Negatives: Can kick the ball into the end zone at times, but has only marginal hang time on his kickoffs. Has good mental toughness and will get down field to help the coverage unit, but lacks strength and size to do anything more than get into the returner's way. Back-up punter, but does not have the leg to be consistent in that area.

AGILITY TESTS

4.89 in the 40-yard dash 280-pound back squat 11 chin-ups 28
3/8-inch arm length 9-inch hands Right-handed Right-footed.

HIGH SCHOOL

Attended Highlands Ranch (Colo.) High, playing football for coach Chuck Puga. Earned all-state honors in both football and soccer. Led the football team to the playoffs and the soccer team to the Class 5A state title as a senior. In two years on the gridiron, he scored 116 points on 15 of 22 field goals and 71 of 74 extra point attempts and punted 64 times for 2,539 yards (39.7 avg.). Holds the school record with a 52-yard field goal. Spent his freshman and sophomore years at Franklin (El Paso, Texas) High.

PERSONAL

Sociology major Nickname is "Bizarre" Born Steven King Azar on Oct. 29, 1979 Resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Courtesy of NFLDraftScout.com, Powered by The Sports Xchange

STEVE
AZAR



of 2017





Chicago Rush



Las Vegas
Gladiators



New York
Dragons



Utah Blaze



Alabama
Vipers

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Arena Football 2005-2008, 2010

Memphis Xplorers

Chicago Rush

Las Vegas Gladiators

Utah Blaze

New York Dragons

Alabama Vipers



ARENA CUP CHAMPIONS 2005

<https://www.arenafan.com/history/?page=abowls&histleague=2>

Play off Record 61-yard kick

<http://www.luckyshow.org/football/field%20goals%20of%2060%20yards%20or%20more.htm>

Regular season leaders from '97-'08

Most extra Points in a Season with 82 **2007**

Most Extra Points Made, Game 3rd with 10 point (4x) games

Most Field Goals Attempted, 4th (13) *Steve Azar vs. New Orleans VooDoo, 3.18.07

Most Field Goals Made, Career 9 ..Steve Azar**2007**

Most Field Goals Made, Season 9.. Steve Azar**2007**

Voted 8th best kicker in League History

<https://www.oursportscentral.com/services/releases/former-oklahoma-city-standout-a-j-haglund-named-af2s-top-kicker-of-all-time/n-3784511>

BEST OF THE BEST OF THE BEST

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

2005-2010



Named af2's Top Kicker of All-Time

8. Steven Azar

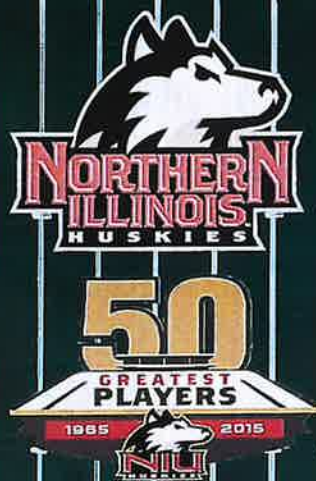
9. Brandon Kornblue

10. Alex Walls

Steven Azar played from 2005 to 2010 during his career with the Memphis Xplorers, Alabama Vipers, Chicago Rush, Las Vegas Gladiators, New York Dragons and Utah Blaze.

2005 AFL Cup Champions Memphis Xplorers

2010 AFL Semi Finals New York Dragons



Field Goals 60 yards or more

Field goals were not always worth 3 points!

Read about the history of numerical scoring, punt-outs, drop-kicks and "triple threats".



