

HEAVY METAL: THE NCFAA NEWSLETTER (NOV. 16)

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

Minnesota defensive back **Antoine Winfield Jr.** (#11, So., The Woodlands, Texas) helped the Golden Gophers stay undefeated with 11 tackles (nine solo) and a pair of interceptions in a 31-26 win over Penn State, and earned the award’s Player of the Week nod. Both interceptions, which boosted his season total to seven and tie the school record, set up Minnesota touchdowns. 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

Five WR’s were added to its watch list this week. **Trishton Jackson** (#86, Jr., West Bloomfield, Mich.) leads Syracuse with 51 receptions for 780 yards and eight TD’s. He is tied for the ACC lead with eight catches of 30-plus yards. Tennessee’s **Jauan Jennings** (#15, Sr., Murfreesboro, Tenn.) is fifth in the SEC in receiving yards (771) and TD catches (7), and sixth in receptions (50). **Lucky Jackson** (#11, Sr., Lexington, Ky.) of WKU is the C-USA leader with 839 receiving yards (17th nationally) and second with 62 receptions (13th nationally). He has had three consecutive 100-yard games totaling 30 catches for 503 yards and two TD’s. **Tre Walker** (#10, Jr., Inglewood, Calif.) of San Jose State is fifth nationally in receiving yards (896) and seventh in receptions per game (7.4) off 59 catches. **Chatarius (Tutu) Atwell** of Louisville (#1, So., Miami, Fla.) is a playmaker who is 22nd nationally in yards per game (90.0) and has four receptions of 50-plus yards.

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

Baylor LB **Terrel Bernard** (#26, So., La Porte, Texas) made a career-high 19 tackles that included 3.0 tackles for loss and a sack in the Bears’ overtime win at TCU. It was Baylor’s highest tackle total since 2011 and earned the award’s Player of the Week. In three starts replacing the injured Clay Johnston at middle linebacker, Bernard is averaging 12.7 tackles per game with 5.0 TFL’s and 2.0 sacks and one interception.

BROYLES AWARD – College football’s top assistant coach Next key date: Semifinalists announced Tue., Nov. 26

The award announced 41 nominees on Wednesday that will be considered for its 2019 honor. The list: <http://bit.ly/373Db6l>. Last year’s winner was Mike Locksley, the offensive coordinator at Alabama.

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 its 10 semifinalists for the 2019 award on Tuesday. The list: <http://bit.ly/2QnDH98>. The 2018 winner was receiver Hunter Renfrow of Clemson.

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 was Clemson’s **Isaiah Simmons** (#11, Jr., Olathe, Kan.), who leads the Tigers this season in sacks (6.0) and tackles for loss (11.5) while also contributing five pass breakups, an interception, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Simmons is one of only five FBS players — and one of only two in the Power Five — credited with at least 65 tackles, 11.5 tackles for loss and 6.0 sacks this season.

DAVEY O’BRIEN AWARD – Nation’s best quarterback Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

The selection committee announced 16 semifinalists on Wednesday. The list: <http://bit.ly/377eDJQ>. Also this week, for the first time in its history the award announced National Co-Quarterbacks of the Week, Minnesota’s **Tanner Morgan** and LSU’s **Joe Burrow**. This is the first time for a Minnesota player to earn the honor, and Burrow’s third selection in 2019 is a season record for the award. Morgan (#2, So., Union, Ky.) completed 18-of-20 passes (90 percent) and threw for 339 yards and three TD’s in a win over Penn State. He is just the second FBS QB in the past 20 years to have multiple games in one season completing 90 percent of his passes (min. 20 att.), joining 2013 Davey O’Brien recipient Jameis Winston.

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

Clemson’s **Travis Etienne** (#9, Jr., Jennings, La.) rushed 14 times for 112 with two TD’s and caught three passes for 31 yards and another score in a 55-10 win over N.C. State. Etienne tied the school record with a fifth consecutive 100-yard rushing game (with two others) and scored his 50th career rushing touchdown, joining James Conner (Pitt) and Lamar Jackson (Louisville) as the only players in ACC history to accomplish the feat.

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

The Heisman House is back on tour in Auburn, Ala., this weekend for a big SEC matchup with Georgia. Former Auburn players 1997 All-American LB Takeo Spikes and WR Darius Slayton, will appear with ESPN’s Neil Everett. The House is located in the Coca-Cola Tiger Fan Fest on the Nichols Center lawn on Donahue Drive across from Jordan-Hare Stadium.

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

Harrison Bryant (#40, Sr., Gray, Ga.) leads Florida Atlantic in receiving with 651 yards and a 14.8 yards per-catch average. Those numbers lead all tight ends nationally, as do his 70.8-yards per-game, which is 56th among all receivers. He had four catches for 57 yards and a TD as the Owls beat FIU, 37-7, in last week’s Shula Bowl.

