

It's award season for FWAA, time to meet at Orange Bowl

Presenting awards is what the Football Writers Association of America does best in December and January, including during the annual meeting at the FedEx Orange Bowl on Jan. 3-5.

The FWAA awards season kicked off on Dec. 6 when Texas senior linebacker Derrick Johnson became the first Longhorn to win the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which the FWAA awards to the best defensive player in college football.

Johnson received the trophy at a gala banquet at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C., where a sellout crowd of 850 attended and Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops gave the keynote address.

Next up was the presentation of the FWAA's Outland Trophy on the ESPN College Football Awards Show on Dec. 9 from Disney World. Oklahoma's senior offensive tackle Jammal Brown became the fifth Sooner to win the award, which is given to the best lineman in college football on either side of the ball.

For the first time in 15 years, the 25-man FWAA All-America Team (Pages 4-5) was announced on television, during a one-hour ABC special on Dec. 11. The team was introduced to the public the previous evening at a banquet, which was sponsored by Florida Citrus Sports at Disney/MGM Sound Stage.

Six finalists for the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award were announced on Dec. 6. They appear on Page 3. On-line voting by the entire FWAA membership took place from Dec.

6-15. The winner will be announced during the broadcast of the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1 and honored at an event on his campus next fall.

The FWAA's annual meeting will be Jan. 3-5 at the Marriott Marina Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in conjunction with the Bowl Championship Series 1-2 game.

The FWAA Board meeting will be the afternoon of Jan. 3. And the awards breakfast and meeting the next morning at the media hotel. Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg, chairman of the BCS, will be in attendance and answer media questions at the breakfast.

The FWAA will continue to sponsor The Courage Award, along with *ESPN The Magazine*. The winner for 2004 will be honored at the awards breakfast along with the Scripts FWAA Freshman All-America team.

The FWAA will also recognize winners of the Best Writing Contest and reveal the name of the Volney Meece Scholarship winner during the breakfast.

The presentation of the Grantland Rice Super 16 Trophy is tentatively scheduled for the morning of Jan. 5 at the media hotel. The winner will be the FWAA's national champion as selected by 16 FWAA members who vote in the weekly poll.

On Jan. 13, the Outland Trophy will be presented during a banquet sponsored by the Omaha Sports Committee and First Data Corporation in Omaha.



December 2004

Vol. 42, No. 5

Inside this issue:

President' Dick Weiss' column 2

Six named finalists for Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award 3



FWAA All-America Team 4-5

Oklahoma's Jammal Brown wins Outland Trophy 6

Texas' Derrick Johnson wins Nagurski Trophy 7

- 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

It's post season awards time, and we see the folks over at the Doak Walker Award, who give out the trophy for the nation's best running back, can't seem to stay out of controversy. Remember, this is the same group that presented the Doak to Byron Hanspard of Texas Tech in 1996, only to find

out later he hadn't gone to class that semester.

A month ago, the board of directors of the SMU Athletic Forum decided to change the rules in mid-season when it voted to break with tradition and allow freshmen to compete, even though this had been an award given to an upper-classman.

The idea, of course, was to include Oklahoma's sensational freshman tailback Adrian Peterson, who has been among the leading candidates for the Heisman Trophy, on the Doak Walker Award semifinalist list. We're betting they never counted on a backlash from the University of Texas, which had a worthy candidate in senior running back Cedric Benson; or the Dallas media, who felt the group had deliberately excluded North Texas freshman running back Jamario Thomas. He actually had better regular-season numbers than Peterson.

Benson eventually won the award. But he was excluded from consideration when he was a freshman, when he may well have won it in 2001. In his column, Kevin Blackstone of *The Dallas Morning News* criticized the group's knee jerk reaction when it added Peterson and left out Thomas. And several key Doak Walker Award voters from the FWAA are talking about resigning. Count me among them.

Hopefully, no one is freaking out too much about the Orange Bowl's decision to make applicants for media credentials

supply their driver's license number. While this may seem like a privacy issue to some (including Associated Press legal, which is balking at the idea), it wasn't the Orange Bowl's idea, but rather the strong recommendation of Homeland Security. That organization had a representative meet with officials of the game last month. This is no different than the Super Bowl, which wants to make sure it hasn't credentialed anyone who has background issues.

