

# HEAVY METAL: THE NCFAA NEWSLETTER (NOV. 9)

**BEDNARIK AWARD** – Nation’s defensive player of the year ..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

Tennessee cornerback **Bryce Thompson** (#20, So., Irmo, S.C.) tied a single-game school record last week with three interceptions in the first half against UAB. Thompson’s first pick came on the first play of the game and he had two others in the second quarter to earn the award’s Player of the Week. He is the fourth player to record three interceptions in a game this season and is the first Volunteer to tally three picks in one game since Deon Grant against Auburn in 1999. The Bendarik Award announced its 20 semifinalists on Oct. 29. The list: <http://bit.ly/2C0QXIC>.

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

**Bryan Edwards** (#89, Sr., Conway, S.C.) tied South Carolina’s school record with 14 catches last week, good for 139 yards and a TD against Vanderbilt. Edwards is now the Gamecocks’ career receptions leader (225) and currently stands fifth all-time in the SEC. His 2,955 career receiving yards are second in school history and eighth all-time in SEC play. He has a catch in all 47 career games. North Carolina wide receiver **Dyami Brown** (#2, So., Charlotte, N.C.) tallied the ACC’s highest yardage total this season with 202 against Virginia with three TD’s on six catches.

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

Illinois linebacker **Dele Harding** (#9, Sr., Elkton, Md.) posted 12 tackles and returned an interception 54 yards for a touchdown in Illinois’ 38-10 win over Rutgers. Harding also had two tackles for losses and forced a fumble and earned the award’s Player of the Week honor. He became just the second player in the last 20 seasons to have 12 or more tackles, 2.0 TFL’s, a forced fumble, an interception and a touchdown in a single game. Harding is tied for fourth in the FBS and leads the Big Ten in tackles (106 and 11.8 per game).

**BURLSWORTH TROPHY** – Most outstanding player who began his career as a walk-on ..... Next key date: Finalists named Tue., Nov. 19

The Burlsworth Trophy announced Tuesday a record 83 players nominated from Division I FBS schools from across the country for the 2019 award. This is the award’s 10th year. Each nominee must have begun his first season of participation with an FBS football program without financial aid of any kind from his university’s athletic department. The candidates: <http://bit.ly/34JMPsD>.

**BUTKUS AWARD** – Nation’s best linebacker ..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

The Butkus Foundation announced its 12 semifinalists last Monday: <http://bit.ly/33BR6P3>. Among them is Oklahoma’s **Kenneth Murray** (#9, Jr., Missouri City, Texas), who leads the Sooners in tackles (55) and tackles for loss (7.5) while accounting for 2.5 sacks, two pass breakups and three QB hurries. A starter in all 36 games the last three seasons, Murray is looking to earn OU’s fifth Butkus Award, and would join previous winners Brian Bosworth (1985 and ‘86), Rocky Calmus (2001) and Teddy Lehman (2003). Georgia’s **Tae Crowder** (#30, Sr., Pine Mountain, Ga.) is tied for second on the Bulldogs’ tackle list with 36. Crowder mans the middle of a defense that leads the SEC in scoring defense (11.4 points per game, 4th nationally), rushing defense (77.6 yards per game, 4th nationally) and total defense (268.1 yards per game, No. 8 nationally).

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

Virginia quarterback **Bryce Perkins** (#3, Sr., Queen Creek, Ariz.) earned the award’s Player of the Week honor following a record-setting night in the Cavaliers’ 38-31 win at North Carolina. Perkins accounted for 490 yards of total offense, breaking the UVa record with 378 passing yards (30-of-39, three TD’s) and 112 rushing yards on 24 carries (2 TD’s). The 490 total yards is the most in the ACC this season and ties as the ninth-most by an FBS player this season. Perkins became only the fifth FBS player since 2000 to throw for more than 350 yards and three TD’s, as well as rush for 100 yards and two TD’s against a Power 5 conference opponent.

