

HEAVY METAL: THE NCFAA NEWSLETTER (DEC. 11, 2020)

Bednarik Award – nation's defensive player of the year

The Maxwell Football Club announced the 2020 semifinalists this week for the 26th Chuck Bednarik Award for the Outstanding Defensive Player of the Year. All 18 candidates are making their debuts as Bednarik Award semifinalists and were selected by the MFC's National Selection Committee. Six different conferences are represented, led by five from the ACC and three from the SEC. Following the vote for the three finalists a final round of voting will determine the winner.

Colorado linebacker **Nate Landman** was the National Defensive Player of the Week after a 16-tackle game, including 12 solos, 3.5 stops for loss and a sack. Through four games, Landman has 53 tackles for the unbeaten Buffs.

Biletnikoff Award – nation's outstanding receiver regardless of position

The Biletnikoff Award announced its 11 semifinalists this week coming out of seven conferences plus one FBS independent led by three from the SEC and two from the ACC. Three of the top six teams in the current College Football Playoff rankings are included as well as seven of the top 10 receiving yardage leaders.

DeVonta Smith of Alabama and **Elijah Moore** of Ole Miss head up the group as the top receivers in national 1-2 order for receiving yards (Smith is first at 1,305, Moore second at 1,193) and average per game (Moore is first at 149.1, Smith second at 145.0). Also in the list are UCF's **Marlon Williams**, fourth in average at 129.9 pg and fifth in yards at 1,039, and North Texas' **Jaelon Darden**, who is tied for the national lead in receiving TD's with 15 (tied with Smith) and fifth in average (127.1) and sixth in yards at 1,017).

Arkansas State's **Jonathan Adams Jr.** (third nationally with 1,111 yards, 12 TD's) and BYU's **Dax Milne** (seventh at 1,012, 7 TD's) are other 1,000-yard receivers on the list and Florida's dynamic tight end **Kyle Pitts** is fourth with 11 TD's and is the national leader among tight ends with a 91.6-yard average and second with 641 yards. Other playmaking conference leaders on the list are **Ty Fryfogle** of Indiana, the Big Ten yardage leader at 687 yards with a 98.1 average, **Dyami Brown** of North Carolina at the top of the ACC with 932 yards with Clemson's **Amari Rodgers** just behind at 845, and Oklahoma State's **Tylan Wallace** leading the Big 12 in average (97.4) and receptions per game (5.9).

The TQCF continues its 2020 FanVote at biletnikoffaward.com/fan-vote. The aggregate fan tally – fans can vote once each day – will be counted as one official vote to determine the finalists (three) and the winner.

Bronko Nagurski Trophy – nation's top defensive player

The FWAA and the Charlotte Touchdown Club named five finalists for the 2020 Bronko Nagurski Trophy representing five conferences, the top two teams in the current College Football Playoff rankings and two others from nationally-ranked Group of Five schools. The finalists are Tulsa linebacker **Zaven Collins**, Coastal Carolina defensive end **Tarron Jackson**, Iowa defensive tackle **Daviyon Nixon**, Notre Dame linebacker **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah** and Alabama cornerback **Patrick Surtain II**.

Collins and Jackson are the first Bronko Nagurski Trophy finalists in their schools' history with Jackson being the first finalist from the Sun Belt Conference. Collins has 11.5 tackles for loss and ties for fifth nationally with four interceptions – tops among linebackers along with two others. Jackson leads the Chanticleers' defense with 8.5 sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss. In seven games, Nixon leads the Big Ten with 5.0 sacks and 11.5 tackles for loss and his 36 tackles are tied for the most among Big Ten defensive linemen. Owusu-Koramoah leads the second-ranked Irish in tackles (49 with 32 solos) and tackles for loss (9.0) along with 1.5 sacks, two fumble recoveries and an interception. He was the Bronko Nagurski Trophy Player of the Week (Nov. 7) following the Irish's win over then-No. 1 Clemson. Surtain is regarded as the nation's top cornerback having allowed 25 yards or fewer against him in eight of nine games. Teams have targeted him only 36 times with 14 completions. Top-ranked Alabama has now had a finalist in nine of the last 10 seasons.

