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FOOTBALL

AINGE NAMED SEC PLAYER OF THE WEEK, CAREacter 'STAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK'

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Coach Fulmer sat down for a few moments with Haywood Harris

Sept. 11, 2006

Coach Fulmer with Haywood Harris

Tennessee quarterback [Erik Ainge](#) continues his impressive start to the 2006 season by earning SEC Offensive Player of the Week honors. He also was named CAREacter Star Athlete of the Week for his work off the field.

Ainge completed 24-of-29 passes for 333 yards with three touchdowns against one interception in Tennessee's 31-30 win Saturday over Air Force. The signal-caller had a string of 15 consecutive completions against the Falcons, five of which converted third down plays.

A junior from Hillsboro, Ore., Ainge set career highs in the game with 24 completions and 333 passing yards. In the season opening win against California, Ainge's four touchdown passes were a career high.

He stands as the Division I-A leader with a 226.6 pass efficiency rating and leads all three categories of the SEC triple crown for passers -- efficiency, yards per game (312.0) and total offense (313.0).

Off the field, Ainge has been just as successful. He earned Academic All-SEC honors in 2005 and regularly involves himself in team community service efforts. This semester, Ainge is participating in the VOLScholar Program for academic and citizenship-building and wears the VOLScholar logo on his uniform as the holder of a 3.0 or better grade-point average.

The CAREacter Program is based on a five-point star system that includes the basic traits of a true champion, whether on or off the field. Those traits are attitude, character, grades, community service and performance.

Every week the coaches from each school and specific sport will select one student athlete as their school's "Star Athlete of the Week" based on these five criteria. As a reward for their accomplishments, these students will be recognized each week by their local media and presented with a T-shirt and a letter acknowledging them as their county's "Star Athlete of the Week."



Erik Ainge

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