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

**Kylin Hill** (#8, Jr., Columbus, Miss.) rushed for a career-high 234 yards and three touchdowns as Mississippi State set school records in an SEC game for rushing yards (460) and total yards (640) in a 54-24 win at Arkansas. Hill, the SEC rushing leader, finished with the fifth-highest total in school history. His 198 first-half yards were the most rushing yards in one half in school history, and Hill’s 234 yards were the most by an SEC player in a conference game since LSU’s Derrius Guice logged 276 vs. Ole Miss on Oct. 17, 2017.

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

Utah quarterback **Tyler Huntley** (#1, Sr., Dania, Fla.) has the Utes in position to win the Pac-12 North Division title after a 19-of-24 night with 284 yards and a TD for his 18th career 200-yard passing game as Utah beat Washington, 33-28. Huntley was 11-of-12 in the second half for 184 yards and rushed for a touchdown. He is fifth nationally both in completion percentage (.738) and passing efficiency (182.5). Boston College running back **AJ Dillon** (#2, Jr., New London, Conn.) posted his fourth career game with more than 200 yards, with 242 on 35 carries as the Eagles pounded Syracuse, 58-27. He scored three TD’s to break both the BC all-time rushing TD’s (37) and total TD’s (39) records. Dillon enters this week with 3,983 rushing yards, the most in BC history and seventh-most in ACC history.

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

Washington’s **Hunter Bryant** (#1, Jr., Issaquah, Wash.) earned the award’s final Tight End of the Week honor of 2019 following another big game with six catches for 105 yards and two touchdowns. The first multi-TD game of his career marked his second 100-yard receiving game this season and fourth of his career. Bryant moved into third all-time in Huskies tight end history for career receiving yards (now 1,113) and is only 21 yards shy of second place.

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**LOU GROZA AWARD** – Nation’s top placekicker ..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

**Nick Sciba** (#4, So., Clover, S.C.) has yet to miss a kick of any kind this season. Sciba earned his second Star of the Week selection by scoring from 34, 26 and 25 yards out to help Wake Forest defeat N.C. State last week, 44-10. Sciba is 15-for-15 on field goals this year and has made his last 26 tries, one short of the ACC record set by 1996 Groza winner Mark Primanti and four shy of the NCAA record. Sciba made five PATs to bring his season total to 36 and extend his perfect career streak to 86-for-86. His 81 points lead all Demon Deacon players in scoring.

**MAXWELL AWARD** – Nation’s player of the year..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

Saturday’s LSU-Alabama clash features the week’s and maybe the season’s best QB matchup. LSU QB **Joe Burrow** (#9, Sr., Athens, Ohio) leads the SEC and is No. 2 nationally in passing yards (2,805), passing yards per game (350.6), passing TD’s (30) and points responsible for (200). He’s also first in the SEC and No. 3 in the nation in total offense (366.3). Meanwhile, Alabama QB **Tua Tagovailoa** (#13, Jr., Ewa Beach, Hawaii) has 27 TD’s to tie for third nationally, but has done it on just 145-for-194 passing, or one TD for every 7.2 attempts. He has played in the fourth quarter only three times this season. The Maxwell Award announced its 20 semifinalists on Oct. 29. The list: <http://bit.ly/2COQXIC>.

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

Georgia offensive tackle **Andrew Thomas** (#71, Jr., Lithonia, Ga.) graded at 90 percent in a 24-17 win over Florida. Thomas had two knockdowns allowing only one hurry as the Bulldogs shut out the SEC sack leaders in their backfield. Georgia is tied for tops in the nation yielding only 4.0 sacks this season and is second in the SEC at 222.4 rushing yards per game. Thomas was the award’s Offensive Player of the Month for October. Auburn DT **Derrick Brown** (#5, Sr., Sugar Hill, Ga.) earned the defensive honor. Boston College guard **Zion Johnson** (#77, Jr., Bowie, Md.) helped the Eagles to a school-record 691 total yards – 496 of it rushing – in a 58-27 win over Syracuse, the most points BC has ever scored in an ACC game.

