



## Dan Foster named winner of Bert McGrane Award

Dan Foster, long-time South Carolina sports writer and editor, has won the 2003 Bert McGrane Award.

Foster was selected as the winner by a panel of previous McGrane Award winners. He will receive a plaque and special recognition during a breakfast at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., in August.

The Bert McGrane Award, which serves as the Football Writers Association of America Hall of Fame, was established in 1974. The award honors an FWAA member who has performed great service to the organization and the game of college football. It is named after McGrane, who was the executive secretary of the organization from the early 1940s until 1973.

Foster was president of the FWAA in 1986, the same year the FWAA initiated a Coach of the Year banquet in Houston.

He is a native of Greenville, S.C., and graduate of Furman University. He started his writing career with the *Greenville News-Piedmont* in 1948. He spent three years in the United States Air Force and then returned to the newspaper in 1953 and became sports editor of the afternoon *Piedmont* in 1958.

He later served as sports editor of the *Greenville News* from 1968 until his re-

tirement in 2000.

Foster still writes two columns a month in Greenville because he is the local sports historian. A retired Air Force Reserve colonel (1982), Foster was inducted into the United States Basketball Writers Hall of Fame in 1999. And in December 2000, he received the Order of the Palmetto, the highest award the governor of South Carolina can authorize.



Dan Foster

Foster is currently on the advisory board of the Salvation Army Chapter in Greenville. He is a trustee on churches' program for housing and the homeless. He was named the Greenville Lions Club Citizen of the Year in 2002.

Foster, a father of two sons from his first marriage, was widowed in 1992. But he married Kay Floyd in February, 2003. She is the widow of Darrell Floyd, the Furman basketball star who led the nation in scoring in 1955 and 1956.

Foster's name will also be placed on a plaque in the rotunda of the College Football Hall of Fame with the previous McGrane Award winners.

**(For a complete list of winners of the Bert McGrane Award, see Page 7.)**



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# President's column



**WALLY HALL**

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Tucked in at the base of Camelback Mountain, The Phoenician Resort is the type place most sportswriters only visit via a movie or television show.

As the new president of the Football Writers Association of America, yours truly was here to present the Eddie

Robinson Coach of the Year Award to Ohio State's Jim Tressel.

Saying the Phoenician is nice would be like saying it gets warm in the desert.

The balcony of my room had a panoramic view of the golf course, the city and the mountains that I will never forget, the costs as well as food etc., were a perk for being the presenter of the trophy.

The sight was welcome after a tough day. The flight from Birmingham, Ala., turned into a day from Hades with a six-hour delay out of Houston and another half-hour here waiting on a gate.

Seems a once-every-seven-years fog moved in on this desert airport and didn't leave until 1 p.m. in the afternoon, throwing everything off schedule.

After deplaning almost six hours later than scheduled, there was just enough time to shower, steam the old sport coat and repress the shirt.

The rehearsal (it was mentioned this is being aired on Fox Sports Net, wasn't it?) went well enough, and it left time to visit with the incomparable Coach Robinson, who was surrounded by his wife and four grandchildren.

Coach Robinson taught the game for 55 years, had 27 consecutive winning seasons and 408 victories, all at Grambling, making him the winningest coach in history.

These days Robinson uses a cane to get around, but all things considered, he

gets around very well and he hasn't lost his keen sense of being an educator.

Over and over again Thursday night, Coach Robinson made the point that his first concern for every young man who played for him was that he get his degree.

He was so adamant about class attendance that during football season Coach Robinson and his staff ate breakfast with every member of the team and then saw them off to class.

Coach Robinson must have thanked the FWAA a dozen times for honoring him. He's always been a gracious winner.

When he surpassed Bear Bryant's 314 victories, previously the most, some said it didn't count because the victories were on the I-AA level.

Coach Robinson never questioned those feelings.

He never lashed out.

He just dug in and won more football games.

It was under his direction that Grambling became a household name, and the reasons were simple — he won and he graduated his players.

Which was why the two finalists who came to the ceremony took the time to pay tribute to Coach Robinson.

Tressel talked about the lessons of perseverance that Coach Robinson taught all who watched him.

Iowa's Kirk Ferentz called Coach Robinson "an inspiration to all who want to succeed as a coach."

