

HEAVY METAL: THE NCFAA NEWSLETTER (OCT. 12)

BEDNARIK AWARD – Nation’s defensive player of the year Next key date: Semifinalists named Tue., Oct. 29

Baylor’s **James Lynch** (#93, Jr., Round Rock, Texas) was the award’s Player of the Week after leading a defense that set a school record for sacks in a Big 12 game (6) and also tallied 15 tackles-for-loss in a win at Kansas State. The junior’s career-high three sacks set a new Baylor record for sacks in a Big 12 game to go with four TFLs and his first forced fumble. Lynch has 6.0 sacks on the season and his 14.5 career sacks are just three away from the program’s career record. The Maxwell Football Club has added 11 players to its Bednarik Award Watch List: <http://bit.ly/33p8yFL>.

BILETNIKOFF AWARD – Nation’s outstanding receiver regardless of position Next key date: Semifinalists announced Mon., Nov. 18

Four WR’s were added to the award’s Watch List this week. **Scotty Washington** (#7, Sr., Washington, D.C.) of Wake Forest, who joins teammate Sage Surratt on the watch list, has 27 catches for 470 yards and 6 TD’s, tied with Surratt for the ACC lead. Pitt’s **Taysir Mack** (#13, Jr., Brooklyn, N.Y.) is sixth nationally in receptions (41) and 13th in yards (511) and is on pace to become Pitt’s first 1,000-yard receiver since Tyler Boyd in 2014. Alabama’s **DeVonta Smith** (#6, Jr., Amite, La.) joins WR teammates Jerry Jeudy, Henry Ruggs III and Jaylen Waddle on the watch list. Minnesota’s **Rashod Bateman** (#13, So., Tifton, Ga.) is eighth nationally with 23.35 yards-per-catch on 23 receptions (537 yards).

BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY – Nation’s top defensive player Next key date: Finalists named Wed., Nov. 20

Missouri’s defense is leading the Tigers into contention in the SEC Eastern Division, and linebacker **Cale Garrett** is paving the way. Garrett (#47, Sr., Kearney, Mo.) scored a defensive touchdown in a third consecutive game last week, taking one of his two interceptions back 33 yards for a touchdown in a 42-10 over Troy. The score only compounded an already stellar game with three TFLs and a sack to go with the two picks. The senior leads the SEC in tackles (8.6 per game) and is second in interceptions (3) and is now tied for fourth at Missouri (18 points) in scoring. The three-game scoring spree is a Missouri record for a defender, and he almost added another Saturday, taking another interception return to inside the Troy 1-yard line. The Tigers have allowed only eight points per game during their current four-game win streak.

BURLSWORTH TROPHY – Most outstanding player who began his career as a walk-on Next key date: Semifinalists named Tue., Nov. 12

The deadline for submitting nominations for the Burlsworth Trophy is Wed., Oct. 30.

BUTKUS AWARD – Nation’s best linebacker Next key date: Semifinalists named Mon., Nov. 4

Jordyn Brooks of Texas Tech posted eye-catching stats in last Saturday’s win over Oklahoma State. Brooks (#1, Sr., Houston, Texas) had 19 tackles, eight of them solo, to go with 4.5 TFLs and three sacks and forced a fumble as the Red Raiders won, 45-35, their first win over a ranked opponent at home since 2013. The career-high 19 tackles were the most by a Texas Tech player since 2002 and his three solo sacks were the team’s best mark since 2016. Brooks leads the Big 12 and now is fourth nationally in tackles per game (12.0), and his 60 total tackles are sixth.

DAVEY O’BRIEN AWARD – Nation’s best quarterback Next key date: Semifinalists named Wed., Nov. 13

Texas Tech’s **Jett Duffey** (#7, Jr., Mansfield, Texas) made the most of his fourth career start and first this season in a 45-35 win over Oklahoma State. Duffey completed 26-of-44 passes for 424 yards – the highest yardage total of any FBS quarterback last week – and four touchdowns while rushing for another as the Red Raiders beat a ranked opponent at home for the first time since 2013. The award’s other Great 8 quarterbacks from last week were Ian Book (Notre Dame), Joe Burrow (LSU), Sam Howell (North Carolina), Josh Love (San Jose State), Jake Luton (Oregon State), Brock Purdy (Iowa State) and Khalil Tate (Arizona).