Broyles Award – most outstanding assistant coach

The Frank & Barbara Broyles Foundation announced 56 nominees for the 2020 Broyles Award, choosing them from among approximately 1,270 assistant coaches representing 127 Division I programs. A 43-member selection committee of distinguished former head coaches, broadcasters and a committee representing the FWAA will select 15 semi-finalists and five finalists from the list of nominees and then an overall winner.

The list includes coordinators from five of the top six teams in the current College Football Playoff rankings and a representative from every program that has clinched a spot in its conference championship game to date. Proceeds from the 2020 Broyles Award support the mission of the Broyles Foundation; to provide a

NCFAA AWARD SEMIFINALISTS

BEDNARIK AWARD (18)

LB Nick Bolton, Missouri
LB Zaven Collins, Tulsa
S Richie Grant, UCF
S Kyle Hamilton, Notre Dame
DE Tarron Jackson, Coastal Carolina
CB Shermar Jean-Charles, App State
DE Patrick Jones, Pitt
S Trevon Moehrig, TCU
DT Daviyon Nixon, Iowa
LB Azeez Ojulari, Georgia
LB Joseph Ossai, Texas
LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, Notre Dame
DE Jaelan Phillips, Miami
LB Jon Rhattigan, Army
LB Justin Rice, Arkansas State
DE Myjai Sanders, Cincinnati
CB Patrick Surtain II, Alabama
DE Rashad Weaver, Pitt

BILETNIKOFF AWARD (11)

Jonathan Adams Jr., Arkansas State
Dyami Brown, North Carolina
Jaelon Darden, North Texas
Ty Fryfogle, Indiana
Dax Milne, BYU
Elijah Moore, Ole Miss
Kyle Pitts, Florida
Amari Rodgers, Clemson
DeVonta Smith, Alabama
Tylan Wallace, Oklahoma State
Marlon Williams, UCF

BUTKUS AWARD (16)

Nick Bolton, Missouri
Zaven Collins, Tulsa
Jabril Cox, LSU
Nakobe Dean, Georgia
Olakunle Fatukasi, Rutgers
Christian Harris, Alabama
Buddy Johnson, Texas A&M
Ernest Jones, South Carolina
Nate Landman, Colorado
Devin Lloyd, Utah
Grant Morgan, Arkansas
Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, Notre Dame
Monty Rice, Georgia
Charles Snowden, Virginia
Chazz Surratt, North Carolina
Pete Werner, Ohio State

DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (17)

Ian Book, Notre Dame
Matt Corral, Ole Miss
Sam Ehlinger, Texas
Justin Fields, Ohio State
Dillon Gabriel, UCF
Sam Howell, North Carolina
Mac Jones, Alabama
D'Eriq King, Miami
Trevor Lawrence, Clemson
Grayson McCall, Coastal Carolina
Kellen Mond, Texas A&M
Michael Penix Jr., Indiana
Brock Purdy, Iowa State
Spencer Rattler, Oklahoma
Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati
Kyle Trask, Florida
Zach Wilson, BYU

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game plan through education, support, and resources to Alzheimer's caregivers.

Burlsworth Trophy – most outstanding player who started his career as a walk-on

The Burlsworth Trophy announced 67 candidates for the 2020 Burlsworth Trophy nominated from all Division I programs this week. 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 list can be found at burlsworthtrophy.com. Ten semifinalists will be announced on Tues., Dec. 15, with the three finalists announced Tues., Dec. 22. The three finalists will take part in the virtual Burlsworth Trophy award ceremony on Jan. 4, 2021.

Butkus Award – nation's best linebacker

The Butkus Award revealed its 16 semifinalists for its 36th annual award last week, eight of which hail from SEC schools, three from the ACC and two from the Big Ten and Pac-12.

