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Orange Bowl Committee
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Jardin May
jmay@orangebowl.org
305-341-4785

Kent State's Antwan Dixon Named Fifth Nominee for 2018 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award



MIAMI LAKES, FL. (www.orangebowl.org) - Kent State's Antwan Dixon is this week's nominee for the 2018 Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award. Dixon, a junior, missed the past two seasons because of aplastic anemia, a blood disorder that required a life-saving bone marrow transplant. He had led the team with 355 receiving yards as a freshman in 2015.

"I wish I could have stayed healthy and played the next year, too," Dixon told The Athletic. "It would have been a really good year coming off a good freshman year. But everything happens for a reason."

Dixon caught six passes for 36 yards in the Golden Flashes' loss Saturday to Ohio. He has 25 catches this season for 234 yards and one touchdown.

Dixon has spent the past five years battling the disease, undergoing blood transfusions and taking medication to get things under control. He missed his junior year of high school and the last game of his freshman year at Kent State, having to return home to Fort Myers, Fla. Dixon underwent a bone marrow transplant in 2017. He returned to Kent State in January but was not cleared to play until the summer.

The Courage Award was first presented by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) in 2002. 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. The winner of the award will be included in festivities during Capital One Orange Bowl week and receive his trophy at an on-field presentation.

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Previous winners of the Capital One Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award

2017 D’Cota Dixon - Wisconsin	2009 University of Connecticut Football Team
2016 James Conner – Pittsburgh	2008 Wilson Holloway - Tulsa
2015 Hunter Knighton - Miami	2007 Zerbin Singleton - Navy
2014 Laken Tomlinson - Duke	2006 Ray Ray McElrathbey - Clemson
2013 Anthony Larceval - San Jose State	2005 Tulane Football Team
2012 Daniel Rodriguez - Clemson	2004 Haracia Colen - Memphis
2011 Arthur Ray - Michigan State	2003 Neil Parry - San Jose State
2010 Eric LeGrand - Rutgers	2002 William Bratton - Toledo

2018 Orange Bowl Courage Award Nominees

- [Sept. 12: John Schlarman, Kentucky](#) | [High-resolution headshot](#)
- [Sept. 19: Nic Weishar, Notre Dame](#) | [High-resolution headshot](#)
- [Sept. 26: Rex Culpepper, Syracuse](#) | [High-resolution headshot](#)
- [Oct. 3: Caleb Farley, Virginia Tech](#) | [High-resolution headshot](#)
- Oct. 10: Antwan Dixon, Kent State | [High-resolution headshot](#)

Related link:

- [Capital One Orange Bowl Courage Award](#)

About the Orange Bowl

The Orange Bowl is a 360-member, primarily-volunteer non-profit sports organization that promotes and serves the South Florida community. With its primary mission since being created in 1935 to bring tourism to South Florida through an annual football game and events, it has also maintained a legacy of charitable contributions and community outreach. Orange Bowl community outreach efforts are comprised of four pillars: youth sports, fundraising and community events, academic programs and scholarships, and legacy gifts. The Orange Bowl features a year-round schedule of events culminating with the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl on December 29, 2018. For more information on the 2018-2019 Orange Bowl events, including promotional and volunteer opportunities through the Ambassador Program presented by Panera Bread, log on to www.orangebowl.org or follow the @OrangeBowl on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat.

About FWAA

Founded in 1941, the **Football Writers Association of America** consists of 1,400 men and women who cover college football. 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 game-day operations, major awards and its annual All-America team. For more information about the FWAA and its award programs, contact Steve Richardson at tiger@fwaa.com.

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