

BIG NAMES OF RECENT GAMES ROUND OUT NOMINEES FOR ALL-CENTURY CLASS CONSIDERATION

PASADENA, Calif. – Montee Ball, Tank Carder and Terrelle Pryor have been nominated as finalists for the Rose Bowl Game All-Century Class as representatives from the 2010's. The candidates, as voted by an esteemed panel from the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA), are the eleventh, and final, of a series of names that have been unveiled each Sunday throughout the college football regular season.

In commemoration of the 100th Rose Bowl Game, the All-Century Class will highlight and honor great players and coaches throughout the history of *The Granddaddy of Them All*.

At running back for the University of Wisconsin, Montee Ball was twice recognized as the best at his position in the Big Ten Conference and a consensus first-team All-American. He currently holds the NCAA Division I-FBS record for most career rushing touchdowns with 77 and the NCAA Division I-FBS record for most career total touchdowns with 83. In the 2011 Rose Bowl Game, Ball ran for 132 yards and scored one touchdown on 22 carries against TCU. His 132 rush yards, 22 carries and 6.0 yards per carry all are ninth-most in UW bowl history; and his 40-yard run ties for 10th-longest in UW bowl history. In the 2012 Rose Bowl Game, Ball ran for 164 yards and a TD on 32 carries versus Oregon and lastly, in the 2013 Rose Bowl Game, he rushed for 100 yards and scored a touchdown. Ball became the first player in history to rush for 100 yards in three consecutive Rose Bowl Games.

As the heart and soul of the 2010 Texas Christian University defense, Tank Carder saved his best game for the grandest stage in college football. Carder earned Player of the Game honors in the 2011 Rose Bowl Game after six tackles, including three for loss and a sack. The sack came on third-and-eight with the Badgers driving, forcing a punt. Carder saved his brightest moment for when the game mattered most. Wisconsin had just scored late in the fourth quarter to come within two points. On the two-point conversion, Wisconsin surprised Carder and TCU with a pass. Carder blitzed, was blocked, but jumped just as Wisconsin quarterback Scott Tolzien released the ball and batted down the would-be game-tying pass. TCU got the ball back and was able to run out the clock, winning the game and securing the Horned Frogs first Rose Bowl Game victory in school history.

Terrelle Pryor played the best game of his young collegiate career in the 2010 matchup against Oregon. The sophomore racked up career highs in completions (23), pass attempts (37) and passing yards (266). During the 26-17 victory over the Ducks, Pryor threw two touchdowns and ran for a game high 72 yards on 20 carries. His efforts also earned him Player of the Game honors. The Buckeyes entered the contest having lost three consecutive BCS games. But Pryor's dazzling performance led Ohio State to its first Rose Bowl Game win since 1997. Pryor was a three-year starter for the Buckeyes, earning Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors in 2008 and All-Big Ten Honorable Mention in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In the two-plus years that Pryor led the Buckeyes at quarterback, Ohio State went 31-5, including a 2-1 record in BCS bowl games.

The FWAA voting committee will select one Rose Bowl Game representative from each decade to comprise the All-Century Class. In addition, one overall player and one overall coach will be highlighted at a press conference on Selection Sunday, which will take place on December 8, 2013, in Pasadena.

For more information on the 100th Rose Bowl Game, please visit <u>www.tournamentofroses.com</u>.

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391 S. ORANGE GROVE BLVD. • PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91184 • T 626.449.4100 • WWW.TOURNAMENTOFROSES.COM

