



Oklahoma ranked atop FWAA pre-season poll



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DALLAS — The Oklahoma Sooners are favorites to win the Grantland Rice Trophy in the Football Writers Association of America's annual pre-season poll.

Oklahoma, which won the Big 12 title last season, would snap a string of five straight Southeastern Conference teams to win the FWAA trophy if the FWAA voters are accurate. Auburn won the trophy last season, Alabama in 2009, Florida in 2008 and 2006, and LSU in 2007.

The Grantland Rice Trophy has been awarded to the top team in college football by the FWAA since 1954. Oklahoma last won the Grantland Rice Trophy in 2000. The Sooners have claimed the FWAA Trophy a total of five times (1955, 1956, 1975, 1985 and 2000).

The Sooners garnered seven first-place votes to Alabama's five. LSU, Stanford and South Carolina each received one first-place vote. Oklahoma's 229 points easily outdistanced second-place Alabama, which was followed by Oregon, Boise State and LSU. Oregon and LSU will face each other in their season opener on Sept. 3 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Rounding out the Top 10 are Florida State, Stanford, Nebraska, Virginia Tech and Texas A&M. The SEC had the most teams in the Super 16 with four (Alabama, LSU, Arkansas and South Carolina). The Big 12 had the next most with three. No other conference had more than two teams in the Super 16.

SUPER 16 POLL

First-place votes in parentheses

1	Oklahoma (7)	229
2	Alabama (5)	213
3	Oregon	196
4	Boise State	175
5	LSU (1)	174
6	Florida State	162
7	Stanford (1)	136
8	Nebraska	107
9	Virginia Tech	106
10	Texas A&M	91
11	Oklahoma State	84
12	Arkansas	62
13	Notre Dame	58
14	Wisconsin	50
15	South Carolina (1)	49
16	TCU	37

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President's column



**TOMMY
HICKS**

The conversation continues on many fronts for the FWAA as we all approach the busiest time in our schedules. Communication is good, regardless of the avenue, and there has been no lack of communication in recent weeks. From phone calls

to in-person discussions to e-mail correspondence to attendance and participation at various functions, the task of keeping our organization's issues in play continues to be a priority.

In recent weeks, I have had the opportunity to experience first-hand some of the ways in which we have a voice for our concerns, as well as the vantage point of seeing how others view the FWAA and the work we are trying to accomplish. From the CoSIDA convention in Marco Island, Fla., where we had participation on a pair of panels, to the College Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival in South Bend, Ind., where we had the chance to honor Bert McGrane Award winner Beano Cook as well as meet with others in the college football community, the conversation continues.

The subjects of media access and the effects of social media were the hottest topics of the CoSIDA convention that involved the FWAA's participation. With viewpoints from several directions, the panels proved interesting and informative. They also served to keep issues that are of importance to the FWAA membership in the forefront, before the groups most affected by the decisions regarding both issues.

The College Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival offered the opportunity to meet with people in a relaxed atmosphere. It also provided the chance to visit with our friends at the National Football Foundation and to honor Cook, a long-time member of the FWAA, for his

contributions and work over the years. Although Beano wasn't able to attend the banquet, a video of the McGrane Award presentation by friend and former FWAA president Ivan Maisel was shown during the banquet and was a big hit. Having Beano accept his award on video, and thus on a screen, was fitting in many ways; that's the way most college football fans have been introduced to Beano over the past several years.

The presentation also allowed us the opportunity, as do many of the awards in which we are involved, to get the FWAA name in front of the public and let them know of our organization's strength and numbers, its purpose and our passion for the game we cover. It has been somewhat surprising the support and interest that has come from those opportunities.

Recently, the FWAA was asked to look into a matter of access in regard to a selective media opportunity involving Ohio State and its response to NCAA actions. Some Ohio State officials provided interview access to only a select few media members, leaving others, including some beat writers, without that access and thus without key information with which to do their jobs. The matter was brought to the attention of the FWAA. Ethics committee chairman Ron Higgins, a staunch advocate for media access and a former FWAA president, and executive director Steve Richardson produced a response to Ohio State's Gene Smith, seeking a reply as to why some reporters, including FWAA members, were denied access to school officials regarding such an important issue.

