

SEC, Big 12 picks lead FWAA All-America team

DALLAS — The Southeastern Conference led the selection process with seven players and the Big 12 Conference had five when the 66th Football Writers Association of America team was announced on Dec. 12 on ABC Television. Nine of the 11 NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision conferences and independent Notre Dame

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were represented on the squad.

The FWAA All-America team, the second longest continuously published team in major college football, was announced on ABC Television for the sixth straight season during a one-hour show sponsored by AT&T. The FWAA has named an All-America team in some form since 1944.

Nebraska tackle Ndamukong Suh, the 2009 winner of the Outland Trophy (best interior lineman) and Bronko Nagurski Trophy (best defensive player), led a star-studded defense that had three repeat All-Americans from 2008 — TCU end Jerry Hughes, Tennessee back Eric Berry and Alabama tackle Terrence Cody. Suh is the third player to sweep both the FWAA's Outland and Nagurski awards after Arizona's Rob Waldrop in 1993 and LSU's Glenn Dorsey in 2007.

Alabama led all schools with three

players selected — Cody, linebacker Rolando McClain and running back Mark Ingram. Three other schools had two players on the team. Florida had defensive back Joe Haden and center Maurkice Pouncey. Texas had quarterback Colt McCoy, the other FWAA All-America repeater from 2008, and defensive back Earl Thomas. And Clemson had returner C.J. Spiller and defensive back DeAndre McDaniel.

The ACC (three), Big Ten (two), Pacific 10 (two) and Mountain West (two) also had multiple players on the team. Thirteen of the 25 members of the team are underclassmen, including three sophomores. McCoy is the first repeater at quarterback since BYU's Ty Detmer in 1990 and 1991.

The 25-man FWAA All-American Team was first selected three years after the organization was formed. The FWAA's inaugural team included Army's Heisman Trophy tandem of Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis and Georgia Tech's Frank Broyles, who later became Arkansas' head football coach and athletic director.

Over the years, the FWAA Team has highlighted all the game's great players in several media forums.

From 1946-1970, *LOOK Magazine* published the FWAA team and brought players and selected writers to New York City for a celebration. During that

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Executive director's column



STEVE
 RICHARDSON

I want to personally invite you to three FWAAs events as we celebrate the end of the college football season in Newport Beach, Calif., Jan. 5-8 in conjunction with the Bowl Championship Series 1-2 game at the Rose Bowl. The FWAAs holds its annual meeting at the 1-2 game each season.

Yes, the Rose Bowl is in Pasadena, but the media hotel is the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa, far south in Orange County. In fact, it's such a trek from LAX to Newport Beach, that the nearby John Wayne Airport is the destination arrival point for those media covering the game.

The first event will be the FWAAs/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year reception at the media hotel beginning at 6 p.m. local time on Jan. 5. The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl is the sponsor of the event, which will reveal the winner of the Coach of the Year as determined by the FWAAs membership. Seven coaches (See Page 3) were placed on a ballot sent to members earlier this month for a vote to determine the FWAAs/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year. All FWAAs and media members who are covering the game are invited to attend.

The award that has been presented by the FWAAs since 1957. All five coaches of unbeaten regular-season teams in the NCAA Bowl Subdivision are on the ballot. Only one of the seven coaches has won the award before: Alabama's Nick Saban, who claimed the award last year at Alabama as well as when he was coach at LSU in 2003.

Another one of the FWAAs's major events is the Annual Awards Breakfast on the morning of the title game (Thursday, Jan. 7), also at the media hotel.

At the breakfast, the FWAAs recognizes the winners and placers in the Best Writing Contest with certificates and cash prizes. First-place winners also received

personalized footballs earlier. FWAAs President George Schroeder will preside over the meeting, during which Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford and BCS coordinator Bill Hancock will answer questions about the BCS during the second half of the breakfast.

During the two-hour breakfast, which kicks off at 8:30 a.m. local time, the FWAAs will also reveal the winners of several other awards: the Bert McGrane (FWAAs Hall of Fame) and Volney Meece Scholarship, as well as the AON Insurance FWAAs Freshman All-America Team and an FedEx Orange Bowl Courage Award winner.