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

This week’s Honor Roll: **Antonio Gibson** of Memphis (#14, Sr., Stockbridge, Ga.) broke the school record with 386 all-purpose yards and three TD’s scored three different ways (50-yard reception, 97-yard kickoff return and 78-yard run) in a 54-48 primetime win over SMU. Fresno State wide receiver **Jalen Cropper** (#5, Fr., Parlier, Calif.) threw a 36-yard touchdown pass, ran for a 53-yard score and had three receptions for 62 yards and 155 all-purpose yards returning kickoffs in a 41-38 win at Hawaii. Boise State cornerback **Avery Williams** (#26, Jr., Pasadena, Calif.) scored the Broncos’ first TD on a 66-yard punt return and had eight tackles (seven solo) in a 52-42 win at San Jose State. **Wesley Kennedy III** of Georgia Southern (#12, Jr., Savannah, Ga.) ran for 145 yards and two TD’s and returned a punt for 15 yards in a 24-21 win against Appalachian State.

**PAYCOM JIM THORPE AWARD** – Nation’s best defensive back..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

Oregon safety **Brady Breeze** (#25, Jr., Lake Oswego, Ore.) had a team-high seven tackles and a 32-yard pick-six in a 56-24 blowout at USC. The seven tackles were a career-high and he had a fumble recovery with USC in the red zone. He was the highest-graded defensive player (85.9) in the Pac-12 last week.

**RAY GUY AWARD** – Nation’s best punter ..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

The award honored **Will Hart** of Michigan (#17, Sr., Hunting Valley, Ohio) as its Punter of the Week. Hart punted five times in the Wolverines’ 38-7 win at Maryland for a total of 249 yards, with a gross of 49.8 yards and a net of 49.4 yards with only one return of two yards. He had a long punt of 53 yards. The Augusta Sports Council announced its list of 78 final candidates for its 2019 award last Monday: <http://bit.ly/2NtOBbB>.

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

Oregon center **Jake Hanson** (#55, Sr., Eureka, Calif.) has the Ducks’ offensive front playing at a dynamic level heading into an idle week. Oregon blasted USC 56-24 last week and extended its streak of scoring a touchdown in 28 of its last 32 quarters, spanning eight games, while outscoring opponents, 323-115 (40.4-14.4) in the same span. The Ducks have had 18 different players score TD’s so far and are 17-of-26 on third-down conversions in their last two games. Hanson has 27 knockdown blocks this season.

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

Memphis wide receiver **Antonio Gibson** (#14, Sr., Stockbridge, Ga.) exploded for a school-record 386 all-purpose yards and three scores that included a dramatic 78-yard touchdown run, a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown on the second-half kickoff and a 50-yard deep pass in a 54-48 win over SMU. Gibson’s final line was 159 kick return yards, 130 receiving yards and 97 rushing yards, earning the award’s Offensive Player of the Week honor. Miami defensive end **Greg Rousseau** (#15, Fr., Coconut Creek, Fla.) posted a career-highs with four sacks and eight tackles (seven solo) in Miami’s 27-10 win at rival Florida State. Rousseau is the first Hurricane since at least 2000 to record four sacks in a game and now has 12 on the year, currently fourth-best in school history. He earned the Defensive Player of the Week nod.

**WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL TROPHY** – Nation’s premier scholar-athlete ..... Next key date: Winner announced Tue., Dec. 10

The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame announced its 12 finalists last week. The full release: <http://bit.ly/336kplV>.

**WUERFFEL TROPHY** – Exemplary community service and academic achievement..... Next key date: Semifinalists announced Tue., Nov. 25

The Wuerffel Trophy announced its nine semifinalists Tuesday that can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2qwwGnK>. Also, the committee would like to send birthday wishes to our first ever recipient, Rudy Niswanger of LSU, who turns a mere 37 years old on Saturday.