

HEAVY METAL: THE NCFAA NEWSLETTER (NOV. 23)

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

The field is all fresh faces making their debuts as Bednarik Award semifinalists. Six different conferences are represented, led by six players from the SEC and five from the Big Ten. The 20 Bednarik Award semifinalists, announced on Oct. 29, are: <http://bit.ly/2C00XIC>.

BILETNIKOFF AWARD – Nation’s outstanding receiver regardless of position..... Next key date: Finalists announced Mon., Nov. 25

The award announced its 12 semifinalists Monday, hailing from 10 different schools in seven conferences plus one independent: <http://bit.ly/20wFE0F>. Among them is 2018 winner, **Jerry Judy** of Alabama. The other semifinalists are (alphabetically): **Rashod Bateman**, Minnesota; **Omar Bayless**, Arkansas State; **Ja’Marr Chase**, LSU; **Antonio Gandy-Golden**, Liberty; **Isaiah Hodgins**, Oregon State; **Justin Jefferson**, LSU; **CeeDee Lamb**, Oklahoma; **Michael Pittman Jr.**, USC; **James Proche**, SMU; **DeVonta Smith**, Alabama; and **Sage Surratt**, Wake Forest.

BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY – Nation’s top defensive player Next key date: Winner announced Mon., Dec. 9

The Football Writers Association of American named five finalists Wednesday: <http://bit.ly/335IKPv>. They are Auburn DT **Derrick Brown**, Georgia S **J.R. Reed**, Clemson LB **Isaiah Simmons**, Minnesota DB back **Antoine Winfield Jr.** and Ohio State DE **Chase Young**. Brown is also a semifinalist for the Outland Trophy.

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

The award announced 41 nominees on Nov. 13 for its 2019 honor. The list: <http://bit.ly/373Db6l>. The 2018 winner was Mike Locksley, then the offensive coordinator at Alabama, now the head coach at Maryland.

BURLSWORTH TROPHY – Most outstanding player who began his career as a walk-on..... Next key date: Winner announced Mon., Dec. 9

The three finalists for the 10th Burlsworth Trophy were announced Tuesday: Cal safety and kick returner **Ashtyn Davis**, Georgia kicker **Rodrigo Blankenship** and Michigan State defensive end **Kenny Willekes**. A record 83 programs nominated a player for the 2019 award. The release: <http://bit.ly/2D3W23n>.

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

The Butkus Foundation announced its 12 semifinalists Nov. 4: <http://bit.ly/33BR6P3>. The Oct. 11 unveiling of Dick Butkus’ statue in front of Illinois’ Memorial Stadium was the centerpiece of this story from the Sports Business Journal: <http://bit.ly/349Ur7Z>.

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

The award announced 16 semifinalists on Nov. 13: <http://bit.ly/377eDJQ>. Its National Quarterback of the Week honor went to Oklahoma senior **Jalen Hurts** (#1, Sr., Houston, Texas) after he accounted for 411 total yards, 305 of it in the second half, to rally Oklahoma from 25 points down in a 34-31 road win over previously undefeated Baylor. According to ESPN Stats & Info, OU’s 21-point halftime deficit (trailed 31-10) is the largest overcome to defeat an FBS team that entered the game 9-0 or better since NCAA classification began in 1937.

DOAK WALKER AWARD – Nation’s premier RB..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

The award released its 10 semifinalists hailing from seven difference conferences Thursday: <http://bit.ly/20x18ud>. They are **LeVante Bellamy**, Western Michigan; **A.J. Dillon**, Boston College; **J.K. Dobbins**, Ohio State; **Clyde Edwards-Helaire**, LSU; **Travis Etienne**, Clemson; **Kenneth Gainwell**, Memphis; **Chuba Hubbard**, Oklahoma State; **Xavier Jones**, SMU; **Zack Moss**, Utah; **Jonathan Taylor**, Wisconsin. Taylor is trying to become the award’s third repeat winner, joining Arkansas’ Darren McFadden and Texas’ Ricky Williams.

GEORGE MUNGER AWARD – Coach of the Year..... Next key date: Finalists announced. Dec. 9

The Maxwell Football Club announced 22 head coaches as semifinalists for its 2019 award. Nine of the 10 FBS conferences are represented with a semifinalist. The list – <http://bit.ly/2rdnoS4> – includes previous winners **Kirby Smart** of Georgia (2017) and **Dabo Swinney** of Clemson (2015).

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

Heisman Trophy ballots will be distributed on Dec. 2. The Nissan Heisman House is on site at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Saturday in conjunction with the UCLA-USC game. The tour stop is on the South Lawn of the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park next to the Coliseum. USC running back great LenDale White and ESPN SportsCenter host Neil Everett will be there during the 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. hours.

JOHN MACKEY AWARD – Nation’s most outstanding tight end..... Next key date: Finalists announced Mon., Nov. 25

The Friends of John Mackey announced eight semifinalists for its 2019 award: **Harrison Bryant**, Florida Atlantic; **Hunter Bryant**, Washington; **Brycen Hopkins**, Purdue; **Brevin Jordan**, Miami; **Charlie Kolar**, Iowa State; **Albert Okwuegbunam**, Missouri; **Colby Parkinson**, Stanford; and **Giovanni Ricci**, Western Michigan. The award’s semifinalists release: <http://bit.ly/334Vh4N>.