The other piece of FWAAs business in Newport Beach will be the awarding of the 2009 Grantland Rice Trophy to the No. 1 NCAA Bowl Subdivision team by a panel of veteran FWAAs writers. The vote will take place after the Alabama-Texas game on Jan. 7. Tentatively, the presentation of the Grantland Rice Trophy will be on the morning of Jan. 8 at the media hotel. But there are no assurances the FWAAs panel will pick the winner of the Alabama-Texas game as the No. 1 team.

I am sad to report Florida State University beat writer Steve Ellis passed away in November at the age of 54. A *Tallahassee Democrat* sports writer, Ellis covered Florida State for nearly 30 years, including 19 at the *Democrat*. The FWAAs made a gift in his memory to the Steve Ellis Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is being handled by the FSU Foundation in Tallahassee.

Democrat sports editor Jim Lamar, in a story in the paper, was quoted as saying.

"There will be Steve Ellis stories told for years to come about his work ethic. There were times my phone rang at 2 in the morning when he was going to bed and quarter 'til five when he woke up. He wouldn't even let his wife call the ambulance until he filed his final story for the *Democrat*. ... Even from his hospital bed, he wanted to update me on what his sources were telling him. I know I will never work with anyone as passionate or as relentless as Steve Ellis. And that hurts."

Seven coaches named finalists for Eddie Robinson Award

DALLAS — The FWAA has announced seven finalists for the 2009 Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award to be voted upon by the entire membership.

With the 2009 regular season completed, the FWAA, in conjunction with the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, has tabbed the following coaches as finalists: Texas' Mack Brown, Georgia Tech's Paul Johnson, Cincinnati's Brian Kelly, Oregon's Chip Kelly, TCU's Gary Patterson, Boise State's Chris Petersen and Alabama's Nick Saban.

The finalists were placed on a ballot that was e-mailed to all FWAA members. The members were asked to vote for their top choices in the order they believe the coaches are deserving of the award.

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

The winner of the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award will be announced and honored at a reception on the evening of Jan. 5 in Newport Beach, Calif., in conjunction with the BCS 1-2 game. The winning coach will receive the FWAA/ Coach Eddie Robinson Trophy at that time.

- Texas' Brown has the Longhorns in a national title game for the second time in five seasons. Texas defeated Nebraska, 13-12, in the Big 12 title game in Dallas to extend its record to 13-0. Only Alabama on Jan. 7 stands between Texas and a fourth national football title.

- Georgia Tech's Johnson took the Yellow Jackets to the Atlantic Coast Conference championship with a victory over Clemson in the title game. At 11-2, Georgia

Tech will meet Iowa in the Orange Bowl and seek to dominate with its grinding triple-option offense.

- Brian Kelly's Cincinnati Bearcats claimed the Big East Conference title with a 12-0 record before he accepted the Notre Dame head coaching job. Cincinnati defeated Pittsburgh by a point in the final game of the regular season to wrap up the title and gain a berth in the Sugar Bowl opposite Florida.

- Oregon's first-year head coach Chip Kelly has the Ducks (10-2) in the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1995. From an opening-season loss to Boise State after which he had to suspend one of his star players for throwing a punch, Kelly has done a masterful job holding the season together and winning the Pac-10 title.

- Patterson led TCU to its first unbeaten regular season (12-0) since the 1938 Horned Frogs won the national championship. TCU, the Mountain West Conference champion, will be going to a BCS

Bowl for the first time this season and is currently riding a 14-game winning streak.

- Petersen keeps doing it at Boise State with another Western Athletic Conference title. This season the Broncos are 13-0 and headed to another BCS game, the Fiesta Bowl against TCU. The Broncos will be seeking another victory in the BCS after beating Oklahoma by a point in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl.

- Saban has directed the top-ranked Crimson Tide to the BCS 1-2 Game with a perfect 13-0 record. Alabama defeated Florida in the SEC title game in Atlanta to cap its perfect regular season. Of the finalists, only Saban has previously won the award previously. He won last season at Alabama and in 2003 at LSU.