Again, our membership of about 1,200 provides us with a loud voice and hopefully growing strength. The history of this organization doesn't simply provide us with a strong and proud past; it is also a basis for our present and a building block for our future. The greater the membership, the greater that foundation.

If there is an issue you feel should be brought to the organization's attention, feel free to contact me (thixx25@aol.com or 251-610-7808), Steve Richardson or others with the FWAA. Thanks again for your support and your membership.

FWAA recognizes Super 11 sports information departments

The Football Writers Association of America has announced its second Super 11 field of sports information departments that were deemed the best in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision during the 2010 season.

Georgia, Northwestern, Utah, Clemson, Colorado, Rutgers, Troy, Navy, Tulsa, Kentucky and Southern California are the winners from the past season. Five are repeaters from 2009: Georgia, Utah, Clemson, Rutgers and Southern California.

Since the FWAA's inception in 1941, one of the organization's charges is to provide better working conditions for writers across the country. Over the years, the FWAA has given out press box commendations to deserving schools. The FWAA also has conducted ratings of sports information departments.

"There are many outstanding sports information departments across college football," said Tim Griffin, Super 11 Committee chairman and the FWAA's immediate past president. "But we felt it was very important to honor the best of the best, including some who have been honored for two straight years who are consistently exemplary above and beyond the call of duty. We plan to continue this honor in upcoming years to recognize the departments that understand the demands of our jobs and continually do what they can to help us."

Criteria in determining the winners not only included how press boxes/operations were run, but the quality and timeliness of information provided, the amount of information presented and appropriately updated on websites, personal responsiveness to media inquires as well as the accessibility of players, head and assistant coaches. The ratings also took into consideration the departments that went the extra mile in servicing the media.

The Super 11 Committee received input from other FWAA members covering college football during a period from Feb. 1, 2010 through Jan. 31, 2011.

"The FWAA is proud to honor the fine work produced on a consistent basis by the Super 11," said Tommy Hicks, 2011 FWAA President. "Led by past president Tim Griffin, our organization seeks to recognize the sports information offices, big and small, that go about daily tasks with professionalism as well as a personal touch. Each of the offices included in the Super 11 has established itself among the best in the country."

In January, 2009, at its board meeting, the FWAA formed the first Super 11 Committee. Members of the 2010 committee are: Tim Griffin, *San Antonio Express-News* (chairman); Dennis Dodd, *cbssports.com*; Herb Gould, *Chicaggo Sun-Times*; George Schroeder, *Eugene*

Register-Guard; Mark Blaudschun, *Boston Globe*; Lenn Robbins, *New York Post*; Chad Cripe, *Idaho Statesman*; Kate Hairopoulos, *The Dallas Morning News*; Matt Markey, *Toledo Blade*; Ted Miller, *espn.com*; and Randy Rosetta, *Baton Rouge Advocate*.

FWAA RECOMMENDED PRESS POLICIES

1. Players (eligible and playing in varsity games) who are requested should be available to media during Mondays and Tuesdays of Game Week (minimum).

2. Defensive Coordinator AND Offensive Coordinator available to media once a week during season (minimum) and once a month during off. season (minimum).

3. Freshmen who play should be available to media.

4. If former players and/or boosters are allowed into scrimmages or practices, the media should not be excluded from those same scrimmages or practices.

5. Coaches should be available to media on their campuses at least once a week during the season for no less than 30 minutes. They also should be made available after practice each day for updates on the team. Weekly telephonic press conferences do not count toward these times.

6. A no cheering in the press box statement should be made in the press box before the beginning of each half of play. In addition, SIDS should make every attempt to keep the press box quiet and escort rowdy individuals to the exits.

7. Requests for quotes for key players injured in a game should be granted by the home SID and his staff.

8. FWAA member(s) should help the Home and Visiting SID with requests for players to be interviewed after the game. Any player who has played (and is not injured) and is not made available for interviews will be so noted by FWAA observers. The FWAA recommends open locker rooms after games, but short of this, any player who plays in a game and is not injured, upon request, should be made available to the media.

