



For more information, contact:
Matt Bick
matt@nffmn.org

Former Golden Gopher Defensive Tackle Ra'Shede Hageman to Receive 2014 Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year Award

Minneapolis, March 4, 2014 - The Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation has announced that Minnesota Golden Gopher and Minneapolis Washburn football product Ra'Shede Hageman will receive the 2014 Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year Award. Hageman, a standout player on the Gopher defensive line, is projected to be an early selection in the upcoming 2014 NFL Entry Draft.

Hageman began to catch the eye of football recruiters while at Minneapolis' Washburn High School. Playing as a tight end, Hageman was recruited to the University of Minnesota. Under Jerry Kill's coaching staff, Hageman began to make NFL draft scouts take notice in his junior season. Hageman quickly became a leader on the defensive side of the ball, earning praise and recognition from many. He was named to many pre-season watch lists ahead of the 2013 season, his final in a Gopher uniform.

Hageman did not disappoint in a memorable 2013 for Gopher football. The versatile defensive lineman faced double-coverage on many snaps during the 2013 season. Despite the extra attention that opponents paid to neutralizing him, Hageman still recorded 26 solo tackles along with 12 assisted tackles for an average of 2.92 tackles per game on the season. Hageman also recorded 13 tackles for loss in his senior season.

One of Hageman's most memorable plays of his senior year came against Northwestern, arguably helping the Gophers "turn the corner" on their season. Hageman's interception in mid-October at Northwestern helped the Gophers to victory in that game, setting the tone for three more consecutive victories on the way to an 8-4 record. Hageman's athleticism was also on display in special teams action this season, with the big defender notching two blocked kicks or punts.

Hageman's leadership and on-field production for the Golden Gophers has earned him the 2014 Bobby Bell College Impact Player of the Year Award. Shortly after the 2014 Minnesota Football Honors Awards Event, Hageman will embark on his journey in the National Football League. Hageman has also dedicated much of his time to charitable events in his time with the Gophers, endearing himself to the Minnesota football community and establishing himself as a promising role model for the state's youth football players.

About the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation:

The mission of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation is to serve Minnesota and the nation by developing leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit, and academic excellence in America's youth through promoting amateur football. The annual Minnesota Football Honors Awards Event, presented by the Minnesota Vikings, will be held on May 4th, 2014, at the Hilton Minneapolis. The event is open to the public, and tickets may be purchased online by visiting www.nffmn.org.