

HEAVY METAL: THE NCFAA NEWSLETTER (OCT. 26)

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

Utah defensive end **Bradlee Anae** is the award’s Player of the Week after recording three sacks for 17 yards lost and a pass breakup in the Utes’ 21-3 over Arizona State. Anae (#6, Sr., Laie, Hawaii) has seven sacks on the season that are 14th nationally and second in the Pac-12. He has 24.0 career sacks that are third among active players in the FBS and 70 all-time at Utah; he is sixth in Utah history in tackles for loss yardage at 198.

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

Two additions were added to the award’s Watch List this week with Purdue WR **David Bell** and UAB WR **Austin Watkins, Jr.** Bell (#3, Fr., Indianapolis, Ind.) had the most catches (13) ever by a Purdue freshman last week against Iowa (197 yds., 1 TD) and the eighth-most all-time at Purdue. The Boilermakers’ receptions and yardage leader also had a big line (9 rec., 138 yds., 2 TD’s) the prior week against Maryland. Watkins (#6, Jr., Fort Myers, Fla.) is coming off back-to-back 100-yard games and leads Conference USA in yards (655, 12th nationally) and yards per game (93.6, 13th nationally). He is 10th in the nation with his 21.13 yards per reception.

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

Louisiana Tech safety **Amik Robertson** picked off three passes in a 45-30 win over Southern Miss to earn the award’s Player of the Week. The nation’s leader in passes defended (16) became just the third player in school history to have three interceptions in one game. Robertson’s (#21, Jr., Thibodaux, La.) five interceptions this season are tied for second in the nation. He added two pass breakups and three tackles, and the three interceptions off C-USA’s passing leader were the most in C-USA play since 2017.

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

Next week: Wed., Oct. 30 is the deadline for submitting nominations for the 2019 Burlsworth Trophy.

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

Rayshard Ashby (#23, Jr., Chesterfield, Va.) led Virginia Tech with a career-high 18 stops against North Carolina that included 2.0 tackles-for-loss and 0.5 sacks. Ashby is 10th in the nation in total tackles with 72 and is second in the ACC (32 solo). His 10.0 TFL’s lead Virginia Tech and are tied for third in the ACC. Fresno State’s **Justin Rice** (#29, Jr., Modesto, Calif.) has caused one turnover per game and is one of five players nationally to have caused at least six turnovers. Rice led Fresno State with 10 tackles against UNLV last week, his fifth game with double-digit tackles this season, and returned a fumble 18 yards for a touchdown that started a 28-0 scoring run in Fresno State’s 56-27 win.

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

Memphis signal-caller **Brady White** continues to climb the Tigers’ record books after a 358-yard, five-touchdown passing day against Tulane last week. White (#3, Jr., Newhall, Calif.) made the award’s Great 8 list as he eclipsed the 5,000-yard career passing yard mark in his 21st career game as a Tiger. He is now fourth all-time with 44 touchdown passes. He has a 70.1 percent completion percentage that is 13th nationally and is currently the school’s career record-holder at 65.1 percent.

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

Marshall running back **Brenden Knox** ran 23 times for a career-high 220 yards and two touchdowns in a 36-31 win at Florida Atlantic. His second touchdown was a game-winner with 36 seconds left on a 17-yard run. Knox (#20, So., Columbus, Ohio) has scored a rushing touchdown in five of the last six games and has 11 rushing scores in 12 career games. His 220 yards is eighth at Marshall for most rushing yards in a game and he is fourth nationally in rushing yards this month (423) and seventh nationally in rushes of 10-plus yards this season with 24.

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

The Heisman Trophy Trust honored Oklahoma’s 1969 Heisman winner Steve Owens last week on the field at halftime. Owens was presented with a 50th anniversary commemorative plaque by Executive Director Rob Whalen. The Heisman Trophy Trust also announced that Kristi Yamaguchi was named the 2019 Heisman Humanitarian winner. Yamaguchi is highly regarded in the philanthropic world for her Always Dream Foundation as well as for her world-class figure skating career. Yamaguchi and Owens will be honored at the Heisman Dinner Gala on Dec. 15.

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

Matt Bushman of BYU was the award’s Tight End of the Week following a career night with five receptions for 101 yards and two touchdowns in the Cougars’ 28-25 upset over Boise State. His first touchdown was a 27-yarder on fourth down and the second came on a reverse flea-flicker down the left sideline for a 39-yard score that tied his career-long reception.

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

Iowa kicker **Keith Duncan** hit four field goals in 26-20 win over Purdue that moved him into the national lead in field goals made. Duncan (#3, Jr., Weddington, N.C.) connected from 44, 42, 38 and 30 yards to bring his season total to 17. His 67 points leads Iowa and are tied for fourth nationally among kickers and 10th overall. Wake Forest kicker **Nick Sciba’s** fifth field goal was the game-winner as the Demon Deacons beat Florida State for the first time since 2011. The five field goals tied the school’s single-game record and his 16-point day topped all FBS kickers last Saturday.