Live on ESPN from the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta on Thurs., Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. ET

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

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission named its 20 semifinalists on Nov. 7: <http://bit.ly/2XFjFca>. It chose the following three Stars of the Week for Week 12 from among those semifinalists. **Gabe Brkic** (#47, Fr., Chardon, Ohio) gave Oklahoma its biggest comeback victory in school history when he hit a 31-yard field goal with 1:34 left to beat Baylor, 34-31. He is 12-for-12 on field goals this season and 37-for-37 on PAT’s. His 49 attempts are the second-most by an FBS kicker yet to miss this season. The top man on that no-miss list is Washington State sophomore **Blake Mazza** (#40, So., Plano, Texas), who improved to 18-for-18 on field goals this season with makes from 38 and 35 yards in a 49-22 win over Stanford. He leads WSU with 99 points. **Jonathan Song’s** (#46, Sr., Fort Worth, Texas) fourth field goal lifted TCU to a 33-31 win at Texas Tech. He is third among FBS kickers in scoring (97 points) and is 37-for-38 on kicks of 40 yards and in for his career.

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

The Maxwell Award announced its 20 semifinalists on Oct. 29. A strong field includes representatives from every Power Five conference. The 2018 winner **Tua Tagovailoa** (Alabama) leads an impressive list of returnees which includes **Justin Herbert** (Oregon), **Jonathan Taylor** (Wisconsin), **Zack Moss** (Utah), **AJ Dillon** (Boston College) and **Travis Etienne** (Clemson). The list: <http://bit.ly/2COQXIC>.

OUTLAND TROPHY PRESENTED BY NFID – Nation’s most outstanding interior lineman..... Next key date: Finalists named Mon., Nov. 25

The award announced its six semifinalists Wednesday hailing from six different schools in four different conferences playing at four different positions: <http://bit.ly/2D34Gpt>. They are Wisconsin C **Tyler Biadasz**, Auburn DT **Derrick Brown**, Oregon OT **Penei Sewell**, Clemson G **John Simpson**, Georgia OT **Andrew Thomas** and Iowa OT **Tristan Wirfs**.

PAUL HORNING AWARD – Most versatile player in college football..... Next key date: Winner announced Wed., Dec. 11

The Louisville Sports Commission named its four finalists on Nov. 14: **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 release: <http://bit.ly/32PWRaq>.

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

The Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame announced its 14 semifinalists on Oct. 21. The award’s Player of the Week was Utah safety **Julian Blackmon** (#23, Sr., Layton, Utah), who had a game-high 12 tackles with 1.5 sacks and 1.5 tackles for loss with a forced fumble in the Utes’ 49-3 win over UCLA. He also assisted on a sack and forced a fumble on a different sack that led to a 68-yard return. **Shaun Jolly** (#3, So., Stone Mountain, Ga.) of Appalachian State had his second career pick-six on a 30-yard return and a career-high three pass breakups against Georgia State.

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

The Augusta Sports Council named the award’s 10 semifinalists Tuesday. They are **Oscar Bradburn**, Virginia Tech; **Joseph Charlton**, South Carolina; **Max Duffy**, Kentucky; **Tyson Dyer**, New Mexico; **Sterling Hofrichter**, Syracuse; **Adam Korsak**, Rutgers; **Dane Roy**, Houston; **Tommy Townsend**, Florida; **Michael Turk**, Arizona State; and **Owen White**, Navy.

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

Memphis center **Dustin Woodard** (#53, Sr., Chandler, Ariz.) is riding a 48-game starting streak, one of the nation’s longest (Ethan Reed, Louisiana Tech, 50). Woodard, a Rimington Watch List member, moved to center this season after a First Team All-AAC season at guard in 2018. He’s blocked for three of the top four offenses in school history and has the Tigers, who at No. 18 are the highest-ranked Group of 5 team in the latest CFP rankings, cranking out record yardage again this season built off explosive plays. Memphis leads the nation with 26 plays of 40-plus yards and is second nationally with 16 plays of 50-plus yards. RB Kenneth Gainwell is fourth nationally with 19 plays of at least 20 yards and is leads the national with five plays over 60 yards.

WALTER CAMP AWARD – Nation’s most outstanding player Next key date: Finalists announced Thu., Dec. 5

The Walter Camp Football Foundation announced its 20 “Players to Watch” for its 2019 award. On the list are six RB’s, six QB’s, four WR/TE’s and four defensive players from 14 different schools and five conferences and players from the top 12 teams in the most recent College Football Playoff rankings including QB **Joe Burrow** and WR **Ja’Marr Chase** from top-ranked LSU, RB **JK Dobbins** and QB **Justin Fields** from 2nd-ranked Ohio State and QB **Trevor Lawrence**, RB **Travis Etienne** and LB **Isaiah Simmons** from 3rd-ranked Clemson. The full release: <http://bit.ly/2Ot9nHC>.

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 on Oct. 30. The full release: <http://bit.ly/336kpIV>. The 2018 winner was Christian Wilkins of Clemson.

WUERFFEL TROPHY – Exemplary community service and academic achievement..... Next key date: Finalists announced Mon., Nov. 25

The Wuerffel Trophy announced its nine semifinalists on Nov. 5. The release: <http://bit.ly/2qvwGnK>. Three finalists will be announced Monday, Nov. 25 and the winner announced on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in New York City.

– Compiled by Scott Farrell of collegepressbox.com