The third finalist, Notre Dame's Tyrone Willingham, was unable to make it to the event because he was coaching in an all-star game.

Tressel and Ferentz, who tied for the Big Ten championship, were both trying to figure out a way to spend a couple of extra days at The Phoenician.

The event, as we've come to expect when the Fiesta Bowl and FWAA are involved, went off without a hitch, and your trusty correspondent had the room of his life.

# Tressel named coach of year

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Ohio State Coach Jim Tressel was named the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year winner on Jan. 9 during a banquet at The Phoenician.

Tressel is the third Ohio State coach to win the award since the FWAA began honoring coaches in 1957. Ohio State coach Woody Hayes won the inaugural award and also took the honor in 1968 and 1975. Ohio State's Earle Bruce won it in 1979.

"This is a tremendous honor to be recognized with an award bearing the name of Eddie Robinson," Tressel said. "So many people made this possible."

Kirk Ferentz of Iowa and Notre Dame's Tyrone Willingham were the other finalists for the 2002 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.

The 30-minute program was aired on Fox Sports Net several times in the following days and featured the finalists and Robinson, the legendary Grambling State coach.

Tressel took the Buckeyes to their first national title since 1968 by defeating defending national champion Miami, 34-27 in double overtime in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, only a few miles away at Sun Devil Stadium.



FWAA President Wally Hall presents the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award to Ohio State's Jim Tressel.

The Buckeyes, co-champions with Iowa in the Big Ten, finished the season with a 14-0 record and were the only undefeated team in Division I-A.

Tressel, who led the Buckeyes to a 7-5 record during the 2001 season, just completed his second season at Ohio State.

The Buckeyes' solid defense and

a conservative offense were the keys in the unbeaten record. Ohio State narrowly won at Purdue and Illinois and had a close game against nemesis Michigan in the finale before the showdown with Miami in the Fiesta Bowl. The victory by Ohio State over Miami ended the Hurricanes' 34-game winning streak.

## FWAA COACH OF THE YEAR WINNERS

1957	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1973	Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh	1989	Bill McCartney, Colorado
1958	Paul Dietzel, LSU	1974	Grant Teaff, Baylor	1990	Bobby Ross, Georgia Tech
1959	Ben Schwartzwalder, Syracuse	1975	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1991	Don James, Washington
1960	Murray Warmath, Minnesota	1976	Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh	1992	Gene Stallings, Alabama
1961	Darrell Royal, Texas	1977	Lou Holtz, Arkansas	1993	Terry Bowden, Auburn
1962	John McKay, USC	1978	Joe Paterno, Penn State	1994	Rich Brooks, Oregon
1963	Darrell Royal, Texas	1979	Earle Bruce, Ohio State	1995	Gary Barnett, Northwestern
1964	Ara Parseghian, Notre Dame	1980	Vince Dooley, Georgia	1996	Bruce Snyder, Arizona State
1965	Duffy Daugherty, Michigan St.	1981	Danny Ford, Clemson	1997	Mike Price, Washington State
1966	Tom Cahill, Army	1982	Joe Paterno, Penn State	1998	Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee
1967	John Pont, Indiana	1983	Howard Schnellenberger, Miami	1999	Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
1968	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1984	LaVell Edwards, BYU	2000	Bob Stoops, Oklahoma
1969	Bo Schembechler, Michigan	1985	Fisher DeBerry, Air Force	2001	Ralph Friedgen, Maryland
1970	Alex Agase, Northwestern	1986	Joe Paterno, Penn State	2002	Jim Tressel, Ohio State
1971	Bob Devaney, Nebraska	1987	Dick MacPherson, Syracuse		
1972	John McKay, USC	1988	Lou Holtz, Notre Dame		



# Grantland Rice Trophy goes to Ohio St.

PHOENIX, Ariz. — By virtue of its 31-24 double-overtime win over Miami in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, Ohio State (14-0) was voted the winner of the 2002 Grantland Rice Trophy by the Football Writers Association of America.

The Grantland Rice Trophy has been awarded to college football's national champion since the 1954 season, and Ohio State has now won it for a fourth time. The Buckeyes won the trophy three times between 1957 and 1968.