SEC 119 ROW K SEAT 12 \$35



697365523913

61 yards John Kasay, Carolina Panthers (W 23-20) v New England Patriots, 9/2/1999

[Pre-season game]

61 yards Bryan Robertson, Seymour HS v Franklin County (Indiana), 10/29/1999

61 yards Cline Ingle, Burns HS (L 3-48) Shelby HS (North Carolina), 9/1/2000

61 yards Steve Weatherford, Terre Haute North HS (Indiana), 2000??] delisted

61 yards Kody Bliss, Brentwood Academy (Tennessee) (L 3-10) McCallie School (Chattanooga), 9/28/2001

61 yards Tyler Norris, Donelson Christian Academy () v Greenbrier, 10/ /2001

61 yards Pete Garces, Wyoming Cavalry (W 68-7) v San Angelo Stampede (Tx.), 3/25/2005 (n), Casper Event Center [National Indoor Football League]

61 yards Pete Garces, Wyoming Cavalry (W 52-32) Kissimmee Kreaturez, 5/2/2005 4,119 (NIFL)

61 yards Danny Kight, Louisville Fire (W 73-63) at Albany Conquest, 6/24/2005 (Arena Football 2)

61 yards Steven Azar, Memphis Xplosion (W 71-30) Amarillo Dusters, 8/12/2005 [Playoff game] (AF2)

61 yards Jeremy Seeton, East Texas Baptist (W 29-28) Mississippi College, 11/5/2005 (NCAA Division III)

61 yards Matt Szymanski, A&M Consolidated HS (L 6-28) Eules Trinity, 12/3/2005 [Texas State Class 5A Division I Semi-Final] (no tee)

61 yards Mason Crosby, Colorado State (W 14-10) Colorado, 9/9/2006 [Nullified as Colorado State called time out, had 12 men on field. Crosby then missed kick.]

61 yards Kyle Chilton, Pikesville College (W 19-8) West Virginia Tech, 11/11/2006 (freshman) (N.A.I.A.)







VEHIX

BLAZE

Acron's

RUSSELL



*The Senate
of
The Colorado Legislature*

Hereby extends heartiest congratulations and commendation to:

Steve Azar

for

Winning the Class 5A High School Soccer Championship. This demonstrates your Athleticism, dedication to excellence and hard work. Congratulations to Varsity Coaches Randy Hodous, Mike Paleoki, Fred Plahuta, Steve Johnson, Dave Sedivy; Managers Karen Bush, Megan Durdy, Jessica King; Players Chris Sawyer, Eric Tormoehlen, Ryan Parsley, Dan Hawkins, Chris Bennett, Tanner Moxcey, Robbie Williams, Ryan Azuogu, Marshall Dines, Jared Peacock, Greg Sink, Brandon Graham, Alex Jefferson, Zach Levinson, Todd Lowry, Mikyle Nachtrieb, Rusty Giudici and Cameron Goettsche.

The nationally ranked Falcons overall record for the 1999 season was 18 - 1 - 1
CONGRATULATIONS!

On request of Senator John Evans.

Given this 19th day of February, 1999, State Capitol, Denver, Colorado.

Ray Powers
President of the Senate





NSCAA Soccer Rankings



NSCAA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL RANKING

Fall Season - Final Rating

Following is the NSCAA Boys High School Top 25 Soccer Poll sanctioned and conducted by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). This is the final poll of the 1998 fall season.

RELEASE: For Immediate Release

DATE: Nov. 23, 1998

<u>Rank</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>CityState</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Last Rank</u>
1	St. Benedicts Prep	Newark, N.J.	22-0-0*	1.
2	Marshfield HS	Marshfield, Mass.	21-0-0*	3.
3	Trinity HS	Louisville, Ky.	26-0-0*	4
4	Rockhurst HS	Kansas City, Mo.	27-0-1*	6
5	South Eugene HS	Eugene, Ore.	18-0-1*	8
6	Thomas Worthington HS	Worthington, Ohio	21-0-2*	10
7	Downingtown HS	Downingtown, Pa.	25-1-2*	9
8	Sachem HS	Holbrook, N.Y.	18-1-3*	19
9	Wesleyan Christian Academy	High Point, N.C.	26-1-4*	12
10	E.O. Smith HS	Storrs, Conn.	18-0-3*	NR
11	Davis HS	Davis, Calif.	21-0-1	NR
12	Danbury HS	Danbury, Conn.	18-0-4*	11
13	Novi HS	Novi, Mich.	22-1-1*	18
14	Capital HS	Charleston, W.Va.	21-1-3*	17
15	Christian Brothers Academy	Lincroft, N.J.	20-0-2*	NR
16	North Country Union	Newport, Vt.	17-0-1*	15
17	<u>Highlands Ranch HS</u>	Highlands Ranch, Colo.	18-1-1*	RV
18	Liverpool HS	Syracuse, N.Y.	19-3-1	NR
19	Arch Bishop Curley Holy HS	Baltimore, Md.	17-1-1	RV
20	Canterbury HS	Canterbury, Ind.	22-1-3*	22
21	Bethlehem HS	Bardstown, Ky.	22-1-0	21
22	John Jay Senior HS	Hopewell Junction, N.Y.	20-4-0	25
23	St. Mark's	Newark, Del.	18-1-1*	RV
24	St. Pius X	Albuquerque, N.M.	18-2-2*	23
25	Christian Brothers	St. Louis, Mo.	32-2-1	2