The semifinalists include **Grant Morgan** of Arkansas, the national leader in tackles with 111 and 12.33 per game; **Christian Harris**, No. 1 Alabama's leading tackler with 64; **Zaven Collins** of Tulsa, who has 11.5 TFLs and ties for fifth nationally (tops among LB's) with four interceptions; and Rutgers' **Olakunle Fatukasi**, who leads the country by average at 13.14 per game and is tops in the Big Ten with 92 total tackles. **Nate Landman** of Colorado has made the most of a shortened season by averaging 11.75 tackles per game, seventh nationally, and **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah** of No. 2 Notre Dame leads the Irish in tackles (49 with 32 solos) and tackles for loss (9.0) along with 1.5 sacks.

Collins and Owusu-Koramoah are both finalists for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy.

Davey O'Brien Award – nation's best quarterback

The Davey O'Brien Foundation announced 17 quarterbacks as its semifinalists for the 2020 Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award based off its National Selection Committee ballots plus social media fan votes. Players representing six FBS conferences and an FBS independent are on the list with the ACC and SEC tying for the most honorees with four apiece, and broken down as five seniors, six juniors, four sophomores and two freshmen.

In all, 17 players received the honor – Indiana's **Michael Penix Jr.** was voted a semifinalist but will not be eligible for finalist honors due to a season-ending injury. Per Foundation protocols, the next highest vote-getter was added to the semifinalist contingent. **Ian Book** (2018), **Sam Ehlinger** (2019), **Justin Fields** (2019), **D'Eriq King** (2018), **Trevor Lawrence** (2018, '19) and **Brock Purdy** (2019) are repeat Davey O'Brien Award semifinalists.

Iowa State's Purdy was selected as the National Quarterback of the Week for Week 14. Purdy (#15, Jr., Gilbert, Ariz.) threw as many TD's as incompletions in the Cyclones' 42-6 victory over West Virginia, finishing 20-for-23 passing for 247 yards and three TD's and had another TD rushing. His 99.6 total QB rating for the game tied for the highest in the nation, and he had a 220.2 passing efficiency rating. Purdy's 87 percent completion rate was the second best in a single game in school history, while his 22nd victory as a starter established a school record.

Disney Spirit Award – college football's most inspirational player

There's talk that Clemson RB **Darien Rencher** will one day be the ACC commissioner. Or maybe the Governor of South Carolina. Perhaps, but for now this much is certain: Rencher is the recipient of the 2020 Disney Spirit Award for his inspiring leadership amid college football's push to overcome social injustice and the coronavirus pandemic.

Rencher was one of the early voices in the effort among players nationwide to promote safe play during the 2020 season amid the pandemic. Rencher sparked the national #WeWantToPlay movement among college football players who were eager to find ways for teams to safely play this season. He will be presented with the coveted Disney Spirit Award by Disney Sports Vice President Faron Kelley at The Home Depot College Football Awards on Jan. 7, 2021.

Doak Walker Award – nation's premier running back

Five of the top six rushers in the nation are a part of the 10-man semifinalist list put out by the PwC SMU Athletic Forum this week. In all, seven of the top 15 rushers average are there including current national leader **Jaret Patterson** of Buffalo, who ran for 409 yards in his last game and is averaging 230.0 yards per game. Oregon State's **Jermar Jefferson** and Minnesota workhorse **Mohamed Ibrahim** have played

DOAK WALKER AWARD (10)

Travis Etienne, Clemson
Breece Hall, Iowa State
Najee Harris, Alabama
Mo Ibrahim, Minnesota
Jermar Jefferson, Oregon State
Sincere McCormick, UTSA
Jaret Patterson, Buffalo
Isaiah Spiller, Texas A&M
Javonte Williams, North Carolina
Kyren Williams, Notre Dame

JOHN MACKEY AWARD (8)

Derrick Deese Jr., San Jose State
Jake Ferguson, Wisconsin
Brevin Jordan, Miami
Charlie Kolar, Iowa State
Hunter Long, Boston College
Cade Otton, Washington
Kyle Pitts, Florida
Jalen Wydermyer, Texas A&M