Brown
Texas



B.Kelly
Cincinnati



Petersen
Boise St.



C. Kelly
Oregon



Patterson
TCU



Saban
Alabama



Johnson
Ga. Tech

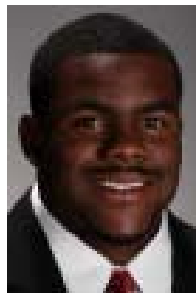
FWAA ALL-AMERICA OFFENSE



| Pos. | Player, School | Ht., Wt. | Cl. |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| QB | Colt McCoy, Texas | 6-2, 210 | Sr. |
| RB | Mark Ingram, Alabama | 5-10, 212 | So. |
| RB | Toby Gerhart, Stanford | 6-1, 235 | Sr. |
| WR | Golden Tate, Notre Dame | 5-11, 195 | Jr. |
| WR | Freddie Barnes, Bowling Green | 6-0, 206 | Sr. |
| TE | Dorin Dickerson, Pittsburgh | 6-2-, 230 | Sr. |
| C | Maurkice Pouncey, Florida | 6-5, 318 | Jr. |
| OL | Russell Okung, Oklahoma State | 6-5, 300 | Sr. |
| OL | Mike Iupati, Idaho | 6-3, 330 | Sr. |
| OL | Zane Beadles, Utah | 6-4, 305 | Sr. |
| OL | Rodney Hudson, Florida State | 6-2, 285 | Jr. |



McCoy
Texas



Ingram
Alabama



Gerhart
Stanford



Tate
Notre Dame



Barnes
Bowling Green



Dickerson
Pittsburgh



Pouncey
Florida



Okung
Oklahoma St.



Iupati
Idaho



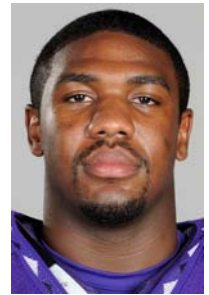
Beadles
Utah



Hudson
Florida St.

ALL-AMERICA DEFENSE, SPECIALISTS

| Pos. | Player, School | Ht., Wt. | Cl. |
|------|----------------------------|-----------|-----|
| DT | Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska | 6-4, 300 | Sr. |
| DE | Jerry Hughes, TCU | 6-2, 257 | Sr. |
| DT | Terrence Cody, Alabama | 6-5, 365 | Sr. |
| DT | Gerald McCoy, Oklahoma | 6-4, 297 | Jr. |
| LB | Rolando McClain, Alabama | 6-4, 285 | Jr. |
| LB | Pat Angerer, Iowa | 6-1, 235 | Sr. |
| LB | Greg Jones, Michigan State | 6-1, 228 | Jr. |
| DB | Earl Thomas, Texas | 5-10, 197 | So. |
| DB | DeAndre McDaniel, Clemson | 6-1, 210 | Jr. |
| DB | Joe Haden, Florida | 5-11, 190 | Jr. |
| DB | Eric Berry, Tennessee | 5-11, 203 | Jr. |
| K | Kai Forbath, UCLA | 6-1, 190 | Jr. |
| P | Drew Butler, Georgia | 6-2, 203 | So. |
| KR | C.J. Spiller, Clemson | 5-11, 195 | Sr. |



Hughes
TCU



Cody
Alabama



Suh
Nebraska



McCoy
Oklahoma



McClain
Alabama



Angerer
Iowa



Jones
Michigan



Berry
Tennessee



Thomas
Texas



McDaniel
Clemson



Haden
Florida



Forbath
UCLA



Butler
Georgia



Spiller
Clemson

Nebraska's Suh wins Outland Trophy

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh has been named the 64th winner of the Outland Trophy, becoming the eighth player from Nebraska to win the award.

The winner of the Outland Trophy, which goes to the best interior linemen on offense or defense in college football, was announced during the Home Depot ESPNU College Football Awards Show from The Walt Disney World Resort.

"It's tremendous," Suh said. "It's an honor to join the great Nebraskans who have won this before. It's huge. It's great I brought it back to the state of Nebraska."