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

The award named three Stars of the Week, selected from among its 20 semifinalists. Georgia kicker **Rodrigo Blankenship** (#98, Gr., Marietta,

HEAVY METAL: THE NCFAA NEWSLETTER (NOV. 16)

Ga.) made four field goals in its 27-0 win over Missouri, connecting from 48, 47, 29 and 20 yards. He has hit a school-record 187 straight PAT's, the second-longest streak in SEC history, and his 403 career points are just 10 shy of making him Georgia's all-time leading scorer. Iowa kicker **Keith Duncan** (#3, Jr., Weddington, N.C.) nailed three field goals from 40, 39 and 24 yards to break the season school record with his 22nd field goal, topping a record held in part by 2002 Lou Groza Award winner Nate Kaeding. Duncan has a national-best 11 makes from 40 yards or longer. ECU's **Jake Verity** (#9, Jr., Bremen, Ga.) moved into a tie for first place in FBS field goals with three more at SMU. He has five double-figure games and his season total of 92 points is the most by an FBS kicker.

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

Oklahoma wide receiver **CeeDee Lamb** (#2, Jr., Richmond, Texas) played a pivotal role in the Sooners victory over Iowa State, catching eight passes for 167 yards with first-half touchdowns of 48 and 63 yards. In that first half alone, the junior had six catches for 142 yards as OU led 35-14 at intermission. The game marked Lamb's school-record-tying fifth of his career with at least 160 receiving yards. The Maxwell Award announced its 20 semifinalists, including Lamb, on Oct. 29. The list: <http://bit.ly/2C00XIC>.

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

Utah's success has come on the heels of its defense, which leads the nation in rushing defense, giving up only 56.0 yards per game and is third nationally in total defense at 246.3 ypg. Senior DT's **Leki Fotu** (#99, Sr., West Valley City, Utah) and **John Penisini** (#52, Sr., West Jordan, Utah) form the interior of a line that has held eight of its last nine opponents under 100 yards rushing. Fotu has 7.0 tackles for loss, second on the team, and 18.0 overall. Penisini has 28 tackles on the season with 5.0 TFL and 2.0 sacks. Utah takes on UCLA in primetime Saturday night.

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

The Louisville Sports Commission's selection committee named its four finalists Thursday: **Lynn Bowden Jr.** (#1, Jr., Youngstown, Ohio), a WR/QB/KR at Kentucky; **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** (#22, Jr., Baton Rouge, La.), a WR/KR at LSU; **Joe Reed** (#2, Sr., Charlotte Court House, Va.), a WR/KR at Virginia; and **Wan'Dale Robinson** (#1, Fr., Frankfort, Ky.), a WR/RB/KR at Nebraska. The full release: <http://bit.ly/32PWRaq>. Edwards-Helaire was one of three Honor Roll recipients from last week after gaining 199 all-purpose yards and three TD's (three rushing, one receiving) in LSU's win at Alabama. The other two were SMU WR/PR **James Proche**, who had 186 all-purpose yards with two TD's against ECU, and USC WR/PR **Amon-Ra St. Brown**, who had 207 all-purpose yards with a 95-yard TD reception.

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

Safety **Hamsah Nasirildeen** (#23, Jr., Concord, N.C.) had 22 total tackles in a 38-31 win at Boston College, the most by a Florida State player in more than 50 years and the second most in the nation this season. He is the first FSU player to have a pair of 17-tackles games (17 vs. Syracuse on Oct. 26) since 1990. The 22 tackles were the third-most in FSU history. Nasirildeen leads FSU with 85 tackles.

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

The award honored Tulsa's **Thomas Bennett** (#33, Sr., Carlsbad, Calif.) as its Punter of the Week. Bennett punted six times in a 34-31 win over UCF for a total of 278 yards. His gross and net averages of 46.33 yards came without any returns or touchbacks. Three of his punts ended up inside UCF's 20-yard line with a long of 62 yards.

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

Clemson is powered up front in 2019 by one of the most senior-laden offensive lines in its history and **Sean Pollard** (#76, Sr., Jackson Springs, N.C.) is the leader in the middle. The Tigers' protection is a key to its success. Dating back to last season, Clemson's offense has allowed only 12 total sacks in its last 18 games, allowing no sacks in half (9) of them. Paired with its defensive front, during its current 26-game win streak Clemson holds an 86-24 edge over opponents in sacks. Since 2018, the plus-62 sack margin is 17 greater than the next program at plus-45.

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

LSU quarterback **Joe Burrow** (#9, Sr., Athens, Ohio) earned the Offensive Player of the Week for a second time after leading the Tigers to a 46-41 win at Alabama. Burrow completed 31-of-39 passes for 393 yards and three TD's with 457 yards of total offense, which is the third-best total in school history. He extended his school record for passing TD's to 33 and led an LSU offense to 46 points, the most by the Tigers in the 84-game series against Alabama. Minnesota defensive back **Antoine Winfield Jr.** (#11, So., The Woodlands, Texas) earned the Defensive Player of the Week with two interceptions against Penn State.

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/2qvwGnK>. It's a meeting of two 2019 Wuerffel Trophy semifinalists Saturday as Georgia's senior kicker **Rodrigo Blankenship** visits Auburn and defensive tackle **Derrick Brown** (#5, Sr., Sugar Hill, Ga.).