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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2011 BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY WATCH LIST UNVEILED

DALLAS (FWAA) – 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 that 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 that 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 Defensive 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 voting input from the entire membership, selects the 25-man team and eventually the Bronko Nagurski finalists. Committee members, then by individual ballot, select the winner, the best defensive player in America.

The annual Bronko Nagurski Trophy Banquet will be on Dec. 12 at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C. Besides the 2011 winner being announced, the banquet will also celebrate the recipient of the Bronko Nagurski Legends Award presented by Florida East Coast Railway. Florida’s Jack Youngblood, an end from the FWAA’s 1970 All-American team, will be honored. Georgia head coach Mark Richt will be the keynote speaker at the banquet.

The Football Writers Association of America, a non-profit organization founded in 1941, consists of more than 1,200 men and women who cover college football for a living. The membership includes journalists, broadcasters and publicists, as well as key executives in all the areas that involve the game. The FWAA works to govern areas that include gameday operations, major awards and its annual All-America team. For more information about the FWAA and its award programs, contact Steve Richardson at tigerfwaa@aol.com or 972-713-6198.

The **Charlotte Touchdown Club** is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 for the purpose of promoting high school, collegiate, and professional football in the Charlotte, N.C. region. The club’s activities and services focus community attention on the outstanding citizenship, scholarship, sportsmanship, and leadership of area athletes and coaches. For more information, contact John Rocco (704-347-2918 or jrocco@touchdownclub.com). The official website of the Charlotte Touchdown Club is www.touchdownclub.com.

The **Bronko Nagurski Trophy** is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association** (NCFAA). The NCFAA was founded in 1997 as a coalition of the major collegiate football awards to protect, preserve and enhance the integrity, influence and prestige of the game’s predominant awards. The NCFAA encourages professionalism and the highest standards for the administration of its member awards and the selection of their candidates and recipients. For more information, visit the association’s official website, ncfaa.org.

more/over

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a 13-day period this month. Fifteen of the association's 21 awards select a preseason watch list and this is the first time the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the complete 2011 preseason watch list calendar:

July 5: Maxwell Award/Bednarik Award

July 6: Biletnikoff Award/Mackey Award

July 7: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award

July 8: Bronko Nagurski Trophy/Outland Trophy

July 11: Jim Thorpe Award

July 12: Rotary Lombardi Award

July 13: Rimington Trophy

July 14: Butkus Award

July 15: Davey O'Brien Award/Doak Walker Award

July 18: Walter Camp Award



2011 BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Tackles (16)

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

Ends (16)

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 (87): 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.

The **Bronko Nagurski Trophy** is presented to the National Defensive Player of the Year by the **Charlotte Touchdown Club** and the **Football Writers Association of America**.