LOU GROZA AWARD (20)

Jacob Barnes, Louisiana Tech
Jose Borregales, Miami
Gabe Brkic, Oklahoma
Anders Carlson, Auburn
Hunter Duplessis, UTSA
Alex Hale, Oklahoma State
Charlie Ham, Duke
Alex Kessman, Pitt
Evan McPherson, Florida
Harrison Mevis, Missouri
Chris Naggar, SMU
Brayden Narveson, WKU
Jake Oldroyd, BYU
Jack Podlesny, Georgia
B.T. Potter, Clemson
Will Reichard, Alabama
Nick Sciba, Wake Forest
Brandon Talton, Nevada
James Turner, Louisville
Cade York, LSU

MAXWELL AWARD (18)

QB Ian Book, Notre Dame
RB Travis Etienne, Clemson
QB Justin Fields, Ohio State
QB Dillon Gabriel, UCF
RB Breece Hall, Iowa State
RB Najee Harris, Alabama
QB Sam Howell, North Carolina
QB Mac Jones, Alabama
QB D'Eriq King, Miami
QB Trevor Lawrence, Clemson
QB Grayson McCall, Coastal Carolina
WR Elijah Moore, Ole Miss
TE Kyle Pitts, Florida
QB Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati
WR DeVonta Smith, Alabama
QB Kyle Trask, Florida
RB Javonte Williams, North Carolina
QB Zach Wilson, BYU

OUTLAND TROPHY (6)

OL Wyatt Davis, Ohio State
C Landon Dickerson, Alabama
OL Liam Eichenberg, Notre Dame
OL Kenyon Green, Texas A&M
OL Alex Leatherwood, Alabama
DT Daviyon Nixon, Iowa

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in only four games but are averaging 168.75 and 163.4 ypg, respectively. Iowa State's **Breece Hall** is the yardage leader at 1,357 to go with 17 TD's, with UTSA's **Sincere McCormick** just behind with 1,345 yards. The top rushers on the top two teams, Alabama's **Najee Harris** (1,038 yards, 20 TD's) and Notre Dame's **Kyren Williams** (1,011) are the other 1,000-yard rushers on the list. **Javonte Williams** has 16 rushing TD's for North Carolina.

Heisman Trophy – nation's most outstanding player

DeVonta Smith continues to tear up defenses this season. The Alabama senior receiver topped 1,200 yards for a second straight season last week with a 231-yard effort against LSU with three TD's on only eight receptions. Smith, tops in the nation in receiving yards (1,305) and second in per-game average (145.0), scored on 65-, 61- and 20-yard receptions in Death Valley and notched a fourth career 200-yard receiving game to set the Alabama all-time mark. He owns the SEC career record with an ongoing total of 38 receiving touchdowns, and it was also his 11th career 100-yard game to tie for the third-most at 'Bama.

In the Crimson Tide's three matchups with ranked opponents (Texas A&M, Georgia and Auburn), Smith has totaled 24 receptions for 401 yards and four TD's. What drops him into the Heisman conversation in a sea full of quarterbacks is what he's done in his last four games: 749 yards and 11 TD's on 35 catches, or more to the point, 8.8 catches per game, 21.4 yards per catch and a TD every 3.2 times he catches the ball.

No wide receiver has won the Heisman since Desmond Howard in 1991 and only two true wide receivers have won the award, adding in Tim Brown in 1987.

John Mackey Award – nation's most outstanding tight end

The John Mackey Award Selection Committee announced eight semifinalists for its 2020 award this week: **Derrick Deese Jr.** of San Jose State, the Spartans' second-leading receiver whose three TD catches have all come on third down; **Jake Ferguson** of Wisconsin, the Badgers' receiving leader with 23 catches and 235 yards and four TD's who has caught a pass in all 31 career games; **Brevin Jordan** of Miami, a returning finalist who has 24 catches for 340 yards in an injury-shortened season; and **Charlie Kolar** of Iowa State, the Big 12 leader among TE's with 33 catches and 446 yards who leads the Cyclones with five TD's (eighth nationally in each category).

