

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Oklahoma's Woods nominated for Discover Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award

DALLAS (FWAA) – Oklahoma's Austin Woods is the weekly nominee for the 2012 Discover Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award, to be announced at the end of the season. Woods, a junior offensive lineman from Rockwall, Texas, is playing this season after undergoing chemotherapy treatments for Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Woods was diagnosed with cancer last spring after complaining of a constant sore throat and swollen glands. He spent the summer and fall going through chemotherapy treatment, but continued to practice with the team as the deep snapper and backup center. For several hours every other week, he endured an infusion of chemicals that left him drained.

"I love football, I love being with my teammates, I love the University of Oklahoma," Woods told the Associated Press. "Football was the first thing on my mind. How can I get back to playing football as fast as I can?"

He completed the treatments in early October. Earlier this month, a biopsy showed the cancer was in remission.

When he got the good news, Woods tweeted: "Just for the call from Dr. Selby. My cancer is in remission!" A moment later, realizing he'd typed "for" instead of "got," he added: "My fingers couldn't control their excitement!"

Supporters of Woods' battle have adopted the Twitter hashtag: "BeatCancer50." Woods described his approach as:

"I was going to tell my mind, 'I'm going to get through this, I'm going to attack these treatments just like we attack a team on Saturday. ... I'm going to get through it and I'm going to beat this thing.' Defeat was never really an option."

Oklahoma offensive line coach James Patton said Woods was "an inspiration."

For the seventh straight year, the Football Writers Association of America and the Discover Orange Bowl will announce a weekly nominee each Wednesday during the season. A blue-ribbon panel will determine the winner from all of the nominees. The winner of the Discover Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award will be announced in December and be presented with the trophy during the week of the 2013 Discover BCS National Championship Game.

The Courage Award was created by ESPN The Magazine's senior writer Gene Wojciechowski, also an FWAA member. A select group of writers from the FWAA vote on the winner each year. The requirements for nomination include displaying courage on or off the field, including overcoming an injury or physical handicap, preventing a disaster or living through hardship.

Previous winners of the FWAA's Courage Award are Michigan State offensive lineman Arthur Ray Jr. (2011), Rutgers defensive tackle Eric LeGrand (2010), the University of Connecticut football team (2009), Tulsa's Wilson Holloway (2008), Navy's Zerbin Singleton (2007), Clemson's Ray Ray McElrathbey (2006), the Tulane football team (2005), Memphis' Haracio Colen (2004), San Jose State's Neil Parry (2003) and Toledo's William Bratton (2002).

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About the Orange Bowl

The Orange Bowl is a 348-member, primarily-volunteer non-profit sports organization that promotes and serves the South Florida community. The Orange Bowl Festival features a year-round schedule of events culminating with the Discover Orange Bowl on January 1, 2013 and the Discover BCS National Championship on January 7, 2013. Other Orange Bowl core events include the MetroPCS Orange Bowl Basketball Classic, Orange Bowl Youth Football Alliance presented by Sports Authority, Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships, Orange Bowl Sailing Regatta Series and Orange Bowl Paddle Championships. For more information on the 2012-13 Orange Bowl Festival and its events, including promotional and volunteer opportunities through the Ambassador Program, log on to www.orangebowl.org.

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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 tiger@fwa.com or 972-713-6198.

2012 Discover Orange Bowl Courage Award Nominees

- **Sept. 26: Daniel Rodriguez, Clemson**
- **Oct. 3: Angelo Richardson, Arizona State**
- **Oct. 10: Patience Beard, Arkansas**
- **Oct. 17: Neiron Ball, Florida**
- **Oct. 31: Dan Werner, Mississippi**
- **Nov. 8: Jay Prosch, Auburn**
- **Nov. 15: Austin Wood, Oklahoma**