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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2018 BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY WATCH LIST UNVEILED

DALLAS (FWAA) – The **Football Writers Association of America** released its **2018 Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List** today, selecting 97 defensive standouts from 61 schools in all 10 Division I FBS conferences on a roster that includes three returning players from last season's FWAA All-America team.

Ed Oliver, a junior tackle from the University of Houston and a Bronko Nagurski Trophy finalist a year ago, joins senior Clemson end Austin Bryant and junior end Sutton Smith of Northern Illinois as returning selections from the 2017 FWAA All-America first team.

Oliver, the 2017 Outland Trophy winner as the nation's best interior lineman, is a two-time FWAA All-American after earning second-team mention in 2016. This year's watch list for the nation's top defensive player also includes LSU linebacker Devin White and Clemson end Clelin Ferrell, both second-team FWAA All-America selections a year ago, as well as Clemson tackle Christian Wilkins, a 2016 FWAA All-America first team member.

Players may be added or removed from the watch list during the course of the season. As in previous years, the FWAA will announce a National Defensive Player of the Week each Tuesday this season. If not already on the watch list, each week's honored player will be added at that time. The FWAA and the Charlotte Touchdown Club will announce five finalists for the 2018 Bronko Nagurski Trophy on Nov. 14.

The **Bronko Nagurski Trophy** winner will be chosen from those five finalists. The FWAA All-America Committee, after voting input from the association's full membership, selects a 26-man All-America Team and eventually the Nagurski Trophy finalists. Committee members, by individual ballot, select the winner they regard as the best defensive player in college football.

This year's watch list includes at least four players from each of the 10 FBS conferences. The SEC (16) leads the 97-member list with the Big Ten (15) right behind. The ACC (13) and Pac-12 (12) also have double-digit representation, followed by the Big 12 (9), American Athletic and Mountain West (7), Conference USA and Independents (5), and the Mid-American and Sun Belt (4).

The list includes 27 backs, 26 linebackers, 24 ends and 20 tackles.

The annual Bronko Nagurski Trophy Banquet, presented by ACN, will be held on Dec. 3 at the Charlotte Convention Center. In addition to the 2018 Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner's announcement, the banquet will also celebrate the recipient of the **Bronko Nagurski Legends Award**. Ohio State linebacker Tom Cousineau, a member of the FWAA's 1977 All-America team and a College Football Hall of Famer, will be honored. Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh will be the keynote speaker at the banquet.

The FWAA has chosen a National Defensive Player of the Year since 1993. In 1995, the FWAA named the award in honor of the legendary two-way player from the University of Minnesota. Nagurski dominated college football, then became a star for professional football's Chicago Bears in the 1930s. Bronislaw "Bronko" Nagurski is a charter member of both the College Football and Pro Football Halls of Fame.

The Bronko Nagurski Trophy is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA)**, which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 24 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit ncfaa.org to learn more about the NCFAA.

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a 10-day period this month. Seventeen of the association's 24 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the entire 2018 preseason watch list calendar:

Mon., July 16: Bednarik Award/Maxwell Award
Tues., July 17: Davey O'Brien Award
Wed., July 18: Doak Walker Award
Thurs., July 19: Biletnikoff Award
Fri., July 20: Mackey Award/Rimington Trophy

Mon., July 23: Paycom Jim Thorpe Award/Butkus Award
Tues., July 24: Outland Trophy pres. by NFID/Bronko Nagurski Trophy
Wed., July 25: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award
Thurs., July 26: Paul Hornung Award/Wuerffel Trophy
Fri., July 27: Walter Camp Award



About the Football Writers Association of America

Founded in 1941, the non-profit Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) consists of more than 1,300 members, including journalists, broadcasters, publicists and key executives in all areas of college football. Led by current President Stefanie Loh of the *Seattle Times*, longtime Executive Director Steve Richardson, and a board of veteran journalists, the association continues to grow and work to help college football prosper at all levels. Visit footballwriters.com for more information about the FWAA and its award programs.

ABOUT THE CHARLOTTE TOUCHDOWN CLUB AND ITS SPONSORS

The Charlotte Touchdown Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 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. Since 1991, the club has raised more than \$2,000,000 to benefit area high school and collegiate athletics. For more information, contact John Rocco (704-347-2918 or jrocco@touchdownclub.com). The official website of the Charlotte Touchdown Club is touchdownclub.com.