9. FWAA pool reporter or a reputable news person should be designated by the home SID before every game in case there is an officiating controversy during the game.

10. Boosters should not be present at post-game news conferences involving the media, coaches and players. Interruptions or noise will be duly noted by the FWAA observer. Press boxes where non-media make noise will also be noted.

Offensive linemen dominate Watch List for Outland Trophy

The prestigious 2011 Outland Trophy Watch List has been released with a galaxy of potential line stars who could win the award that goes to the best interior lineman in college football.

Every Division I Bowl Subdivision conference, along with independents BYU and Notre Dame, had at least one player on the annual list, which includes only tackles, guards and centers on both sides of the ball.

Of the 65 players on the watch list, 16 defensive tackles occupied spots. The rest of the linemen were on offense.

The Outland Trophy winner is chosen from three finalists who are part of the FWAAs All-America Team.

The FWAAs All-America Committee, after receiving voting input from the entire membership, selects the 25-man team and eventually the three Outland finalists to be named on Nov. 21. Committee members, by individual ballot, then select the winner.

The Outland Trophy, presented annually since 1946, is the third oldest award in major college football. The

winner of the 66th Outland Trophy, named after the late John Outland, an All-America lineman at Penn and Kansas in the 1890s, will be announced on The Home Depot College Football Awards on Dec. 8 on ESPN.

The Outland Trophy presentation banquet, sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee, will be held on Jan. 12, 2012, in Omaha, Neb.



Ohio State center Mike Brewster was an FWAAs All-American in 2010.

Outland Trophy Watch List

Levy Adcock, Oklahoma State, OT
 Jeff Allen, Illinois, OT
 Don Barclay, West Virginia, OT
 Chris Barker, Nevada, G
 Kelvin Beachum, SMU, OT
 Tony Bergstrom, Utah, OT
 Mike Brewster, Ohio State, C
 James Brown, Troy, OT
 Jared Crick, Nebraska, DT
 Andrew Datko, Florida State, OT
 David DeCastro, Stanford, G
 Blake DeChristopher, Virginia Tech, OT
 Lonnie Edwards, Texas Tech, G
 Joel Foreman, Michigan State, G
 Marcus Forston, Miami, DT
 Dalton Freeman, Clemson, C
 Garth Gerhart, Arizona State, C
 Cordy Glenn, Georgia, OT
 Ben Habern, Oklahoma, C
 Braden Hansen, BYU, G
 Logan Harrell, Fresno State, DT
 Dan Hoch, Missouri, OT

Khaled Holmes, USC, C
 Jaye Howard, Florida, DT
 Malik Jackson, Tennessee, DT
 Chris Jacobson, Pittsburgh, G
 T.J. Johnson, South Carolina, C
 Barrett Jones, Alabama, G
 Ben Jones, Georgia, C
 Matt Kalil, USC, OT
 Jonathan Martin, Stanford, OT
 Mike Martin, Michigan, DT
 Zack Martin, Notre Dame, OT
 Ryan Miller, Colorado, G
 David Molk, Michigan, C
 Al Netter, Northwestern, OT
 Lucas Nix, Pittsburgh, OT
 Xavier Nixon, Florida, OT
 Trevor Olson, Northern Illinois, OT
 Kelechi Osemele, Iowa State, OT
 Moe Petrus, Connecticut, C
 Ken Plue, Purdue, G
 Dontari Poe, Memphis, DT
 Nate Potter, Boise State, OT

Tydreke Powell, North Carolina, DT
 Kheeston Randall, Texas, DT
 Riley Reiff, Iowa, OT
 Kendall Reyes, Connecticut, DT
 Matt Reynolds, BYU, OT
 Mitchell Schwartz, California, OT
 Kawann Short, Purdue, DT
 Bradley Sowell, Ole Miss, OT
 Akeem Spence, Illinois, DT
 Alameda Ta'amu, Washington, DT
 Lane Taylor, Oklahoma State, G
 Chris Thompson, Houston, C
 Omoregie Uzzi, Georgia Tech, G
 William Vlachos, Alabama, C
 Larry Warford, Kentucky, G
 Brandon Washington, Miami, G
 Rokeyious Watkins, So. Carolina, OT
 Billy Winn, Boise State, DT
 Derek Wolfe, Cincinnati, DT
 Jerel Worthy, Michigan State, DT
 Kevin Zeitler, Wisconsin, G