For the first time in the trophy's 48-year history, the winner of the FWAA's national championship has been determined by a season-long poll. The Grantland Rice Super 16 Poll made its debut this season with 16 FWAA members as voters who ranked the nation's top 16 teams.



Ohio State coach Jim Tressel accepts the FWAA's Grantland Rice Trophy the morning after his team's 31-24 double-overtime victory over Miami in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

## FWAA SUPER 16 POLL

Rank	School	1st Pl. Votes	Record	Pts.
1.	Ohio State	16	14-0	256
2.	Miami		12-1	240
3.	USC		11-2	215
4.	Georgia		13-1	214
5.	Oklahoma		12-2	188
6.	Kansas St.		11-2	168
7.	Texas		11-2	166
8.	Iowa		11-2	151
9.	Michigan		10-3	121
10.	Washington St.		10-3	95
11.	N.C. State		11-3	72
12.	Maryland		11-3	65
13.	Alabama		10-3	55
14.	Boise St.		12-1	38
15.	Auburn		9-4	25
16.	Notre Dame		10-3	23

## GRANTLAND RICE TROPHY WINNERS

1954	UCLA	1966	Notre Dame	1979	Alabama	1992	Alabama
1955	Oklahoma	1967	USC	1980	Georgia	1993	Florida State
1956	Oklahoma	1968	Ohio State	1981	Clemson	1994	Nebraska
1957	Ohio State	1969	Texas	1982	Penn State	1995	Nebraska
1958	Iowa	1970	Nebraska	1983	Miami (Fla.)	1996	Florida
1959	Syracuse	1971	Nebraska	1984	BYU	1997	Michigan
1960	Mississippi	1972	USC	1985	Oklahoma	1998	Tennessee
1961	Ohio State	1973	Notre Dame	1986	Penn State	1999	Florida State
1962	USC	1974	USC	1987	Miami (Fla.)	2000	Oklahoma
1963	Texas	1975	Oklahoma	1988	Notre Dame	2001	Miami (Fla.)
1964	Arkansas	1976	Pittsburgh	1989	Miami (Fla.)	2002	Ohio State
1965	Alabama	1977	Notre Dame	1990	Colorado		
	Michigan St.	1978	Alabama	1991	Washington		

# Toledo tailback William Bratton wins first FWAA Courage Award

By **JIM NAVEAU**

*Lima (Ohio) News*

TEMPE, Ariz. — University of Toledo football coach Tom Amstutz figured he needed only one story to explain why William Bratton was presented with the Football Writers Association of America Courage Award on Friday.

Bratton, who was the starting tailback for the Rockets before a broken ankle ended his season in late October, played college football despite dealing with a sickle cell anemia-related blood disorder.

The disorder sometimes caused him agonizing pain and left him weakened.

Early in the week before Toledo's game against Central Florida this season, he had to be hospitalized, the second time that had happened in his college career.

"I visited him in the hospital. He was on a morphine (intravenous) drip and he said, 'I should be out in time to play Saturday,'" Amstutz said. "He was in the hospital on Tuesday, his muscles were so sore he could hardly move and he's saying in a couple days I should be able to play for you, coach."

Bratton, a 5-foot-8, 225-pound tailback, played against Central Florida, scored the winning touchdown on a 2yard run and rushed for 81 yards on 18 carries.

"I just wanted to do anything to help my team win, as long as it wasn't a 50-yard run," Bratton said, with a smile. "If it was two or three yards, I could get it."

This is the first year the Football Writers have presented the Courage Award. It is sponsored by *ESPN The Magazine*.

Bratton also got to attend the Fiesta Bowl game between Ohio State and Miami and spent Thursday, Fri-



Toledo's William Bratton accepts the inaugural Courage Award at the FWAA's annual meeting in Tempe, Ariz.

day and Saturday in Phoenix.

"I was shocked," Bratton said of his first reaction to learning he had won the national award. "I didn't think I was up there with people who have had a harder time than me. But I was really excited I won the award, that somebody would see what I was doing."

Bratton might have been the only one surprised by his selection. His college football career spanned six seasons. All but one of those seasons included serious injuries or long periods of inactivity, in addition to the blood disorder.