Besides, wouldn't you rather be safe than sorry?

As I approach the final days of my FWAA presidency, there are still some disturbing issues I hope my successors Alan Schmadtke from the *Orlando Sentinel* and Dennis Dodd of *CBS SportsLine* will pursue in the future. First, is the issue of access, which is always a concern. Steve Richardson, our executive director and Vahe Gregorian, a good friend from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, helped us gather information on the access the media receives from the schools in the six BCS conferences. It wasn't as bad as I thought, although there were still some schools that limited access to just one day a week. That will always be unacceptable for us.

There is another disturbing issue that is creeping onto the horizon -- the idea that three schools in the Big Ten (Michigan, Michigan State and Minnesota) are charging the media to park for home games. What's next? Admission to the press box? In an era where there is growing competition between the pros and colleges for space in the papers, we wonder how schools would feel if newspapers charged the going ad rate for stories about their non-revenue sports.

A few thank yous are probably in order at this point. A huge thanks to Steve Richardson, who has done a lot to promote and market this ever-growing organization and has made us financially solvent though the sponsorship deals he has brokered for the Outland Trophy and the Nagurski Trophy and the FWAA All-

(Continued on page 8)

Eddie Robinson award down to six finalists

DALLAS — The FWAA All-America Committee has arrived at a list of six finalists for the association's Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.

The six coaches — UTEP's Mike Price, Utah's Urban Meyer, USC's Pete Carroll, Auburn's Tommy Tuberville, Cal's Jeff Tedford and Iowa's Kirk Ferentz — are on the ballot that went out to all FWAA members via e-mail in early December.

FWAA members' final vote will be revealed on January 1 during the television broadcast of the Fiesta Bowl.

The FWAA has honored a major-college coach with its Coach of the Year Award since 1957. Among the six finalists, there is only one previous winner — Mike Price, who won in 1997 when he was head coach at Washington State.

The FWAA Coaching Award is named after Robinson, a coaching legend at Grambling State University for 55 years. He has more Division I victories (408) than any other coach.

The winner of the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award will be honored at his campus before a football game next fall.

Here's a capsule look at the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year finalists:

► Price, in his first season in El Paso, led the Miners to 8-3 record and a second-place finish in the Western Athletic Conference behind Boise State. The Miners, 2-11 in 2003, are headed to the Houston Bowl after one of the great turnarounds in college football this season.

► Carroll has led USC to another Pac-10 championship. The unbeaten and No. 1-ranked Trojans will meet No. 2 Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4 for the national championship. Carroll was a coach of the year finalist last season when the Trojans won the FWAA's Grantland Rice Trophy for the national title.

► Tuberville's job status was shaky a year ago when the Tigers suffered through a five-loss season. But third-ranked Auburn, one of five unbeaten teams during the 2004 regular season, has rebounded with a dazzling 12-0 record and will play Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl.

► Ferentz' Hawkeyes (9-2) grabbed a piece of the Big 10 title on the last weekend of Big Ten season when they beat Wisconsin. Ferentz is a past Eddie Robinson finalist. The Hawkeyes are headed to the Capital One Bowl in Orlando on New Year's Day to play LSU.



Urban
Meyer
Utah



Tommy
Tuberville
Auburn



Kirk
Ferentz
Iowa



Pete
Carroll
USC



Mike
Price
UTEP



Jeff
Tedford
California

► Meyer's Utes will meet Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl after winning the Mountain West Conference title and finishing with an 11-0 record. Meyer made Utah a national power in two seasons and will head to Florida to coach the Gators after the Fiesta Bowl.

► Tedford's Golden Bears (10-1) lost only to top-ranked USC this season and have their most conference wins since 1949. They will play Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl in San Diego after nearly making the BCS.