Previous Nebraska Outland winners are: Larry Jacobson (1971), Rich Glover (1972), Dave Rimington (1981 and 1982), Dean Steinkuhler (1983), Will Shields (1992), Zach Wiegert (1994) and Aaron Taylor (1997).

Suh also became the second player in three years to sweep the Outland and the Football Writers Association of America's Bronko Nagurski Trophy (best defensive player). LSU's Glenn Dorsey won both two years ago. The only other player to do so was Arizona's Rob Waldrop in 1993. In this awards season Suh, also has claimed the Lombardi and Bednarik Trophies.

"This has been a blessing," Suh said at the Outland announcement. "It has been a lot of hard work that's been paying off, but there's still a lot ahead. This is a journey, and I want to soak it all up."

The FWAA selects the Outland winner from its 25-man All-America team. Suh claimed the Outland Trophy over Oklahoma State offensive tackle Russell Okung and Idaho offensive guard Mike Iupati, the other finalists.

During the 2009 regular season (including the Big 12 title game) Suh led Nebraska in tackles with 50 unassisted and 32 assisted. He had 23 tackles for losses (12 sacks for 77 yards in losses), 10 pass breakups, 26 quarterback hurries, one interception, one forced fumble and three blocked kicks.



Nebraska's Ndamukong Suh

The Outland Trophy, which has been awarded annually by the FWAA since 1946, is named after the late John Outland, a lineman at Pennsylvania at the turn of the century. The Outland Trophy is the third oldest award in major college football behind the Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Award.

The official award presentation to Suh will be on Jan. 14, 2010, in Omaha, Neb., at a banquet sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee. Ohio State's John Hicks, the 1973 Outland Trophy winner, also will receive his trophy there.

PAST OUTLAND WINNERS

1946 George Connor, Notre Dame
1947 Joe Steffy, Army
1948 Bill Fischer, Notre Dame
1949 Ed Bagdon, Michigan State
1950 Bob Gain, Kentucky
1951 Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma
1952 Dick Modzelewski, Maryland
1953 J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma
1954 Bill Brooks, Arkansas
1955 Calvin Jones, Iowa
1956 Jim Parker, Ohio State
1957 Alex Karras, Iowa
1958 Zeke Smith, Auburn
1959 Mike McGee, Duke
1960 Tom Brown, Minnesota
1961 Merlin Olsen, Utah State

1962 Bobby Bell, Minnesota
1963 Scott Appleton, Texas
1964 Steve Delong, Tennessee
1965 Tommy Nobis, Texas
1966 Loyd Phillips, Arkansas
1967 Ron Yary, USC
1968 Bill Stanfill, Georgia
1969 Mike Reid, Penn State
1970 Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State
1971 Larry Jacobson, Nebraska
1972 Rich Glover, Nebraska
1973 John Hicks, Ohio State
1974 Randy White, Maryland
1975 Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma
1976 Ross Browner, Notre Dame
1977 Brad Shearer, Texas

1978 Greg Roberts, Oklahoma
1979 Jim Ritcher, N.C. State
1980 Mark May, Pittsburgh
1981 Dave Rimington, Nebraska
1982 Dave Rimington, Nebraska
1983 Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska
1984 Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech
1985 Mike Ruth, Boston College
1986 Jason Buck, BYU
1987 Chad Hennings, Air Force
1988 Tracy Rocker, Auburn
1989 Mohammed Elewonibi, BYU
1990 Russell Maryland, Miami (Fla.)
1991 Steve Emtman, Washington
1992 Will Shields, Nebraska
1993 Rob Waldrop, Arizona

1994 Zach Wiegert, Nebraska
1995 Jonathan Ogden, UCLA
1996 Orlando Pace, Ohio State
1997 Aaron Taylor, Nebraska
1998 Kris Farris, UCLA
1999 Chris Samuels, Alabama
2000 John Henderson, Tennessee
2001 Bryant McKinnie, Miami
2002 Rien Long, Washington State
2003 Robert Gallery, Iowa
2004 Jammal Brown, Oklahoma
2005 Greg Eslinger, Minnesota
2006 Joe Williams, Wisconsin
2007 Glenn Dorsey, LSU
2008 Andre Smith, Alabama

Suh becomes first Nebraska winner of FWAA's Bronko Nagurski Trophy

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Nebraska tackle Ndamukong Suh has claimed the 2009 Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which annually is awarded to the best defensive player in college football.

