



July 24, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2018 OUTLAND TROPHY WATCH LIST UNVEILED

DALLAS (FWAA) — The **Football Writers Association of America** has announced the preseason watch list for the **2018 Outland Trophy presented by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases**. The list is highlighted by returning winner defensive tackle Ed Oliver of the University of Houston among 82 standout interior linemen representing all 10 Division I FBS conferences and independents.

This is the first year of a partnership with the NFID to present the Outland Trophy as part of a public awareness campaign focused on the importance of influenza (flu) prevention during the 2018-19 flu season. The award honoring the top interior lineman in college football will continue to be selected by the FWAA membership and has been rebranded as the Outland Trophy presented by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases with a social media hashtag of #FightFlu.

Oliver, a junior from Houston, last year became the first sophomore to win the award since its inception in 1946. He is the lone member of the 2017 FWAA All-America Team on either interior line to return this season as he attempts to join former University of Nebraska center Dave Rimington (1981, 1982) as a two-time winner of the award.

University of Wisconsin All-American **Joe Thomas**, the 2006 Outland Trophy winner who retired earlier this year after a stellar 11-year career with NFL's Cleveland Browns, will serve as the Outland Trophy **#FightFlu** ambassador. Thomas has been an avid supporter of annual flu vaccines. He will make media appearances on behalf of the #FightFlu public awareness campaign to remind people to get their annual flu shots.

Additionally, Thomas will announce the recipient of the 73rd Outland Trophy during ESPN's *The Home Depot College Football Awards* on Dec. 6, live from the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta. The official presentation to the winner will be made at the **Werner Enterprises Outland Trophy Awards Dinner** produced by the **Greater Omaha Sports Committee** on Jan. 9, 2019. Up to seven semifinalists will be named on Nov. 14 in Omaha and three finalists for the award will be announced on Nov. 19.



The distribution of watch list candidates is spread well among the conferences, with the Big Ten (13) leading the way. The ACC (12) is just behind, followed by the Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC (11 each) as well as the American Athletic (9), Mid-American (5), Mountain West and Independents (3), and Conference USA and Sun Belt (2). The list includes 22 offensive tackles, 20 defensive tackles, 20 centers and 20 guards.

The Outland Trophy winner is chosen from three finalists who are a part of the annual FWAA All-America Team. The FWAA All-America Committee, after voting input from the entire membership, selects a 26-man first team and eventually the three Outland finalists. Committee members, then by individual ballot, select the winner. Only interior linemen on offense or defense are eligible for the award; ends are not eligible.

The Outland 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	Mon., July 23: Paycom Jim Thorpe Award/Butkus Award
Tues., July 17: Davey O'Brien Award	Tues., July 24: Outland Trophy pres. by NFID/Bronko Nagurski Trophy
Wed., July 18: Doak Walker Award	Wed., July 25: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award
Thurs., July 19: Biletnikoff Award	Thurs., July 26: Paul Hornung Award/Wuerffel Trophy
Fri., July 20: Mackey Award/Rimington Trophy	Fri., July 27: Walter Camp Award

The **Outland Trophy**, now in its 73rd year, is the third-oldest major college football award. Created in 1946 when Dr. John Outland presented the FWAA with a financial contribution to initiate the award, the Outland Trophy has been given to the best interior lineman in college football ever since. Dr. Outland, an All-American at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 1890s, eventually took up practice in Kansas City, Mo. An avid outdoorsman, Dr. Outland believed linemen did not get the credit they deserved and wanted an award to recognize them.

About the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

Founded in 1973, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to educating the public and healthcare professionals about the causes, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases across the lifespan. Visit nfid.org for more information.

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.

The new Outland Trophy branding marks were developed by **Torch Creative**, a Dallas-based design studio with a heavy focus on branding, logo design and development, illustration and typography design. For more information, visit torchcreative.com.

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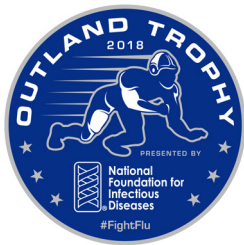
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#FightFlu



2018 OUTLAND TROPHY PRESEASON WATCH LIST

The **Outland Trophy** is presented to the nation's most outstanding interior lineman by the **Football Writers Association of America** and the **National Foundation for Infectious Diseases**

OFFENSIVE TACKLES (23)

Paul Adams, Missouri
Trey Adams, Washington
Hakeem Adeniji, Kansas
Ryan Bates, Penn State
Lanard Bonner, Arkansas State
Yodny Cajuste, West Virginia
Michael Deiter, Wisconsin
David Edwards, Wisconsin
Bobby Evans, Oklahoma
Mitch Hyatt, Clemson
Chris Lindstrom, Boston College
Greg Little, Ole Miss
Toa Lobendahn, USC
Joe Lowery, Ohio
Kaleb McGary, Washington
Patrick Mekari, California
Marcus Norman, USF
Isaiah Prince, Ohio State
Dalton Risner, Kansas State
Max Scharping, NIU
Trey Smith, Tennessee
Trevon Tate, Memphis
Jonah Williams, Alabama

OFFENSIVE GUARDS (20)

Alex Bars, Notre Dame
David Beedle, Michigan State
Beau Benzschawel, Wisconsin
Tyler Bowling, Tulsa
Parker Braun, Georgia Tech
Ben Bredeson, Michigan
Tommy Doles, Northwestern
O'Shea Dugas, Louisiana Tech
Hjalte Froholdt, Arkansas
Phil Haynes, Wake Forest
Nate Herbig, Stanford
Martez Ivey, Florida
Michael Jordan, Ohio State
Luke Juriga, Western Michigan
Marcus Keyes, Oklahoma State
Jimmy Leatiota, Eastern Michigan
Ben Powers, Oklahoma
Dru Samia, Oklahoma
Calvin Throckmorton, Oregon
Patrick Vahe, Texas

CENTERS (19)

Ryan Anderson, Wake Forest
Tyler Biadasz, Wisconsin
Garrett Bradbury, N.C. State
Jesse Burkett, Stanford
Deontae Crumitie, Troy
Alex Eberle, Florida State
Justin Falcinelli, Clemson
Lo Falemaka, Utah
Lamont Gaillard, Georgia
Tyler Gauthier, Miami
Jake Hanson, Oregon
Jordan Johnson, UCF
John Keenoy, Western Michigan
Sean Krepsz, Nevada
Connor McGovern, Penn State
Chandler Miller, Tulsa
Sam Mustipher, Notre Dame
Will Noble, Houston
Ross Pierschbacher, Alabama

DEFENSIVE TACKLES (20)

Terry Beckner, Missouri
Ryan Bee, Marshall
Derrick Brown, Auburn
Marquise Copeland, Cincinnati
Greg Gaines, Washington
Youhanna Ghaifan, Wyoming
Trysten Hill, UCF
Dre'Mont Jones, Ohio State
Dexter Lawrence, Clemson
Ira Lewis, Baylor
Ray Lima, Iowa State
David Moe, 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

By conference (82): Big Ten 13, ACC 12, Big 12 11, Pac-12 11, SEC 11, American Athletic 9, Mid-American 5, Independents 3, Mountain West 3, Conference USA 2 and Sun Belt 2.