DOAK WALKER AWARD – Nation’s premier running back Next key date: Semifinalists named Wed., Nov. 20

Ohio State running back **J.K. Dobbins** remains the Big Ten rushing leader and is second nationally with 826 yards following a 172-yard effort in the Buckeyes’ 34-10 win over Michigan State. Dobbins (#2, Jr., La Grange, Texas) is third nationally with 137.67 yards per game, or about a quarter of Ohio State’s 534.5-yard average total offense output that is seventh in the country. His 67-yard scamper in the third quarter Saturday pushed Ohio State’s lead to 24-10 lead and was his sixth touchdown of the season.

HEISMAN TROPHY – Nation’s most outstanding player Next key date: Finalists announced. Dec. 9

The Nissan Heisman House Tour is at Notre Dame this weekend for the annual meeting vs. USC. All-American wide receiver/kick returner **Rocket Ismail**, one of the most electrifying players in college football history, will appear Saturday from 2:30-4 p.m., participating in both a Chalk Talk session with ESPN’s Neil Everett and a photo session with fans. Later, 1990 All-American **Chris Zorich**, one of the most decorated defensive players in school history, will appear from 5-6:30 p.m., participating in both a Chalk Talk session with Everett and a photo session with fans. The Heisman House will be set up at the Gold Lot outside of Frank Eck Baseball Stadium.

JOHN MACKEY AWARD – Nation’s most outstanding tight end Next key date: Semifinalists announced Mon., Nov. 18

Virginia Tech junior **Dalton Keene** (#29, Littleton, Colo.) earned the Tight End of the Week award following a career performance with three touchdowns while also tying a career high with five catches for 73 receiving yards in a 42-35 win over Miami. Keene, who has started in 30 consecutive games for the Hokies, and fellow tight end James Mitchell accounted for eight of Tech’s 10 receptions.

LOU GROZA AWARD – Nation’s top placekicker Next key date: Semifinalists announced Thu., Nov. 7

Georgia senior kicker **Rodrigo Blankenship** (#98, Gr., Marietta, Ga.) made three field goals, including a second make from 50 yards out this

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season, and connected on all four PAT's in the Bulldogs' 43-14 win over Tennessee. Blankenship is the SEC's leading scorer (11.6 points per game) and is the country's top-scoring kicker with 60 points in five games.

MAXWELL AWARD – Nation's player of the year..... Next key date: Semifinalists named Tue., Oct. 29

Jeff Duffey of Texas Tech passed for four touchdowns and ran for another in his first start of the season as the Red Raiders knocked off No. 21 Oklahoma State, 45-35. Duffey (#7, Jr., Mansfield, Texas) was the award's Player of the Week honoree after becoming the only Big 12 player this season to account for five touchdowns with no interceptions in a game and the first Red Raider to do so since reigning NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes II did it twice in 2016. Duffey finished 26-of-44 passing for 424 yards. The Maxwell Football Club has added four players to its Maxwell Award Watch List: <http://bit.ly/33p8yFL>.

OUTLAND TROPHY PRESENTED BY NFID – Nation's most outstanding interior lineman.... Next key date: Semifinalists named Wed., Nov. 20

Louisville offensive tackle **Mekhi Becton** (#73, Jr., Highland Springs, Va.) led the Cardinals to 664 total yards in a 41-39 win over Boston College. Becton, a watch list member, had seven knockdowns and didn't allow a sack as Louisville had 236 yards on the ground. Ole Miss right guard **Ben Brown** (#55, So., Vicksburg, Miss.) led the Rebels to 413 rushing yards in a 31-6 win over Vanderbilt, the Rebels' most against an SEC foe since 1979. Ole Miss had two rushes of 75 yards or more in the same game for the first time. Texas OT **Sam Cosmi** (#52, So., Humble, Texas) scored on a 12-yard run at West Virginia, becoming the third offensive lineman in Big 12 history to score a rushing TD and the first since 2009.

