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# FWAA All-America team will hit airwaves on ABC

The Football Writers Association of America's 2004 All-America team will be featured on ABC Television on Dec. 11. It is the first national television coverage for the team since 1990.

Cingular is sponsoring the show, which will highlight the 61<sup>st</sup> FWAA All-America team and the sponsor's Player of the Year. The show will be taped at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 10.

For the third straight year, the 25-man FWAA All-American team will be honored at a banquet in Orlando sponsored by Florida Citrus Sports. The banquet will follow the taping of the show.

Selection of the team will begin in November, when ballots are e-mailed to all FWAA members.

A sample ballot appears on Page 4 of *The Fifth Down*. Separate defensive and offensive ballots will be e-mailed for the first time. In the past, one ballot was sent. This will ensure later voting for the offense.

Two conference calls by the All-America committee in November determine the final team.

The FWAA All-America team, first published in 1944, is the second oldest continuously published team in major-college football.

This year the FWAA celebrated 60 years of All-America teams by placing Syracuse halfback Ernie Davis (FWAA All-American in 1961), on its membership directory cover.

The FWAA team has a rich tradition and has been the focal of magazine articles and television specials for more than a half century.

LOOK Magazine published the team from 1946 to 1970 and for many years brought the players of the team and many writers to New York City, where the team appeared on national television shows of Steve Allen,

Perry Como, Bob Hope and others.

After LOOK folded, the team appeared on syndicated television shows by NCAA Films/Productions for a number of years with different sponsors. And from 1983 to 1990 the team was highlighted on either ABC or ESPN.

Below is the list of the FWAA members on the All-America selection committee. When you receive your e-mail ballots, merely e-mail the attachment back to the person in your conference's or affiliation's region.

## FWAA ALL-AMERICA COMMITTEE

- ▶ **Rich Kaipust**, *Omaha World-Herald*  
Big 12, [rich.kaipust@owh.com](mailto:rich.kaipust@owh.com)
  - ▶ **Chip Scoggins**, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*  
Big Ten, MAC, [ascoggins@startribune.com](mailto:ascoggins@startribune.com)
  - ▶ **Bob Thomas**, *Florida Times-Union*  
ACC, [bob.thomas@jacksonville.com](mailto:bob.thomas@jacksonville.com)
  - ▶ **Charles Durrenberger**, *Arizona Daily Star*  
Pac-10, [texazcharlie@aol.com](mailto:texazcharlie@aol.com)
  - ▶ **Joe Person**, *The State*  
SEC, Sun Belt, [jperson@thestate.com](mailto:jperson@thestate.com)
  - ▶ **Steve Kiggins**, *Casper Star-Tribune*  
Mountain West, [kiggins@trib.com](mailto:kiggins@trib.com)
  - ▶ **Todd Jones**, *Columbus Dispatch*  
Conference USA, [tjones@dispatch.com](mailto:tjones@dispatch.com)
  - ▶ **Chad Hartley**, *Reno Gazette Journal*  
WAC, [chartley@rgj.com](mailto:chartley@rgj.com)
  - ▶ **Jack Bogaczyk**, *Charleston Daily Mail*  
Big East, [jackb@dailymail.com](mailto:jackb@dailymail.com)
- There are additional national voters from FWAA and ABC Properties