Also on the list are **Hunter Long** of Boston College, the top receiving tight end in the nation with 57 receptions and 685 receiving yards; **Cade Otton** of Washington, the Huskies' receiving leader with 18 catches for 258 yards and three TD; **Kyle Pitts** of Florida, whose 11 TD catches are fourth in the FBS among all receivers and first among TE's as part of 36 total receptions for 641 yards; and **Jalen Wydemyer** of Texas A&M, the Aggies' and SEC leader among TE's with 32 catches for 342 yards, with 20 of those going for first downs.

Lou Groza Award – nation's top placekicker

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission released the 20 semifinalists for the 2020 Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award presented by the Orange Bowl this week. Given the unique nature of this season, the committee considered all FBS kickers who had played in at least six games and attempted at least 10 field goals through Week 14. The list features five returning semifinalists – Oklahoma sophomore **Gabe Brkic**, Wake Forest junior **Nick Sciba**, and Nevada sophomore **Brandon Talton** repeat from last year and Miami senior **Jose Borregales** and Florida junior **Evan McPherson** return from 2018.

Five qualified FBS kickers, all semifinalists, have made at least 15 field goals while connecting at a rate better than 80 percent: Borregales (17), SMU senior **Chris Naggar** (17), UTSA senior **Hunter Duplessis** (16), Missouri freshman **Harrison Mevis** (16), and Auburn junior **Anders Carlson** (15). Among qualified FBS kickers making at least 75 percent of their kicks, eight semifinalists have hit at least six field goals from 40 yards or more: Pitt senior **Alex Kessman** (9), Clemson junior **B.T. Potter** (8), Borregales (7), Western Kentucky sophomore **Brayden Narveson** (7), LSU sophomore **Cade York** (7), Brkic (6), BYU sophomore **Jake Oldroyd** (6), and Sciba (6). Two of them are still perfect on the season, Oldroyd and Alabama sophomore **Will Reichard**. Also honored is the only qualified kicker averaging better than two field goals per game, Oklahoma State sophomore **Alex Hale** (2.17). Louisiana Tech's **Jacob Barnes**, Duke's **Charlie Ham**, Georgia's **Jack Podlesney** and Louisville's **James Turner** round out the list.

These semifinalists will be voted on by a panel of more than 100 FBS head coaches, SIDs, media members, former Groza finalists and current NFL kickers to select the three finalists who will be announced Tues., Dec. 22 and honored at the 29th annual Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Awards Virtual Awards Celebration,

PAYCOM JIM THORPE AWARD (12)

Bubba Bolden, Miami
Jalen Catalon, Arkansas
Kaiir Elam, Florida
Richie Grant, UCF
Allie Green IV, Tulsa
Shemar Jean-Charles, App State
Brandon Joseph, Northwestern
Trevon Moehrig, TCU
Tykee Smith, West Virginia
Patrick Surtain II, Alabama
Shaun Wade, Ohio State
James Wiggins, Cincinnati

RAY GUY AWARD (10)

Jake Camarda, Georgia
Kirk Christodoulou, Pitt
Nik Constantinou, Texas A&M
Pressley Harvin, Georgia Tech
Tommy Heatherly, FIU
Lou Hedley, Miami
Tory Taylor, Iowa
Zach Von Rosenberg, LSU
Haydon Whitehead, Indiana
Porter Wilson, Duke

WUERFFEL TROPHY (9)

QB Shai Werts, Georgia Southern
OL Michael Saffell, California
OL Luke Fortner, Kentucky
QB Brady White, Memphis
P Mac Brown, Ole Miss
OL Teton Saltes, New Mexico
DB Tyriq Harris, Charlotte
QB Sam Ehlinger, Texas
OL Mike Caliendo, Western Michigan