By conference: Big Ten 13, SEC 11, Pac-12 9, ACC 7, Big 12 7, Big East 6, Conference USA 3, Independents 3, Mountain West 2, WAC 2, MAC 1, Sun Belt 1. Tackles, guards and centers are eligible for consideration. Candidates may be added or removed during the season.

Eighty-seven players nominated for 2011 Bronko Nagurski Award

The 2011 Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List features the best and brightest of the upcoming season's defensive players.

One of 87 players on the list most likely will receive the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which is awarded annually to the nation's best defensive player by the Football Writers Association of America and the Charlotte Touchdown Club. Every NCAA Division I Bowl Subdivision conference and Notre Dame are represented on the list, which is pretty evenly divided among linemen, linebackers and defensive backs.

Players may be added or deleted from the Bronko Nagurski Watch List during the season. For the 11th straight season, the FWAA will choose a National Defen-

sive Player of the Week. If that player is not on the Watch List, he automatically will be added. The FWAA and the Charlotte Touchdown Club will announce five finalists for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy on Nov. 17.

The Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner is chosen from five finalists who are part of the FWAA All-America Team. The FWAA All-America Committee, after receiving voting input from the entire membership, selects the 25-man team and eventually the Bronko Nagurski finalists. Committee members, by individual ballot, then select the winner.

The winner will be revealed at the annual Bronko Nagurski Trophy Banquet on Dec. 12 at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C.

Bronko Nagurski Watch List

Tackles (32)

Jared Crick, Nebraska
 Marcus Forston, Miami
 Logan Harrell, Fresno State
 Jaye Howard, Florida
 Malik Jackson, Tennessee
 Mike Martin, Michigan
 Dontari Poe, Memphis
 Tydreke Powell, North Carolina
 Kheeston Randall, Texas
 Kendall Reyes, Connecticut
 Kawann Short, Purdue
 Akeem Spence, Illinois
 Alameda Ta'amu, Washington
 Billy Winn, Boise State
 Derek Wolfe, Cincinnati
 Jerel Worthy, Michigan State
 Jake Bequette, Arkansas
 Vince Browne, Northwestern
 Quinton Coples, North Carolina
 Fletcher Cox, Mississippi State
 Vinny Curry, Marshall
 Bruce Irvin, West Virginia
 Brandon Jenkins, Florida State
 Brandon Lindsey, Pittsburgh
 Brad Madison, Missouri
 Jonathan Massaquoi, Troy
 Roosevelt Nix, Kent State
 Donte Paige-Moss, North Carolina
 Adrian Robinson, Temple
 Devin Taylor, South Carolina
 Taylor Thompson, SMU

Nathan Williams, Ohio State

Linebackers (31)

Nigel Bradham, Florida State
 Tanner Brock, TCU
 Arthur Brown, Kansas State
 Zach Brown, North Carolina
 Vontaze Burfict, Arizona State
 Miles Burris, San Diego State
 Tank Carder, TCU
 Lavonte David, Nebraska
 Jerry Franklin, Arkansas
 Zaviar Gooden, Missouri
 Dont'a Hightower, Alabama
 James-Michael Johnson, Nevada
 Mychal Kendricks, California
 Jake Knott, Iowa State
 Luke Kuechly, Boston College
 Travis Lewis, Oklahoma
 Chris Marve, Vanderbilt
 Michael Mauti, Penn State
 Keenan Robinson, Texas
 J.K. Schaffer, Cincinnati
 Mychal Sisson, Colorado State
 Shayne Skov, Stanford
 Sean Spence, Miami
 Kenny Tate, Maryland
 Bruce Taylor, Virginia Tech
 Manti Te'o, Notre Dame
 Danny Trevathan, Kentucky
 Courtney Upshaw, Alabama
 Bobby Wagner, Utah State
 Brian Wagner, Akron

