Joseph Westnedge '99 is one of fourteen individuals in the inaugural class of the Kalamazoo College Athletic Hall of Fame. Westnedge, one of the best football players at Kalamazoo College in the 1890s, will be honored at a special ceremony at the Homecoming dinner on October 18, which begins at 7 p.m.

Westnedge, born in 1872, was a Kalamazoo native. In 1895, he was a halfback on the first winning football team at Kalamazoo College. In 1898, he was captain of the first unbeaten, untied team in Kalamazoo College history. He played fullback for that team.

Westnedge's education at Kalamazoo College was interrupted by military service. In 1893, he had enlisted in the Michigan Light Guard as a private. During the Spanish-American War, the name of the unit was changed to the Michigan National Guard, and Westnedge was promoted to the rank of captain. He fought in the Spanish-American war with the Michigan National Guard, eventually attaining the rank of colonel. Returning to "K", he graduated in 1899.

In the early 1900s Westnedge continued his military career, fighting Pancho Villa in the Mexican border wars, and serving with general "Black Jack" Pershing.
When the United States entered World War I, Westnedge volunteered for the new American Expeditionary Force. He was one of a very few officers in the AEF permitted to keep their former rank. He served with distinction in France in 1917 and 1918. On the day the Armistice was signed, Westnedge was evacuated from the front with a case of tonsillitis. His conditioned worsened in the hospital, and he died on November 29, 1918. The citizens of Kalamazoo renamed one of the city's main streets Westnedge Avenue in his honor.

A plaque honoring Col. Westnedge as a charter member of the Athletic Hall of Fame will be mounted in the lobby of Kalamazoo College's Anderson Athletic Center.

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