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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## 2019 BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY WATCH LIST UNVEILED

**DALLAS (FWAA)** – The **Football Writers Association of America** released its **2019 Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List** today, selecting 92 defensive standouts from 65 schools in all 10 Division I FBS conferences plus independents on a roster that includes four returning players from last season's FWAA All-America team.

Grant Delpit, a junior safety from LSU, tops the list as the lone returning Bronko Nagurski Trophy finalist and FWAA first-team All-American from last season. Joining him on the list are three other returning 2018 FWAA second-team All-Americans in Virginia cornerback Bryce Hall, Michigan State defensive end Kenny Willekes, and Stanford cornerback Paulson Adebo.

Alabama leads the team count with four representatives – linebackers Anfernee Jennings and Dylan Moses, end Raekwon Davis and cornerback Trevon Diggs. In addition to Delpit, LSU boasts linebacker Jacob Phillips and cornerback Kristian Fulton on the list to tie Iowa State, Notre Dame and Penn State with three members each. There are 16 schools with two members on the list.

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 2019 Bronko Nagurski Trophy on Nov. 20.

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 eight of the 10 FBS conferences. The SEC (18) and Big Ten (15) have the most members and combine to make up more than one-third of the 92-man list. The ACC and Pac-12 (12 each) and Big 12 (11) also have double-digit representation, followed by the American Athletic (6), Independents (5), Conference USA (4), Mountain West (4), Mid-American (3) and Sun Belt (2). The list includes 36 linebackers, 28 backs, 21 ends and seven tackles. There are 50 players who are seniors or graduate students, 34 juniors and eight sophomores.

The **25th Annual Bronko Nagurski Trophy Banquet**, will be held on Dec. 9 at the Charlotte Convention Center. In addition to the 2019 Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner's announcement, the banquet will also celebrate former UCLA All-American Jerry Robinson, the recipient of the **Bronko Nagurski Legends Award**. Ohio State head coach Ryan Day is the keynote speaker.

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 25 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit [ncfaa.org](http://ncfaa.org) to learn more about the NCFAA.

The members of the NCFAA have been unveiling their preseason watch lists over a 10-day period this month. Sixteen of the association's 25 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the remaining 2019 preseason watch list calendar:

- Tues., July 23: Bronko Nagurski Trophy/Outland Trophy presented by NFID
- Wed., July 24: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award
- Thurs., July 25: Paul Hornung Award/Wuerffel Trophy
- Fri., July 26: 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 Matt Fortuna of The Athletic, 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](http://footballwriters.com) for more information about the FWAA and its award programs.

### **About the Charlotte Touchdown Club**

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 million to benefit area high school and collegiate athletics. For more information, contact John Rocco (704-347-2918 or [jrocco@touchdownclub.com](mailto:jrocco@touchdownclub.com)). The official website of the Charlotte Touchdown Club is [touchdownclub.com](http://touchdownclub.com).

### **Twitter:**

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# 2019 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 (7)

Derrick Brown, Auburn  
Ray Lima, Iowa State  
Justin Madubuke, Texas A&M  
Jordon Scott, Oregon  
Khyiris Tonga, BYU  
Marvin Wilson, Florida State  
Robert Windsor, Penn State

## Ends (21)

Bradlee Anae, Utah  
JaQuan Bailey, Iowa State  
Nick Coe, Auburn  
Raekwon Davis, Alabama  
Victor Dimukeje, Duke  
A.J. Epenesa, Iowa  
Jonathan Garvin, Miami  
Joe Gaziano, Northwestern  
Yetur Gross-Matos, Penn State  
Wyatt Hubert, Kansas State  
Mustafa Johnson, Colorado  
Patrick Johnson, Tulane  
Khalid Kareem, Notre Dame  
Julian Okwara, Notre Dame  
Alton Robinson, Syracuse  
Xavier Thomas, Clemson  
Jay Tufele, USC  
Curtis Weaver, Boise State  
Kenny Willekes, Michigan State  
Chase Young, Ohio State  
Jabari Zuniga, Florida

## Linebackers (36)

Rayshard Ashby, Virginia Tech  
Joe Bachie, Michigan State  
Markus Bailey, Purdue  
Shaun Bradley, Temple  
Jordyn Brooks, Texas Tech  
Carter Coughlin, Minnesota  
Troy Dye, Oregon  
Cooper Edmiston, Tulsa  
Jordan Fehr, Appalachian State  
Paddy Fisher, Northwestern  
Lawrence Garner, Old Dominion  
Cale Garrett, Missouri  
Ky'el Hemby, Southern Miss  
Bryce Huff, Memphis  
Anfernee Jennings, Alabama  
Clay Johnston, Baylor  
Antonio Jones-Davis, NIU  
Nate Landman, Colorado  
Sage Lewis, FIU  
Bryan London II, Texas State  
Jordan Mack, Virginia  
Dylan Moses, Alabama  
Kenneth Murray, Oklahoma  
Micah Parsons, Penn State  
Jacob Phillips, LSU  
Shaquille Quarterman, Miami  
Merlin Robertson, Arizona State  
Colin Schooler, Arizona  
Isaiah Simmons, Clemson  
Marcel Spears, Iowa State  
Darrell Taylor, Tennessee  
Kyahva Tezino, San Diego State  
Erroll Thompson, Mississippi State

Mykal Walker, Fresno State  
Evan Weaver, California  
David Woodward, Utah State

## Backs (28)

DeMarkus Acy, Missouri  
Paulson Adebo, Stanford  
Essang Bassey, Wake Forest  
Antoine Brooks Jr., Maryland  
Myles Bryant, Washington  
Andre Cisco, Syracuse  
Cameron Dantzler, Mississippi State  
Grant Delpit, LSU  
Trevon Diggs, Alabama  
Jordan Fuller, Ohio State  
Kristian Fulton, LSU  
Alohi Gilman, Notre Dame  
Jeff Gladney, TCU  
Richie Grant, UCF  
A.J. Green, Oklahoma State  
Javon Hagan, Ohio  
Bryce Hall, Virginia  
CJ Henderson, Florida  
Lavert Hill, Michigan  
Jaylon Johnson, Utah  
Brandon Jones, Texas  
Kevin McGill, Eastern Michigan  
Josh Metellus, Michigan  
Elijah Riley, Army  
Amik Robertson, Louisiana Tech  
J.R. Reed, Georgia  
Caden Sterns, Texas  
James Wiggins, Cincinnati

**By conference (92):** SEC 18, Big Ten 15, ACC 12, Pac-12 12, Big 12 11, American Athletic 6, Independents 5, Conference USA 4, Mountain West 4, Mid-American 3, Sun Belt 2.