FWAA ALL-AMERICA OFFENSE



Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Class
QB	Alex Smith	Utah	6-4	205	Jr.
RB	Adrian Peterson	Oklahoma	6-2	210	Fr.
RB	J.J. Arrington	California	5-11	210	Sr.
TE	Heath Miller	Virginia	6-5	254	Jr.
OL	Jammal Brown	Oklahoma	6-6	313	Sr.
OL	Alex Barron	Florida State	6-6	308	Sr.
OL	Greg Eslinger	Minnesota	6-3	280	Jr.
OL	David Baas	Michigan	6-5	323	Sr.
OL	Chris Kemoeatu	Utah	6-4	334	Sr.
WR	Braylon Edwards	Michigan	6-3	206	Sr.
WR	Taylor Stubblefield	Purdue	6-1	172	Sr.



Smith
Utah



Peterson
Oklahoma



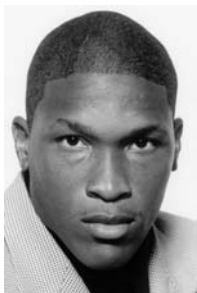
Arrington
California



Miller
Virginia



Brown
Oklahoma



Barron
Florida St.



Eslinger
Minnesota



Baas
Michigan



Kemoeatu
Utah



Edwards
Michigan



Stubblefield
Purdue

ALL-AMERICA DEFENSE, SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Wt.	Class
B	Carlos Rogers	Auburn	6-1	194	Sr.
B	Marlin Jackson	Michigan	6-1	199	Sr.
B	Ernest Shazor	Michigan	6-4	226	Jr.
B	Antrel Rolle	Miami	6-1	200	Sr.
LB	Michael Boley	Southern Miss	6-3	218	Sr.
LB	Derrick Johnson	Texas	6-4	235	Sr.
DL	Erasmus James	Wisconsin	6-4	263	Sr.
DL	Jonathan Goddard	Marshall	6-0	246	Sr.
DL	David Pollack	Georgia	6-3	276	Sr.
DL	Dan Cody	Oklahoma	6-5	270	Sr.
DL	Shaun Cody	USC	6-4	295	Sr.
P	Brandon Fields	Michigan St.	6-6	233	So.
K	Mike Nugent	Ohio State	5-10	170	Sr.
KR	Reggie Bush	USC	6-0	195	So.



Johnson
Texas



Pollack
Georgia



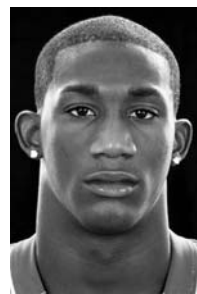
Rogers
Auburn



Jackson
Michigan



Shazor
Michigan



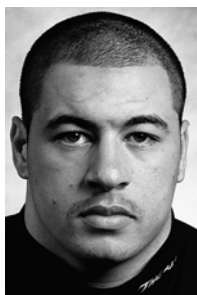
Rolle
Miami



Boley
Southern Miss



James
Wisconsin



Goddard
Marshall



Dan Cody
Oklahoma



Shaun Cody
USC



Fields
Michigan St.



Nugent
Ohio St.



Bush
USC

Brown wins OU's fifth Outland

ORLANDO, Fla. — Oklahoma's Jammal Brown became the fifth Sooner to win the Outland Trophy on Dec. 9 during the ESPN College Football Awards Show.

The Outland Trophy, which goes to the best interior lineman in the country on offense or defense, has been awarded annually by the Football Writers Association of America since 1946.

The other two 2004 Outland finalists were Florida State offensive tackle Alex Barron and Michigan offensive guard-center David Baas.

Brown, a 6-6, 312-pound senior offensive tackle, has had the duties this season of protecting or opening holes for two outstanding players, senior quarterback Jason White and freshman running back Adrian Peterson.

"I play a physical game," Brown said. "It is all a part of it. I want defensive linemen and linebackers to know I am going to be nasty."

Brown basically has been flawless in execution, allowing no sacks, no hurries and no quarterback hits. He leads the Sooners with more than 124 knockdowns.

Brown is the second player from Lawton, Okla., to win the Outland Trophy. Nebraska's Will Shields (1992) was the first player from that town to win the prestigious lineman's award.

