Winslow lineman earns Class C North honor

BY ERNIE CLARK **BDN STAFF**

BREWER - Alec Clark rarely touched the football during his four-year career Winslow

HIGH High School. **SCHOOL** his But presence near FOOTBALL the line of

scrimmage where the contact is constant and the rewards are more subtle has been a cornerstone of the Black Raiders' string of

straight regional titles.

Clark, a 5-foot-10, 200pound senior offensive and second-team honors on guard and middle linebacker, was honored for that effort Sunday as he was named the Big Ten Conference (Class C North) player of the year during the league's annual awards banquet.

A four-year starter on defense and a three-vear starter on offense, Clark was named to the all-conference

back-to-back Class C state first team on both sides of and stretched its winning Spencer Baron of John le Nat Beckwith and defenchampionships and four the ball for the second straight vear after earning first-team laurels on defense offense as a sophomore playing for longtime Winslow coach Mike Siviski.

This year, Clark led a defense that posted seven shutouts while yielding just 27 points during the regular season and 64 points overall as Winslow completed its second straight undefeated season

streak over that span to 22 games

Offensively he helped the Black Raiders average 44.7 points per contest this fall, an effort capped off by their 24-10 victory over Yarmouth in the Class C state final.

Clark was selected from a field of player-of-the-year nominees that included Marlin Hansen of Belfast, Brandon Brock of Foxcroft Academy in Dover-Foxcroft, Tyler Hatch of Hermon,

The 2017 tournament will

Bapst of Bangor, Nick Morales of Madison/Carrabec, Taner Bickford of Mount Desert Island of Bar Harbor, Riley Sprague from Oceanside of Rockland/Thomaston, Andre Miller of Old Town and Demetrius Ramirez of Waterville.

Clark was one of three Big Ten players to earn firstteam, all-conference status on both offense and defense along with two other linemen, Winslow two-way tack-

sive tackle/offensive guard Josh Rackliff of Madison/ Carrabec.

MDI's Mark Shields was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year. He guided the Trojans to a 6-2 regular-season record and a berth in the conference semifinals before they fell to Winslow

Mark Arnold, a member of Shields' staff, was named the league's assistant coach of the year.

Tourney

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event and showcase our topflight women's basketball teams and student-athletes in a destination city with an incredibly supportive community.

Shamrock, the conference's corporate partnership marketing and sales agency,

spearheaded efforts to bring the tournament to Portland and will partner with America East and the Maine Sports Commission on the venture. The Cross Insurance Arena will be the site for the preliminary, quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the 2017 and 2018 tournaments.

The championship game is played the next weekend on the home court of the highest remaining seed.

"We are optimistic that

we can make Maine a preferred destination for the America East Conference Women's Basketball Championship to benefit the people and businesses of our great state," said Shamrock President and founder Brian Corcoran. "In addition to exciting basketball, this event will leverage our commitment to youth and community through great partnerships with local companies and charities.'

be the first played in the state of Maine since 1998, when it was held at Alfond Arena in Orono. That championship set the conference single-site attendance mark for a women's championship, drawing 13,624 fans.

The 1997 championship was played in a high-seed format with Maine drawing 12,218 fans for the three games it hosted that year.

The first championship in conference history was held at Portland in 1980 when America East, then known as the ECAC North, played its men's basketball semifinals and finals at the Cumberland County Civic Center in 1980.

The arena also will host complementary events to the championships, including a symposium conducted by the Maine Sports Com-

"The Maine Sports Commission is excited to participate in welcoming America East Women's Basketball

mission and a Fan Fest.

Championship to the region," Maine Sports Commission strategic director Sheila Nee said in the release. "Plans are underway to create a memorable championship experience that will energize the players, families, and community."

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across New England and New York.

Durost said the MPA received interest from 10 or 12 potential broadcast entities and eventually entertained five or six proposals, a few of which did not include financial offers. He said the ability to have fans click on one Web link to access games from all three sites was a state title games.

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

practice squad.

The New England Patriots

waived cornerback Rashaan

Melvin and released tight

end Joseph Fauria from the

Melvin, 26, joined the Pa-

triots in October after he

was released by the Balti-

more Ravens. He played in

the Ravens' first four games

New England Patriots cut two players

key concern in choosing

"It was important for us for consistency and easy access to get a single entity," Durost said.

While he would not divulge the financial details of the arrangement with NSN, he said the \$10,000 paid by MPBN (\$2,000 of which is to produce a cheerleading program), in addition to the NSN streaming deal, is slightly more than the \$16,000 received last year from MPBN to do the regional semifinals and finals and

this season. In eight games with the Patriots, he totaled

Fauria, 25, signed with the Patriots' practice squad

on Nov. 18. He played in 23

games with the Detroit

Lions the past two seasons

and had 24 receptions for 281

yards and eight touchdowns

before being released in Sep-

five tackles

The agreement will allow Northeast Sports Network to provide high-definition video streams, including three camera angles, instant replay and a full graphics package. Fans will be able to watch games on smartphones, tablets, computers and smart TVs.

"This Vermont company has a track record beyond high school sports," Durost said. "From everything we could find out, this looked like the best opportunity for us to provide what we wanted to provide for the public

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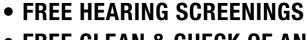
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