PAUL HORNUNG AWARD – Most versatile player in college football..... Next key date: Finalists announced Thu., Nov. 14

Nebraska gutted out a 13-10 win over Northwestern behind freshman WR/KR **Wan'Dale Robinson** (#1, Frankfort, Ky.) Robinson scored the Huskers' lone touchdown on a 42-yard run and added a 32-yard reception that set up the winning field goal. Robinson finished with 186 all-purpose yards. Tulane running back and kick returner **Amare Jones** (#11, So., Frisco, Texas) had 249 all-purpose yards in a 42-33 win at Army, rushing nine times (1 TD) with six receptions (1 TD) and four kickoff returns. His two-yard rushing touchdown was the game-winner early in the fourth quarter.

PAYCOM JIM THORPE AWARD – Nation's best defensive back..... Next key date: Semifinalists announced Mon., Oct. 21

One of the keys to Saturday's big game in Baton Rouge is how well LSU quarterback Joe Burrow can fare against Florida's red-hot secondary. Gators junior safety **Shawn Davis** (#31, Miami, Fla.) notched his third interception in three games and had four tackles as Florida held Auburn to its lowest totals this season in points (13) and total yards (269) last week. Davis' three picks are tied for the SEC lead and his 19 tackles tied for fourth for the Gators' defense. He has 111 return yards on the three interceptions.

RAY GUY AWARD – Nation's best punter Next key date: Final candidates list announced Tue., Nov. 5

Cody Grace of Arkansas State punted five times with a gross average of 49 yards (net of 47) to earn the award's Punter of the Week award. Grace (#41, Sr., Perth, Australia) had four punts go inside Georgia State's 20-yard line and had a long punt of 59 yards, three yards shy of his career long.

RIMINGTON TROPHY – Nation's premier center Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Dec. 9

Stanford center **Drew Dalman** (#51, Jr., Salinas, Calif.) guided three true freshmen on an offensive line that helped create career nights for running back Cameron Scarlett (33 carries, 151 yards – his first career 100-yard game) and quarterback Davis Mills (21-of-30, career-high 293 yards, 1 TD). Dalman, a preseason watch list member, and Stanford did not give up a sack, gaining 24 first downs and 482 total yards in a 23-13 win over Washington. The Cardinal are sixth in the country in time of possession at 34:58.50 seconds.

WALTER CAMP AWARD – Nation's most outstanding player Next key date: Semifinalists announced Thu., Nov. 21

James Proche's heroics at the end of SMU's 43-37 overtime win against Tulsa kept the Mustangs undefeated at 6-0, their best start since 1982. Proche (#3, Sr., Dallas, Texas) tip-toed the sideline on a fade pass on SMU's third overtime possession, finishing off an 11-catch, 153-yard, two-touchdown game that earned him the Offensive Player of the Week award. The Defensive Player of the Week was Texas Tech linebacker **Jordyn Brooks** following his career-best 19-tackle game with three sacks against Oklahoma State.

WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL TROPHY – Nation's premier scholar-athlete Next key date: Finalists announced Wed., Oct. 30

The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame has announced the 185 semifinalists for the 2019 William V. Campbell Trophy Presented by Mazda. Use this link to view the full release and list of semifinalists: <http://bit.ly/2019CampbellSemifinalists>.

WUERFFEL TROPHY – Exemplary community service and academic achievement..... Next key date: Semifinalists announced Tue., Nov. 5

Two 2019 Wuerffel Trophy nominees, Oklahoma linebacker **Kenneth Murray** (#9, Jr., Missouri City, Texas) and Texas quarterback **Sam Ehlinger** (#11, Jr., Austin, Texas) face each other this weekend in the 155th meeting between the Sooners and the Longhorns in the AT&T Red River Showdown at the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas.

– Compiled by Scott Farrell of collegepressbox.com

The **National College Football Awards Association** encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 25 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit ncfaa.org to learn more about our story. Contact: Mark Wolpert, President (mwolpert@maxwellfootballclub.org or 267-973-3680).