Korey Williams, Southern Miss

Cornerbacks (14)

Brandon Boykin, Georgia
 Morris Claiborne, LSU
 Alfonzo Dennard, Nebraska
 Stephon Gilmore, South Carolina
 Cliff Harris, Oregon
 Casey Hayward, Vanderbilt
 Jayron Hosley, Virginia Tech
 Coryell Judie, Texas A&M
 Dre Kirkpatrick, Alabama
 Chase Minnifield, Virginia
 Shaun Prater, Iowa
 Xavier Rhodes, Florida State
 Josh Robinson, UCF
 Keith Tandy, West Virginia
Safeties (10)
 Ray-Ray Armstrong, Miami
 Mark Barron, Alabama
 Tony Dye, UCLA
 Delano Howell, Stanford
 Robert Lester, Alabama
 Markelle Martin, Oklahoma State
 T.J. McDonald, USC
 Charles Mitchell, Mississippi State
 Harrison Smith, Notre Dame
 Prentiss Waggner, Tennessee
By conference: SEC 19, ACC 14, Big Ten 10, Big 12 9, Pac-12 9, Big East 6, Conference USA 5, Mountain West 5, Independents 3, MAC 3, WAC 3, Sun Belt 1.

Jack Youngblood to receive Nagurski Legends Award

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Touchdown Club, in conjunction with the Football Writers Association of America, proudly announce Jack Youngblood as recipient of the 2011 Bronko Nagurski Legends Award, which recognizes the “best of the best” of defensive football players from the past 40 years.

The award will be presented formally during the annual Bronko Nagurski Trophy Awards Banquet on December 12th at The Westin Hotel.

After a distinguished college career at The University of Florida, Youngblood was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams as the 20th player in the first round in the 1971 draft. During his 14-season playing career, Youngblood earned numerous awards and a reputation for durability. Youngblood was three-time the winner of Most Valuable Player for the Rams and significantly contributed to the team’s trip to the 1980 Super Bowl against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Youngblood played in over 200 games for the Rams while missing only one game.

“My greatest thrill from football definitely came after playing five championship games and winning the NFC championship that put us in the Super Bowl. It was awesome, I was always wondering when it was our time and when we would stop being the bridesmaids,” said Youngblood.

Youngblood has stayed active with football since his retirement in 1985 and is still working with the league and players association, helping players with traumatic brain injury. When asked what motivates Youngblood to stay so involved in charitable organizations, he simply says it is one of his callings. “When much is given, much is required,” he said.

“I was very surprised when I found out I was chosen as the winner of the Bronko Nagurski Legends Award. There are so many qualified players out there who deserve this award too. It really makes you smile,” Youngblood said.

Youngblood joins a growing list of distinguished Bronko Legends Award winners including Bubba Smith and Alan Page in 2007, Ted Hendricks in 2008, Roger Wehrli in 2009 and Mike McCoy in 2010.

The Bronko Nagurski Legends Award, sponsored by Florida East Coast Railway, was initially presented in 2007 to players from the 1966 season, the first season the FWAA All-American Teams were separated into defense and offense.

“Jack Youngblood certainly was a terrific defensive player both in college and the professional ranks,” said



After a college career at Florida, Jack Youngblood played 14 seasons in the NFL.

Steve Richardson, executive director of the FWAA. “The FWAA felt he was worthy of All-America status during his college playing days at Florida, and he certainly went on to distinguish himself in the NFL. It is an honor to have a player of his caliber at the Bronko Nagurski banquet in Charlotte. The Legends Award has added an important component to the Bronko Nagurski Award, recognizing those players who were the best on the defensive side of the ball before this award was inaugurated in 1993.”

Added James R. Hertwig, President of Florida East Coast Railway: “Jack Youngblood’s contributions as a football player and his numerous charitable activities make him an ideal recipient for this year’s Bronko Nagurski Legends Award.”