- President  
**Dick Weiss**  
*New York Daily News*
- First Vice President  
**Alan Schmadtke**  
*Orlando Sentinel*
- Second Vice President  
**Dennis Dodd**  
*CBS SportsLine*
- Executive Director  
**Steve Richardson**  
*Dallas Morning News*
- 2004 Directors**  
**Mark Anderson**  
*Las Vegas Review & Journal*
- Jack Bogaczyk**  
*Charleston Daily Mail*
- Charles Durrenberger**  
*Arizona Daily Star*
- Rob Daniels**  
*Greensboro News & Record*
- Chad Hartley**  
*Reno Gazette Journal*
- Steve Henson**  
*Los Angeles Times*
- Todd Jones**  
*Columbus Dispatch*
- Rich Kaipust**  
*Omaha World-Herald*
- Steve Kiggins**  
*Casper Star-Tribune*
- Malcolm Moran**  
*USA Today*
- Joseph Person**  
*The State (S.C.)*
- Michael Pointer**  
*Indianapolis Star*
- George Schroeder**  
*Daily Oklahoman*
- Chip Scoggins**  
*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*
- Jeff Shain**  
*Miami Herald*
- Bob Thomas**  
*Florida Times-Union*
- Keith Whitmire**  
*Dallas Morning News*
- Ex-officio  
**Bob Burda**  
*Big 12/BCS liaison*  
**Jon Jackson**  
*Duke/CoSIDA*

# President's column



**DICK WEISS**

I have developed a huge pet peeve this season. I find myself constantly checking my watch to see how long the national college football games I cover last.

In early October, I went to South Bend for the Notre Dame-Purdue game, which started on NBC at 2:30 p.m. EDT. It finished at 6:24 that

evening. That's three hours and 54 minutes, which doesn't do much for your sanity if you have a 7:30 or 8 p.m. deadline for an edition on the East Coast.

Fortunately, Purdue had a convincing lead and Boilermaker quarterback Kyle Orton only attempted one pass in the fourth quarter. Otherwise, there's no telling when we would have gotten to the locker room.

Night football can be even tougher.

The Miami-Florida State game, because of Hurricane Frances, was rescheduled from Labor Day night to the following Friday night for a prime-time ABC national telecast. The game started at 8 p.m. and ended just this side of midnight because of overtime.

Forget about going down to the field or the locker room for postgame material. You'd better hope the sound system works and they pipe the winning coach's press conference into the press box or that someone in the SID department can pick up some pithy player quotes. A trip to the locker room would cause you to miss that 12:30 a.m. deadline.

The point is this: College football has become an interminable marathon with more than 180 plays (Rice just ran 100 plays itself during a 70-63 regulation loss to San Jose State earlier this season). And constant clock stoppages in these games are creating more and more hardships for FWAA members who are trying to file on deadline and still do their jobs effectively. What used to be thoughtful prose has turned into a mad scribble.

Make sure you get the score right and have the correct spelling of the players' last names, then hope what appears in print the next day is semi-readable.

I remember when college football games used to take less than three hours to play. Of course, that was before the glut of games on ESPN and cable.

*USA Today* recently did a well-researched story on the time it took to complete a 60-minute game. The average length of TV games was 3 hours, 26 minutes. The average length of non-TV games was 3:08. In 2003, the average length for TV games in the major conferences was 3:21, up seven minutes from the previous year. The average in those leagues for non-TV games was 3:08.

The average NFL game, by contrast, is 3:06. The NFL has been able to speed up its games several ways. It starts a 40-second play clock from the end of the previous play. And, with the exception of the last two minutes of the first half and last five minutes of the second half, the NFL restarts the game clock on a referee's signal after the player goes out of bounds and does not wait until the next play begins. The NFL keeps the clock running after first downs are achieved.

With the help of those subtle timing differences, the NFL has been able to compartmentalize its Sunday network games into two three-hour windows from 1 to 4 and 4 to 7 Eastern time. And we all know the NFL has higher Nielsen ratings than the college game.

I realize the NFL has captured the imagination of the American public on Sunday afternoons. But college football has a lot to offer with its color, pageantry and tradition on Saturdays. I'm just not sure if the NCAA — which once fought to limit a school's TV exposures because it thought TV would hurt attendance — is making the best use of its opportunity. It may be time to follow the NFL and change the rules to speed up the game.

It may limit the number of plays a coach can call, but given that college football has become a more passing-oriented game, it could at least keep the games from becoming four-hour deadline disasters.