But every time, he came back to try to play again.

He rushed for 1,862 yards his senior season at Lima Senior High in 1996 when the Spartans won the

Division I state title. He gained 1,060 yards as a junior.

He began his college career at Toledo by sitting out the 1997 season because he did not meet NCAA academic standards to receive an athletic scholarship, then was red-shirted his second year.

He rushed for 486 yards and scored four touchdowns in 1999 as a backup tailback but was limited to 35 carries the next year by problems caused by the blood disorder.

In 2001, he suffered a fracture in his lower back in Toledo's first game and missed the rest of the season.

That allowed him to successfully petition the NCAA for a medical hardship waiver so he could play this season.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## A gathering of past presidents



Past presidents and board members gathered for dinner at the Fox Sports Grill the night before the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Picture are, from left: 1997 president Blair Kerkhoff of the *Kansas City Star*, 1995 president Ivan Maisel of *ESPN.com*, 1998 president Tony Barnhart of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, board member Malcolm Moran of *USA Today*, 2000 president Tom Shatel of the *Omaha World-Herald* and 1999 president Mark Blaudschun of the *Boston Globe*.

## Courage Award (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

Bratton beat out several highly regarded younger running backs for the starting job in preseason camp last August. He rushed for 639 yards and 10 touchdowns in the Rockets' first eight games, but a broken left ankle cut short his season again.

"He has overcome a lot of different things. He's really been an inspiration to his teammates and coaches," Amstutz said. "He doesn't ever feel sorry for himself. He goes to hospitals and grade schools and talks to kids with the sickle cell trait. He's a messenger for the cause."

The message of just how much Bratton was going through to play football at a high level was emphasized to Toledo's coaches and veteran players every time a new crop of freshmen arrived, Amstutz said.

"During a practice or game, if he didn't feel right, he would let us know. He goes through incredible pain. We've seen freshmen look at him and say, 'Coach, there's something wrong with Will.' They're scared to death, and Will is just calmly adjusting to the situation," he said.

Bratton will graduate with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice this spring. He was scheduled to play in the Paradise Senior Bowl in St. George, Utah, on Jan. 26 and hopes that might lead to some sort of professional football contract.





# FWAA freshman All-America team

PHOENIX — Ohio State tailback Maurice Clarett highlights the second annual Scripps/FWAA Freshman All-America team.

Clarett was one of 10 unanimous selections on the 26-member freshman All-American team released today.

Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham was named the Scripps First-Year Coach of the Year after leading the Fighting Irish to a 10-2 mark during the regular sea-

son.

Head coaches serving their first year at a Division IA school were eligible to receive Scripps' coaching award.

A panel of 12 sportswriters representing each of the major conferences and independents nominated and selected the team and head coach at the conclusion of the regular season.

**OFFENSE**

- QB Brad Smith, Missouri
- RB Maurice Clarett, Ohio State\*
- RB T.A. McLendon, N.C. State
- WR Larry Fitzgerald, Pittsburgh\*
- WR Mike Williams, Southern Cal\*
- OL Andrew Whitworth, LSU\*
- OL Winston Justice, USC\*
- C Mike Degory, Florida
- OL Richie Incognito, Nebraska
- OL D'Brickshaw Ferguson, Virginia
- TE Heath Miller, Virginia\*

**DEFENSE**

- DL Rodrigue Wright, Texas\*
- DL Loren Howard, Northwestern
- DL Haloti Ngata, Oregon
- LB Freddie Roach, Alabama
- LB Spencer Havner, UCLA
- LB Darryl Blackstock, Virginia
- LB John Kerr, Indiana
- CB Justin Miller, Clemson\*
- CB Steve Gregory, Syracuse
- S J.J. Billingsley, Colorado
- S James Sanders, Fresno State

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

- P Greg Johnson Vanderbilt\*
- K David Abdul Pittsburgh
- PR Jeremy Bloom Colorado\*
- KR Broderick Clark Louisville

**COACH**

Tyrone Willingham, Notre Dame

## O'Toole wins Meece scholarship

TEMPE, Ariz. — Jacqueline O'Toole, a senior at Gaithersburg High School in Gaithersburg, MD., has been named the sixth winner of the Volney Meece Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded by the Football Writers Association of America and named for the late Volney Meece. Meece served 22 years as the FWAA's executive director and was the organization's president in 1971. The \$1,000 annual grant for four years. It is given to a deserving son or daughter of an FWAA member.