"Jammal is as deserving of the Outland Trophy as any player we've had nominated for any award," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "His performance has been dominating. ... We sit in the film room and are amazed at what he does."

Oklahoma has had four other Outland Trophy winners. The most recent one was Greg Roberts in 1978. Other OU Outland Trophy winners are Lee Roy Selmon (1975), J.D. Roberts (1953) and Jim Weatherall (1951).

The only school with more Outland winners is Nebraska. Seven Cornhuskers have won the Outland a total of eight times. Among them is center Dave Rimington, the only double winner (1981 and 1982).



Oklahoma's Jammal Brown will officially receive his Outland Trophy on Jan. 13 in Omaha at a banquet sponsored by the Omaha Sports Committee and First Data Corp.

PAST OUTLAND WINNERS

1946 George Connor, Notre Dame	1961 Merlin Olsen, Utah State	1976 Ross Browner, Notre Dame	1991 Steve Emtman, Washington
1947 Joe Steffy, Army	1962 Bobby Bell, Minnesota	1977 Brad Shearer, Texas	1992 Will Shields, Nebraska
1948 Bill Fischer, Notre Dame	1963 Scott Appleton, Texas	1978 Greg Roberts, Oklahoma	1993 Rob Waldrop, Arizona
1949 Ed Bagdon, Michigan State	1964 Steve Delong, Tennessee	1979 Jim Ritcher, N.C. State	1994 Zach Wiegert, Nebraska
1950 Bob Gain, Kentucky	1965 Tommy Nobis, Texas	1980 Mark May, Pittsburgh	1995 Jonathan Ogden, UCLA
1951 Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma	1966 Loyd Phillips, Arkansas	1981 Dave Rimington, Nebraska	1996 Orlando Pace, Ohio State
1952 Dick Modzelewski, Maryland	1967 Ron Yary, USC	1982 Dave Rimington, Nebraska	1997 Aaron Taylor, Nebraska
1953 J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma	1968 Bill Stanfill, Georgia	1983 Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska	1998 Kris Farris, UCLA
1954 Bill Brooks, Arkansas	1969 Mike Reid, Penn State	1984 Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech	1999 Chris Samuels, Alabama
1955 Calvin Jones, Iowa	1970 Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State	1985 Mike Ruth, Boston College	2000 John Henderson, Tennessee
1956 Jim Parker, Ohio State	1971 Larry Jacobson, Nebraska	1986 Jason Buck, BYU	2001 Bryant McKinnie, Miami
1957 Alex Karras, Iowa	1972 Rich Glover, Nebraska	1987 Chad Hennings, Air Force	2002 Rien Long, Washington State
1958 Zeke Smith, Auburn	1973 John Hicks, Ohio State	1988 Tracy Rucker, Auburn	2003 Robert Gallery, Iowa
1959 Mike McGee, Duke	1974 Randy White, Maryland	1989 Mohammed Elewonibi, BYU	
1960 Tom Brown, Minnesota	1975 Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma	1990 Russell Maryland, Miami (Fla.)	

UT's Johnson wins Nagurski

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Texas senior linebacker Derrick Johnson has collected the 2004 Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which annually goes to the best defensive player in college football.

Johnson, a 6-4, 230-pound senior, is the third Big 12 Conference player in four seasons to win the honor. But he is the first Texas Longhorn to win the award, which is voted upon by the FWAAs All-America Committee and sponsored by the Charlotte Touchdown Club.

Last year, Oklahoma defensive back Derrick Strait, now with the New York Jets, claimed the Nagurski Trophy. And another Oklahoma defensive back Roy Williams, now with the Dallas Cowboys, won the award in 2001.

Johnson was named the winner during a banquet attended by 850 people on Dec. 6.

Johnson, who was Big 12 Conference Defensive Player of the Year, has 128 tackles in 11 games this season. He had 19 tackles for loss, tied an NCAA record by causing eight fumbles and intercepted one pass. He had three quarterback hurries.

"He's a special guy, *real* special," said Texas' first-year defensive coordinator Greg Robinson. "We will miss him.

"I have had nine or 10 All-Pro linebackers, and they can't handle him," added Robinson, who spent 14 years in the National Football League as an assistant coach.