UPCOMING FINALISTS DATES

Bednarik Award	Dec. 22
Biletnikoff Award	Dec. 22
Broyles Award	Dec. 22
Burlsworth Trophy	Dec. 22
Butkus Award	Dec. 14
Davey O'Brien Award	Dec. 22
Doak Walker Award	Dec. 22
Eddie Robinson Award	Dec. 21
Heisman Trophy	Dec. 24
John Mackey Award	Dec. 22
Lou Groza Award	Dec. 22
Maxwell Award	Dec. 22
Outland Trophy	Dec. 22
Paul Hornung Award	Dec. 23
Paycom Jim Thorpe Award	Dec. 22
Ray Guy Award	Dec. 22
Wuerffel Trophy	Dec. 22



Thurs., Jan. 7, 2021 (7-8:30 p.m. ET)

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streamed live on Jan. 4, 2021 on lougrozaaward.com. The same panel then selects the winner to be announced at The Home Depot College Football Awards Show on Jan. 7

Maxwell Award – nation's player of the year

The Maxwell Football Club announced the 2020 semifinalists for the 84th Maxwell Award for the Collegiate Player of the Year this week, honoring 18 candidates as selected by the MFC's National Selection Committee. The stellar field includes representatives from seven conferences. **Travis Etienne** (Clemson) and **Justin Fields** (Ohio State) join the list for the second consecutive year with the remaining candidates all being first-time semifinalists.

The Maxwell Player of the Week went to Alabama's **Devonta Smith**, who showed why he's one of the top playmakers in the country with eight receptions for 231 yards and three TD's in a blowout win at LSU.

Outland Trophy – nation's most outstanding interior lineman

Six semifinalists for the 2020 Outland Trophy – five offensive linemen and one defensive tackle – were announced this week by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee. They play four different positions and represent three different conferences. The field for the 2020 Outland Trophy: guard **Wyatt Davis** of Ohio State, center **Landon Dickerson** of Alabama, offensive tackle **Liam Eichenberg** of Notre Dame, guard **Kenyon Green** of Texas A&M, offensive tackle **Alex Leatherwood** of Alabama and defensive tackle **Daviyon Nixon** of Iowa.

Davis is at the forefront of an offensive line that guides one of the country's most explosive offenses that is fourth nationally in scoring offense at 46.6 points per game and sixth nationally in total offense at 536.4 ypg and leads the Big Ten in rushing at 233.2 ypg. Dickerson, a Florida State transfer, has made the most of his only season at Alabama, which is third nationally in scoring at 49.2 points per game, tops among schools playing five or more games, and has averaged 548.3 yards per game (4th nationally) while topping 500 yards in six of nine games. Eichenberg anchors a talented front that is currently first in the ACC in sacks allowed per game (1.67, and 15 total) and second in the ACC in rushing offense (229.7 ypg). Three different Irish running backs have totaled seven 100-yard games this season.

Green has led the Aggies back into national prominence by helping quarterback Kellen Mond set school passing records along an offensive line which ranks fifth in the nation and leads the SEC allowing just 0.5 sacks per game and 4.0 total on the season. Leatherwood has been a standout in protection as well as blocking, allowing quarterback Mac Jones to rank in the top 10 nationally of nearly every passing category. The Tide have scored 35 or more points in 22 consecutive games, the longest streak in major-college football history. Nixon, in seven games, leads the Big Ten with 5.0 sacks and 11.5 tackles for loss in his first season at Iowa, and his 36 tackles are tied for the most among Big Ten defensive linemen.

The official presentation to the winner by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee is still to be determined.