Receiving Votes: Shenendehowa Central HS, Clifton Park, N.Y.; River Hill HS*, Clarksville, Md.; Belmont HS, Belmont, N.H.*; Dakota Ridge HS*, Littleton, Colo.; Scotch Plains HS*, Scotch Plains, N.J.; Pittsford-Mendon HS, Rochester, N.Y.

* - Denotes State Champion RV - Denotes Receiving Votes NR - Denotes Receiving Votes

For further information contact the NSCAA National Office 1-800-458-0678

National Soccer Coaches Association of America

CONTINENTAL LEAGUE

ALL-LEAGUE ATHLETE

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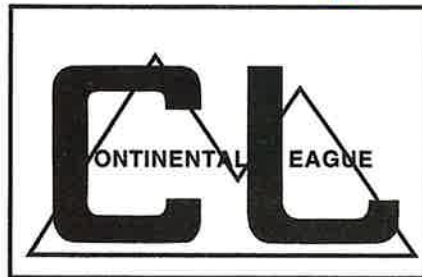
Steven Azar
of *Highlands Ranch* High School
has been recognized as

ALL-LEAGUE

Second Team

in *Soccer*

for the *1998-99* school year.



WARRIORS



TROJANS



HUSKIES



OLYMPIANS



EAGLES



FALCONS



THUNDERBIRDS



GRIZZLIES



RAIDERS



RAIDERS



MUSTANGS



LIONS

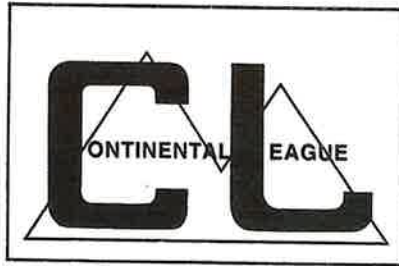
Randall E. Hodson

COACH

Jaura S. Hall

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Continental League



HONORABLE MENTION ATHLETE

This is to certify that

Steve Azar

of Highlands Ranch High School

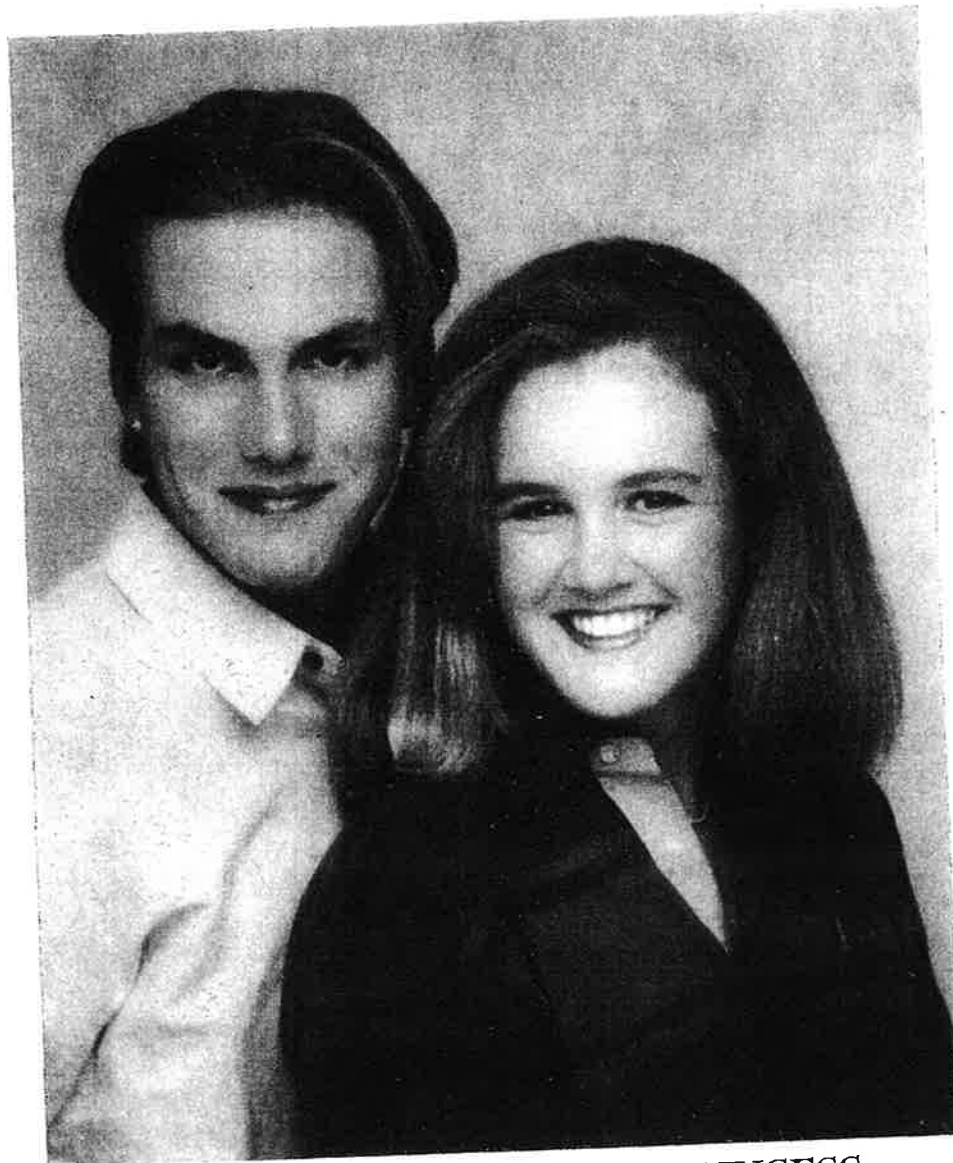
HONORABLE MENTION

in Football - Punter/Kicker

for the 1997 year

C. R. A.
COACH

Laura S. Hall
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



ESCORT
Steve Azar

PRINCESS