Suh became the 17th winner of the award as voted upon by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) and sponsored by the Charlotte Touchdown Club. He is the first Nebraska player to win the award.

Suh, a 6-4, 300-pound senior, is considered a top NFL Draft prospect and will receive his degree in construction management.

During the 2009 regular season, Suh led Nebraska in tackles with 50 unassisted and 32 assisted. He had 23 sacks for losses (12 sacks for 77 yards in losses), 10 pass breakups, 26 quarterback hurries, one interception, one forced fumble and three blocked kicks.

In the 13-12 loss to Texas in the Big 12 title game, Suh was credited with 4.5 sacks of Longhorns quarterback Colt McCoy, seven total tackles for loss, a career-high 12

tackles and two quarterback hurries

“Well, he’s just a tremendous football player,” Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. “He finds a way within our defense to make plays. He gets it, understands the game. He can just beat you in a lot of different ways. He is very instinctive for a defensive lineman, which is very rare.”

Suh’s sack of Missouri quarterback Blaine Gabbert in the first quarter of the Cornhuskers’ 27-12 victory over the Tigers in early October possibly changed the course of the Big 12 North season. Gabbert suffered an ankle injury on the play. Although he continued to play, his mo-

bility was hampered and Suh intercepted a Gabbert pass in the fourth quarter.

Suh’s efforts certainly mirror the person for whom the trophy is named. The Bronko Nagurski Trophy 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.

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 |
| 2004 | Derrick Johnson | Texas |
| 2005 | Elvis Dumervil | Louisville |
| 2006 | James Laurinaitis | Ohio State |
| 2007 | Glenn Dorsey | LSU |
| 2008 | Brian Orakpo | Texas |



Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska
(Photo by Ron J. Deshaies)

“When you look at Suh, you see a player who can dominate a game,” Texas coach Mack Brown said. “That defensive front is as good in the country. He is as good as any player in America. He is unbelievable. We have enjoyed watching him play. You look at their film and he is amazing player. You don’t expect that someone so big and so fast, to be over 300 pounds and be as fast as he is. It is amazing.”

The other Nagurski finalists were Iowa linebacker Pat Angerer, Tennessee back Eric Berry, Alabama tackle Terrence Cody and TCU end Jerry Hughes. Hughes was also a finalist in 2008.

All-America team (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

25-year period, the FWAA team was introduced on national television shows by Bob Hope, Steve Allen, Perry Como and others.

After LOOK folded, the FWAA started a long association with NCAA Films (later known as NCAA Productions), which produced a 30-minute television show and sold it to sponsors. The team was part of ABC Television's 1981 College Football Series.

From 1983-90, the team was either on ABC or ESPN, and now has returned to the national spotlight on ABC.

The FWAA team has included most of the Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Award winners over the years and nearly all the Outland Trophy winners. Those are the three oldest awards in major-college football.

For more than six decades the FWAA has selected an All-America team with the help of its members and an All-America Committee which represents all the regions in the country. From that All-America team, the FWAA also selects the winners of the Outland Trophy and the Bronko Nagurski Trophy.

Some of the true greats of the writing profession have

helped to select this team over the years — Grantland Rice, Bert McGrane, Blackie Sherrod, Furman Bisher, Pat Harmon, Fred Russell, Edwin Pope, Murray Olderman, Paul Zimmerman and the list goes on and on. It is a team steeped in tradition and history and selected by a writers' group with the same attributes.

Eddie Robinson Museum dedication set for February

A museum in Grambling, Louisiana will be dedicated in memory of Eddie Robinson in mid-February.

Mike Tomlin, the youngest head coach to win a Super Bowl championship, will be the keynote speaker for a gala banquet scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Grambling State University Assembly Center.

Many of the former National Football League players guided by Robinson during his record-setting 55-year career at Grambling State are scheduled to attend the banquet and the museum's ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Feb. 13. — **FWAA member, Buddy Davis**



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