# Hallmark of a career — respect

*Editor's note: Marion Dunn, FWAA president in 1989, passed away on Sept. 21, 2004 in Salt Lake City at the age of 81.*

By **DICK HARMON**

*Deseret Morning News*

His children buried him Monday.

Marion Dunn is gone but not forgotten.

He's the man who got me to move over to writing sports after starting my career as a police reporter. He introduced me to the matrix that is sports journalism. He gave me a break, and I'll never forget it.

Marion Dunn started his career at the Deseret News before working at the Salt Lake Tribune. Later, he retired as the sports editor of The Provo Daily Herald after covering Utah State and BYU.

He was a gentleman who believed in the positive, gambled and counted on the best people offered, and accentuated winners instead of losers. In short, he was a kind, humble guy who never made an enemy.

A World War II veteran, Dunn returned from battle determined he'd rise above mud and blood and look at hope and triumph over doom and gloom.

Ironically, this sports writing profession the past 25 years migrated the opposite direction. Fueled by bomb throwers on talk radio and acid commentary on all-sports TV channels, America's obsession with sports is highlighted with "experts" breaking down games, players and coaches with post-game autopsies and acid-laced analysis.

That was never Marion Dunn, who believed his job had transcended the mentality of Roman fanatics in the coliseum, who gave a thumbs up or down for the death of their gladiators.

Sports writing has transformed into the art of being clever, sarcastic and inflammatory, many times at the expense of others.

This was never done by Dunn.

Pressured to be part of "entertainment" packages in a competitive sports world, this business has evolved/regressed. And with the advent of the Internet, it's taken on a whole new life, where contributors on message boards are now self-proclaimed expert commentators with a take.

Marion Dunn, however, was the antithesis of scenes

we've seen in sports. The one where quarterback Jim Everett tipped over a table trying to get to sportscaster Jim Rome. Or where San Diego Chargers quarterback Ryan Leaf screams at a reporter, "Knock it off," a scene in which Leaf had to be restrained from attacking the man.

Marion Dunn had one rule: to respect. He kept it simple.

I remember one morning, the day after working a late desk shift as editor, Marion wanted to talk to me about a careless mistake I had made with his column the night before. As he began explaining the error, I was horrified at what had happened.

In those days, before computer pagination and after the old days of setting lead type, we had photo typesetting equipment that would spit out our stories on film. This would then be cut and trimmed and placed through a wax machine so it could be cut and pasted on a grid sheet, then burned on a plate for the press.

A composing room person had cut Marion's column in half — equal legs of 15 or so inches for a two-column layout. When those two legs were pasted, the legs of type were reversed, so the first part of the column, or the beginning, was actually the middle. I had missed the error and it ran.

As any desk guy knows, when deadlines hit, and prep scores and stories are exploding around like bullets, it's a time for caution because the adrenaline rush is on redline. I'd failed that night.

Marion had every right to can me right there. It was a terrible mistake, and it was my job to catch it and fix it. I had let him down.

Even more serious, I had made him look bad because it had his name and photo on the column.

Marion, in his gentle way, just pointed out the error and encouraged a better effort out of me.

When I first met Marion, he reminded me of George Reeves, who played Clark Kent and Superman in the 1950s TV series "The Adventures of Superman." He had big rimmed glasses, always combed his hair, dressed clean and neat and was a newspaper reporter.

That's how I'll always remember him, now.

My memories, they're simple. I respect Marion Dunn in a day and age respect is often napped in this business.



Marion Dunn

# FWAA ALL-AMERICA BALLOT

OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
Position	Player	School	Position	Player	School
Wide receiver			End		
Wide receiver			Tackle		
Lineman			Tackle		
Lineman			End		
Center			Linebacker		
Lineman			Linebacker		
Lineman			Linebacker		
Tight end			Back		
Running back			Back		
Running back			Back		
Quarterback			Back		
Place kicker			Punter		
Kick returner					



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