Oklahoma handed UT its only loss of the 2004 regular season, 12-0 at the Cotton Bowl in early October.

And Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops was the keynote speaker at this banquet. But Johnson was superb in that game, which was Oklahoma's lowest scoring output of the regular season.

Against the Sooners, Johnson collected 16 tackles (seven unassisted), made one tackle for a three-yard loss and intercepted a pass and returned it 18 yards.

"Winning the Nagurski Trophy is a great honor," said Johnson. "It is something I have dreamed about. I wanted to be the best linebacker. But I also wanted to be the best defensive player. The guys in front of me did a lot of the blue collar work."

Auburn defensive back Carlos Rogers and defensive ends Jonathan Goddard of Marshall, Erasmus James of Wisconsin and David Pollack of Georgia were the other Bronko Nagurski Trophy 2004 finalists.

The award is given in memory of the legendary Nagurski, a former All-American lineman at Minnesota (1927-29) and star for professional football's Chicago Bears in the 1930s.

Johnson credited his coaches with helping him the award.

"Coach (Mack) Brown is a father-figure type coach, and he made it like home for us," Johnson said. "My linebacker coach Carl Reese for three years got me better every day. Coach Robinson came in from the NFL and put the icing on the cake. He has been so positive. He has been a big influence on my senior year."



Texas' Derrick Johnson tied an NCAA record by causing eight fumbles this season.

PAST NAGURSKI WINNERS

Year	Player	School
1993	Rob Waldrop	Arizona
1994	Warren Sapp	Miami (Fla.)
1995	Pat Fitzgerald	Northwestern
1996	Pat Fitzgerald	Northwestern
1997	Charles Woodson	Michigan
1998	Champ Bailey	Georgia
1999	Corey Moore	Virginia Tech
2000	Dan Morgan	Miami
2001	Roy Williams	Oklahoma
2002	Terrell Suggs	Arizona State
2003	Derrick Strait	Oklahoma

President's column (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

American team, which now appears on ABC. As you may have heard, Steve will receive the Bert McGrane Award for contributions to college football next summer. I can't think of a better choice. Alan, you're getting a great one.

I'd also like to thank the 16 members of our FWAA All-American board – nobody's ever done it better – and George Schroeder of *The Daily Oklahoman* and Charlie Fiss of the Cotton Bowl for their incredibly hard work in obtaining Marriot VIP Athletic Rate cards for our members.

Others to laud ... Mike Griffith of the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* for all his hard work on the FWAA/Scripps Freshman All-American team; Ted Gangi and Cody Monk, for helping Steve with the directory and doing an excellent job on the website, fwaa.com: Ken Stephens, who handled our writing contest and has produced *The Fifth Down*; Kelly Whiteside of *USA Today*, whose grace and dignity when she was president two years ago have helped upgrade the reception this organization receives everywhere we go; all the SIDs I've personally dealt with

this year who really went out of the way for us both before and after the game; good friends Mark Blaudschun of the *Boston Globe*, Chris Dufresne of the *Los Angeles Times*, Tony Barnhart of the *Atlanta Constitution*, Dennis Dodd of *CBS SportsLine*, Ivan Maisel of *ESPN.com*, John Junker and Shawn Schoeffler of the Fiesta Bowl, Tom Mickle of the Capital One Bowl Malcolm Moran of *USA Today*, Kelly Whiteside and Tiger for making all those road trips and people like John Henderson of the *Denver Post*, Stewart Mandel of *Sports Illustrated.com*, Wendell Barnhouse of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Lenn Robbins of the *New York Post*, Pete Thamel of the *Times*, Chuck Culpepper of *Newsday* and Joe Hornstein, our liaison with the Orange Bowl, for their advice, help and support; and, finally, my wife Joannie, who puts up with me and is definitely the smart one in our household.

Thanks again, guys.

Here's hoping everyone in the FWAA has a wonderful holiday. See you all in Lauderdale.

Dick Weiss



18652 Vista Del Sol
Dallas, TX 75287

FIRST CLASS MAIL