Jacqueline, 17, is the daughter of FWAA member Thomas O'Toole, a staff writer for *USA Today*. She has achieved an impressive 4.78 weighted grade-point average on a 4.0 scale by taking honors courses. She is a member of National Honor Society. In addition to her academic achievements, Jacqueline serves as vice president of the Gaithersburg High School senior class. She was also vice president of the junior class.

A past member of school and club swim teams, Jacqueline has volunteered as swim coach for the local Special Olympics team. She has also been a member of the varsity pom dance team the past two years.

Previous Meece Scholarship winners are: Bret Goering, Topeka, Kan.; Kelley Brooks, Denver, Colo.; James Butz, Schaumburg, Ill.; Sara Barnhart, Atlanta, Ga.; and Patrick Davis, Coventry, Conn.

## BERT McGRANE AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the FWAA's Bert McGrane award for outstanding service to the organization and the writing profession:

- 1974 Charley Johnson, *Minneapolis Star*
- 1975 Wilfrid Smith, *Chicago Tribune*
- 1976 Paul Zimmerman, *Los Angeles Times*
- 1977 Dick Cullum, *Minneapolis Tribune*
- 1978 Wilbur Evans, *Cotton Bowl Athletic Association*
- 1979 Tom Siler, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*
- 1980 Maury White, *Des Moines Register*
- 1981 Fred Russell, *Nashville Banner*
- 1982 Furman Bisher, *Atlanta Journal*
- 1983 John Mooney, *Salt Lake City Tribune*
- 1984 Si Burick, *Dayton News*
- 1985 Blackie Sherrod, *The Dallas Morning News*
- 1986 Raymond Johnson, *Nashville Tennessean*
- 1987 Tim Cohane, *Look Magazine*
- 1988 Dave Campbell, *Waco Tribune-Herald*
- 1989 Jim Brock, *Cotton Bowl Athletic Association*
- 1990 Jack Hairston, *Gainesville Sun*
- 1991 Murray Olderman, *Newspaper Enterprise Association*
- 1992 Volney Meece, *The Daily Oklahoman/FWAA*
- 1993 Bob Hentzen, *Topeka Capital-Journal*
- 1994 Edgar Allen, *Nashville Banner*
- 1995 Dick Herbert, *Raleigh News & Observer/AFCA*
- 1996 Bob Hammel, *Bloomington Herald-Times*
- 1997 Bill Lumpkin, *Birmingham Post-Herald*
- 1998 Don Bryant, *University of Nebraska*
- 1999 Field Scovell, *Cotton Bowl Athletic Association*
- 2000 Jimmie McDowell, *All-American Football Foundation*
- 2001 Edwin Pope, *Miami Herald*
- 2002 Orville Henry, *Morning News of Northwest Arkansas*
- 2003 Dan Foster, *Greenville News*



# Best Writing Contest Rules, Procedures

## Categories

Game/Event  
Game/Event (Loose Deadline)  
Feature Story/Profile  
Enterprise/Investigative  
Commentary/Analysis

You can begin sending entries now. You **MUST BE** an FWAA member. If you are not a member, you can submit \$40 and join the organization and then enter the contest.

1. Deadline: June 15, 2003
2. Limit: **One (1) article** per category.
3. Entries had to appear in print or on-line between Feb. 1, 2002, and Jan. 31, 2003.
4. Entries must be sent electronically via e-mail to

[contest@sportswriters.net](mailto:contest@sportswriters.net). Send MS Word or text files only. Do not send HTML files or links to stories on the Internet or electronic libraries because links sometimes become inactive. Make your entry easy to read by taking out unnecessary carriage returns at the ends of lines, which can give your entry an odd look when opened in the judge's word processing program.

5. At the top of each entry, this information should be included: publication (on-line service), writer(s), category, date of publication, plus an email address and telephone number for the writer(s) of the entry. The entries will be sorted and stripped of identifying information and forwarded to the judge(s).

6. Only entries sent electronically will be accepted.



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