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

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SMU quarterback **Shane Buechele** was the award's Player of the Week following his career-best performance in a 45-21 win over Temple. Buechele (#7, Jr., Arlington, Texas) threw for a career-high 457 yards and six touchdowns which tied the SMU record. It was his sixth straight game with multiple passing TDs. Buechele leads the AAC with 2,122 passing yards (7th nationally) and 18 touchdowns (10th nationally) and is among the FBS career active leaders in passing yards per game (225.3, 11th), completions per game (18.83, 11th) and completion percentage (.629, 12th).

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

Oregon left tackle **Calvin Throckmorton** (#54, Sr., Bellevue, Wash.) came up big in the Ducks' 35-31 win at Washington last week. Throckmorton, who has started at center (vs. Stanford) and left tackle (six times) this season, has given up only one sack over his last 2,766 offensive snaps covering 38 games, including 1,369 of them in pass protection. He was the only FBS player to start at four (LT, C, RG, RT) of the five offensive line positions in 2018. The Ducks are riding a 6-game win streak and have scored a touchdown in 21 of the 24 quarters of that spree, part of a 230-56 scoring differential in the same span.

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

Three skill position players who double as return specialists were named to the award's Honor Roll for last week. **KJ Hamler** of Penn State (#1, Jr., Pontiac, Mich.) scored twice against Michigan, including the game-winning 53-yard reception, and finished with six receptions for 108 yards and totaled 186 all-purpose yards. **Wesley Kennedy III** of Georgia Southern (#12, Jr., Savannah, Ga.) carried the ball four different ways with two touchdowns, including the game-winner on the third overtime possession of a 30-27 win over Coastal Carolina. Kennedy had 161 all-purpose yards on 29 touches. **Joe Reed** of Virginia (#2, Sr., Charlotte Court House, Va.) had 179 all-purpose yards that included a 95-yard kickoff return touchdown in a 48-14 win over Duke. He added another 43-yard kick return and had 43 receiving yards.

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

The Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame announced its 14 semifinalists for the award, including the winner of the award's first semifinalist fan vote, **AJ Green** of Oklahoma State. The other 13 semifinalists are (alphabetically): **Luq Barcoo** (Sr., San Diego State); **Essang Bassey** (Sr., Wake Forest); **Douglas Coleman III** (Sr., Texas Tech); **Grant Delpit** (Jr., LSU); **Alohi Gilman** (Sr., Notre Dame), **CJ Henderson** (Jr., Florida); **Jevon Holland** (So., Oregon); **Xavier McKinney** (Jr., Alabama); **Tanner Muse** (Gr., Clemson); **Jeffrey Okudah** (Jr., Ohio State); **JR Reed** (Sr., Georgia); **Elijah Riley** (Sr., Army); and **Amik Robertson** (Jr., La. Tech). By conference: SEC (4), ACC (2), Big 12 (2), Ind. (2), Big Ten (1), C-USA (1), MW (1), Pac-12 (1).

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

Kansas State senior **Devin Antcil** earned the Punter of the Week nod after an outstanding game against TCU. Antcil (#21, Sr., Lenexa, Kan.) punted seven times for a 49-yard average, highlighted by punts of 55, 60 and 62 yards. Two of his punts landed inside the TCU 20-yard line, while four were fair caught to tie a career high. Antcil's current 45.5-yard average this season is the best in school history and he enters this week's game against Oklahoma 13th in the nation in average.

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

Mississippi State's **Darryl Williams** made the move from left guard to center last spring and has anchored one of the SEC's most-improved rushing teams. Williams (#73, Sr., Bessemer, Ala.), a 32-game starter, has allowed just one sack since the start of the 2017 season and only three pressures thus far in 2019. The three-time SEC Academic Honor Roll member has helped RB Kylin Hill move to fourth in the SEC in rushing (643 yards) with 102.6 total yards per game and four 100-yard rushing games.

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

Illinois linebacker **Jake Hansen** posted 11 tackles, a sack and forced two fumbles in the Illini's 24-23 upset over Wisconsin. Hansen (#35, Jr., Tarpon Springs, Fla.), the award's Defensive Player of the Week, leads the nation with seven forced fumbles that are already third-most in the Big Ten since 2000, and if his 1.00 per-game ratio holds it would break an NCAA record. The seven forced fumbles are equal to or more than 97 FBS teams have this season. He also leads the country in fumbles recovered (3). SMU quarterback Shane Buechele was the Offensive Player of the Week.

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

It's a big SEC matchup Saturday as two-time Wuerffel Trophy nominees, Auburn defensive lineman **Derrick Brown** (#5, Sr., Sugar Hill, Ga.) and LSU long snapper **Blake Ferguson** (#48, Sr., Smyrna, Ga.) battle it out in Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge.

– 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).