Sara Walker

1995

EPAHOF '13

Homecoming

Franklin High School

STEVEN KING AZAR

Born: October 22, 1979

El Paso, Texas 1979 to 1996 ----17yrs.

Zach White Elementary School

Lincoln Junior High School (EPAHOF '09 Principal Paul Strezlin)

Franklin High School...3rd Class Freshman/Sophomore Years

EL PASO ATHLETICS

Westside Soccer League Select Teams, Frank Manning Baseball (All Star Teams), JR High Football,
Franklin HS Soccer/Football

COLORADO ATHLETICS

Highlands Ranch High School, Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Class 5A State Soccer Champions.1998

CONTINENTAL ALL-LEAGUE SOCCER 1998

SEMI-FINALS 5A FOOTBALL 1997

CONTINENTAL ALL LEAGUE FOOTBALL 1997

COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY---BS SOCIOLOGY '03

!*** NIU ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME 2017—NAMED TO NIU 50 GREATEST PLAYERS***!

4 Time Media All-American / 2 Time All Mac Special Teams Player of the Year

STILL NIU ALL TIME TOTAL POINTS SCORER (370) and Holder of 14 School Records

2004 NCAA TOP 50 ALL TIME TOTAL POINTS SCORER & 9th ALL TIME KICKER PERCENAGE

CURRENTLY NCAA TOP 100 ALL TIME TOTAL POINTS SCORER

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

ARENA FOOTBALL 2005-2010

ARENA CUP CHAMPION 2005----SEMI FINALS 2006,2008

NAMED 8TH ALL TIME ARENA LEAGUE KICKER