Paul Hornung Award – most versatile player in college football

Four offensive players and return specialists who helped lead their teams to conference wins were named to this week's Paul Hornung Award Honor Roll. Missouri WR/RS **Tyler Badie** (#1, Jr., Memphis, Tenn.) had 11 touches three different ways and scored twice in the Tigers' 50-48 shootout win over Arkansas. Badie had six carries for 79 yards and two TD's, caught three passes and returned two kickoffs. Tulane WR/RS **Jha'Quan Jackson** (#4, So., Luling, La.) touched the ball rushing, receiving and returning kickoffs and punts with one TD in the Green Wave's 35-21 home win over Memphis. Jackson scored on a 42-yard pass in the first quarter and his 17-yard run for a first down helped Tulane run out the clock at the end of the game. Cal WR/RS **Nikko Remigio** (#4, Jr., Orange, Calif.) had 12 touches four different ways with a TD in the Golden Bears' 21-17 home win over Oregon. He caught six passes for 81 yards and scored the game-winning touchdown on a 28-yard reception late in the third quarter, carried once, fair caught a kickoff and returned four punts for 40 yards. San Jose State RB/RS **Kairee Robinson** (#32, So., Antioch, Calif.) carried the ball 27 times for a career-high 111 yards and the winning score, returned a kickoff and caught a pass in the Spartans' 35-24 win at Hawaii. Robinson carried five times on SJSU's 18-play, 70-yard winning drive in the third quarter capped by his two-yard TD run. He had a 12-yard reception, returned a kickoff 20 yards and had long runs of 25 and 20 yards from scrimmage.

Paycom Jim Thorpe Award – nation's best defensive back

The Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame announced the 12 semifinalists for the 2020 Paycom Jim Thorpe Award this week. The award is based on performance on the field, athletic ability and character. This year's list includes 12 of the nation's best defensive backs representing six conferences led by the SEC and American Athletic with three each. The semifinalists are selected by a screening committee. However, this list is not final and players who have outstanding seasons can be recognized as one of the three finalists.

The list includes Northwestern's **Brandon Joseph**, tied for the national lead with five interceptions, and **Shemar Jean-Charles** of App State, whose 17 passes defended and 16 passes broken up led the nation. **Kaiir Elam** of Florida is tied for sixth nationally in passes defended (12) and broken up (10). Arkansas freshman safety **Jalen Catalon** led all tacklers coming up from the secondary with 89, or 9.89 per game. Alabama cornerback **Patrick Surtain II**, a Bronko Nagurski Trophy finalist and a Bednarik Award semifinalist, has been targeted just 36 times all season with 14 completions to his man over his nine games; opposing quarterbacks have a passer rating of 50.2 when targeting him, fifth-best in the FBS.

Ray Guy Award – nation's best punter

The Augusta Sports Council announced the 10 semifinalists for the 2020 Ray Guy Award this week, chosen from a field of 69 nominated candidates.

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The 2020 semifinalists include the national leader for punters playing more than three games, **Pressley Harvin III** of Georgia Tech, who has a 48.02 average on 45 punts (13th in the nation) and two others just behind him in average in **Jake Camarda** of Georgia (47.79 avg., 29 punts) and **Lou Hedley** of Miami (47.15 avg., 40 punts). FIU's **Tommy Heatherly** is the only C-USA and Group of 5 member on the list and is the first semifinalist in the Panthers' history after setting the single-season record with a 44.4-yard average on 28 punts. **Kirk Christodoulou** of Pitt, **Zach Von Rosenberg** of LSU and **Porter Wilson** of Duke were multiple-week members of Ray's 4 during the season.

Each nomination was evaluated by the Ray Guy Award committee on their overall statistics and contribution to the team. Particular emphasis was placed on net punting average, number of times a punt was downed or kicked out-of-bounds inside the opponents 20-yard line, total yardage punted, average returned yardage and percentage of punts not returned. The winner must display team leadership, self-discipline and have a positive impact on the team's success.

A national voting body of Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) sports information directors, national media and previous Ray Guy Award winners will decide the three finalists. Voters will then vote again to determine the winner along with one additional vote as determined by football fans via The Fan Vote located on the Ray Guy Award website.

Rimington Trophy – nation's premier center

The Rimington Trophy Committee uses three prestigious teams to determine a winner among the dozen or so All-America teams which are selected annually: the Walter Camp Football Foundation, the Sporting News and the Football Writers Association of America. Because the selectors of these three All-America teams can place centers in a "mix" of offensive linemen that includes guards and tackles, their 11-man first teams can often have two centers. The Rimington Trophy committee's policy is to count all players that play primarily the center position for their respective teams as centers, even though they may be listed as guards or tackles on the All-America teams.