ACN, Inc.

Founded in 1993, ACN is the world's largest direct seller of telecommunications, energy and essential services for residential and business customers. ACN provides the services people need and use every day including phone service, high-speed internet, wireless, television, security and automation, computer support, payment processing and natural gas and electricity. ACN operates in 25 countries with offices located throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. For more information, visit myacn.com. For information on ACN's home-based business opportunity, visit acninc.com.

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2018 BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY PRESEASON WATCH LIST

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**.

Tackles (20)

Terry Beckner Jr., Missouri
Ryan Bee, Marshall
Derrick Brown, Auburn
Marquise Copeland, Cincinnati
Greg Gaines, Washington
Youhana Ghaifan, Wyoming
Trysten Hill, UCF
Dre'Mont Jones, Ohio State
Dexter Lawrence, Clemson
Ira Lewis, Baylor
Ray Lima, Iowa State
David Moad, Boise State
Ed Oliver, Houston
Olive Sagapolu, Wisconsin
Jordon Scott, Oregon
Jeffery Simmons, Mississippi State
Jerry Tillery, Notre Dame
Ricky Walker, Virginia Tech
Christian Wilkins, Clemson
Daniel Wise, Kansas

Ends (24)

Zach Allen, Boston College
Ben Banogu, TCU
Nick Bosa, Ohio State
Austin Bryant, Clemson
Maxx Crosby, Eastern Michigan
Marlon Davidson, Auburn
Raekwon Davis, Alabama
Landis Durham, Texas A&M
Jaylon Ferguson, Louisiana Tech
Clelin Ferrell, Clemson
Rashan Gary, Michigan
Joe Gaziano, Northwestern

Carl Granderson, Wyoming
Cece Jefferson, Florida
Jalen Jelks, Oregon
Corbin Kaufusi, BYU
Jonathan Ledbetter, Georgia
Anthony Nelson, Iowa
Christian Rector, USC
Hunter Reese, Troy
Sutton Smith, NIU
Montez Sweat, Mississippi State
Chase Winovich, Michigan
Oshane Ximines, Old Dominion

Linebackers (26)

Dakota Allen, Texas Tech
Azeez Al-Shaair, Florida Atlantic
Joe Bachie, Michigan State
Ben Burr-Kirven, Washington
Devin Bush, Michigan
Te'von Coney, Notre Dame
Tyrel Dodson, Texas A&M
Troy Dye, Oregon
Cooper Edmiston, Tulsa
T.J. Edwards, Wisconsin
Paddy Fisher, Northwestern
Ulysees Gilbert III, Akron
Joe Giles-Harris, Duke
Terez Hall, Missouri
De'Jon Harris, Arkansas
Khalil Hodge, Buffalo
Khaleke Hudson, Michigan
Jordan Kunaszyk, California
David Long Jr., West Virginia
James Nachtigal, Army West Point
Shaquille Quarterman, Miami

Malik Reed, Nevada
David Reese, Florida
Cameron Smith, USC
Jahlani Tavai, Hawaii
Devin White, LSU

Backs (27)

Dravon Askew-Henry, West Virginia
Julian Blackmon, Utah
Kris Boyd, Texas
Blace Brown, Troy
T.J. Carter, Memphis
Justin Clifton, Arkansas State
Lukas Denis, Boston College
D'Cota Dixon, Wisconsin
Mike Edwards, Kentucky
Kyle Gibson, UCF
Mark Gilbert, Duke
Tae Hayes, Appalachian State
Lavert Hill, Michigan
Tyler Horton, Boise State
Michael Jackson, Miami
Jaquan Johnson, Miami
Shelton Lewis, Florida Atlantic
Julian Love, Notre Dame
Chase Lucas, Arizona State
Amani Oruwariye, Penn State
Delvon Randall, Temple
Taylor Rapp, Washington
Duke Shelley, Kansas State
Marvell Tell III, USC
Juan Thornhill, Virginia
Greedy Williams, LSU
Andrew Wingard, Wyoming

By conference (97): SEC 16, Big Ten 15, ACC 13, Pac-12 12, Big 12 9, American Athletic 7, Mountain West 7, Conference USA 5, Independents 5, Mid-American 4, Sun Belt 4.