The center with the most first team votes will be determined the winner. If there is a tie with first team votes, then the center with the most second team votes will win. If there is still a tie, the winner will be determined by a majority vote from the Rimington Trophy committee. Because of COVID-19 and the ever-changing guidelines of in-person events, details of the annual presentation will be announced when confirmed.

Walter Camp Award – nation's most outstanding player

Florida's **Kyle Trask** was named the Walter Camp National Offensive Player of the Week, becoming the 11th Gators player to earn weekly honor since 2004 and the first since defensive end Jonathan Greenard (Nov. 17, 2019). Trask (#11, Sr., Manvel, Texas) was 35-of-49 for 433 yards and four TD's in Saturday's 31-19 win at Tennessee. The four TD's made Trask the ninth FBS quarterback since 2000 with seven games of four-plus passing TD's in a season. The redshirt senior's 433 passing yards rank 10th on the program's single-game school record list and matches Danny Wuerffel (four) as the only quarterbacks in Gators history with three career 400-yard passing games. Trask's 35 completions rank second on the program's single-game record list. He leads the FBS in TD passes with 38, is second in passing yards with 3,243 and sits at No. 5 in passing efficiency (193.11).

Indiana junior linebacker **Micah McFadden** (#47, Jr., Tampa, Fla.) was the Defensive Player of the Week. McFadden led the No. 8 Hoosiers to a 14-6 victory over No. 16 Wisconsin, the program's first win in Madison since 2001 and its first Big Ten road victory over a ranked team since Nov. 10, 2001 (vs. Michigan State). McFadden led IU with nine tackles and a pair of sacks, the second time in four weeks he has recorded multiple sacks. His second sack came with the Badgers facing a second-and-6 at the Indiana 17-yard line on their final drive. Two plays later the Hoosiers clinched their sixth win, matching a school record for most conference wins in a season (1967 and 1987). It was Wisconsin's first game without a touchdown since 2015. McFadden paces the Hoosiers team with 52 stops (10th in the Big Ten), 39 solos (2nd), five sacks (T-2nd) and 8.5 tackles for loss (T-3rd) to go along with two interceptions (T-7th) and three quarterback hurries.

William V. Campbell Trophy – nation's premier scholar-athlete

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame recently announced its 12 finalists for the 2020 William V. Campbell Trophy Presented by Mazda. Selected from a record 199 semifinalists from among all NCAA divisions and the NAIA, the 12 finalists are: **Tyler Bradfield** (LB, Grand Valley State), **Sam Ehlinger** (QB, Texas), **Jack Gibbens** (LB, Abilene Christian), **Ezra Gray** (RB, Alabama State), **Tyriq Harris** (DE, Charlotte), **Drew Himmelman** (OT, Illinois State), **Tyler Howerton** (OL, Hampden-Sydney), **Kekaula Kaniho** (DB, Boise State), **Brandon Kennedy** (OL, Tennessee), **Cameron Kinley** (CB, Navy), **Elijah Molden** (DB, Washington) and **Brady White** (QB, Memphis).

Wuerffel Trophy – exemplary community service and academic achievement

The Wuerffel Trophy announced its semifinalists for its 2020 award this week. The Wuerffel Trophy, known as "College Football's Premier Award for Community Service," is presented annually to the Football Bowl Subdivision player who best combines exemplary community service with athletic and academic achievement. The semifinalists include representatives from nine conferences, with two from the SEC, and all of them are seniors. **Teton Saltes** (Sr., OL) of New Mexico and **Sam Ehlinger** (Sr., QB) of Texas are repeat semifinalists from 2019. Ehlinger, a Davey O'Brien Award semifinalist for the second straight season, joins Charlotte's **Tyriq Harris** and Memphis' **Brady White** as a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy.