

# Schroeder becomes FWAA's 66<sup>th</sup> president

George Schroeder, columnist for *The Register-Guard* of Eugene, Ore., ascended to the presidency of the FWAA on Jan. 8 at the association's annual awards breakfast in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He is the 66<sup>th</sup> president of the FWAA.

Schroeder, 40, has served as First and Second Vice-President of the FWAA. He has been instrumental in the association attaining and maintaining its Marriott VIP cards. He also has run the highly successful FWAA-Fed Ex Courage Award program in recent years.

"I love college football," Schroeder said. "It has always been my passion. There's nothing better than 12 fall Saturdays and then the bowl season. What's cool is I've been able to cover the Big 12, SEC and now the Pac-10 — to see how college football is played in different parts of the country. It's different, but it's more alike than we usually recognize."

Schroeder got his start at his hometown newspaper, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.* in the summer of 1990. His career began with a summer internship secured because of impressive credentials and superlative geography. Wally Hall, the *Democrat-Gazette's* sports editor and the FWAA's 2003 President, lived next door.

Schroeder grew up a Razorback fan and developed a passion for college football. He attended the Jan. 1, 1980, Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. After the Razorbacks lost to Alabama, 24-9, young George still got down on the field and was soaking up the atmosphere of the Louisiana Superdome. Some Alabama fraternity brothers snatched off his head a plastic Hog Hat, which he had received as a Christmas present. His father twice had to run the ornery Tide fans down and retrieve it.

These days, Schroeder's son has laid claim to the Hog Hat.

After working at the Arkansas newspaper for nearly a decade, 1999 Schroeder moved to *The Oklahoman* in Oklahoma City in 1999. He spent seven years covering University of Oklahoma football and the Big 12 Conference. The Sooners won the first 20 games Schroeder covered as the Oklahoma beat writer, including a 13-0 mark in the national championship year of 2000.

"I have covered a national championship, but also a probation and an NCAA investigation," Schroeder said of the Sooners.

Schroeder, a University of Oklahoma graduate, moved to Eugene in August 2007. He bravely loaded up the kids and wife and made a four-day trek to his new home. Always a runner, Schroeder is in running heaven now where urban trails and Olympic-class runners abound. He has completed six marathons, which is to say he has crossed the finish line without collapsing after 26.2 miles.

He has run four marathons in Okla-(Continued on page 8)



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## THE FIFTH DOWN

# President's column

The last ques-

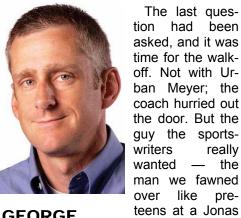
Brothers concert

for a while, happy

– hung around

really

the



GEORGE SCHROEDER

to talk.

Yeah, on the morning after the BCS Championship game, a fortunate few of us met J. W. Marriott. No one received lifetime platinum status, and because one notable FWAA member did not have a sharpie, his VIP Athletic Rate card remains unsigned.

I'm kidding, sure. But the hotel magnate spent a few minutes cordially answering questions about Meyer, Utah and the BCS. Heck, he even chatted a while. And it was striking, just how different the scene was than our typical interaction these days with the football programs we cover.

Which brings me to this year. I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve as FWAA president, and to succeed Ron Higgins, who spent 2008 speaking loudly about the deteriorating relationships between college football coaches and our profession. The discourse was pleasant enough, but Ron made sure the message was forcefully delivered. I'm glad he'll remain involved, helping to ensure our voice is a vital part of the conversation about college football.

There was some progress, and we'll continue to take what Ron calls "baby steps," because there's no other choice. Nobody went Gundy last year - not even Gundy - but the separation between college coaches, their teams and the people who cover them continues to widen, and access continues to be di-

minished. For example, at two BCS bowls, coaches from traditional powers violated in one case BCS rules on availability and in another did not live up the spirit of the rules. During the regular season, the coach from Boise State — yes, those cute, cuddly BCS-busting Broncos - denied opponents' media game-week access to his players.

So if anyone asks about an agenda for 2009, I'll repeat a line from our annual breakfast meeting, when I suggested if Barack Obama can tackle the playoffs, may be we should work on world peace. But the task remains much the same. I'm enthusiastic about the opportunity to carry forward the fight for access, and to try to repair the eroding relationship.

A few specifics from the FWAA's annual board meeting and assorted other official conversations which took place in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.:

• As noted above, there were problems with access at two BCS bowl games. Joe Paterno refused to open the Penn State locker room after the Rose Bowl, despite BCS rules requiring that it be open. And during the week leading up to the Fiesta Bowl, Ohio State's Jim Tressel did not make starting quarterback Terrelle Pryor available to media, causing Fiesta Bowl officials dismay and writers questioning serious loopholes in the BCS media policy.

The FWAA will follow up with the BCS and with Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany, urging the BCS to deal with the situations. BCS officials say they will review the situations during their annual meetings in April. We plan to attend the meetings, and we will push them to put "teeth" in the rules to prevent further violations.

• For the second straight year, we discussed these and other issues during a roundtable session at the BCS Championship Game. For more than an hour, FWAA members, conference officials and sports information directors gathered to discuss various issues.

• Along the same lines, the second annual FWAA/National Football Founda-

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Alabama coach Nick Saban was named the winner of the 2008 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award for the second time in six years on Jan. 6.

The Eddie Robinson Award, which is sponsored by the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, was presented in south Florida during a reception in conjunction with the BCS 1-2 game won by Florida on Jan. 8. The entire FWAA membership votes on the association's coach of the year award, which was narrowed to nine finalists in early December.

"Nick Saban has proven to be a winner wherever he has gone," said 2008 FWAA president Ron Higgins. "He has re-established Alabama as a national power in quick fashion. He was an overwhelming choice by our members for this very prestigious award."

The FWAA has honored a major college coach with its coach of the year award since 1957, and Saban is only the second coach to win the FWAA award at two different schools. He also captured the Eddie Robinson Award when he was coach at LSU in 2003. Lou Holtz was the FWAA coach of the year in 1988 at Notre Dame and also in 1977 at Arkansas.

After a 7-6 record in his first season at Alabama in 2007, Saban's Crimson Tide won its first 12 games of the 2008 season. Alabama eventually rose to No. 1 in country after a victory over Arkansas State. The Crimson Tide won the Southeastern Conference's Western Division and beat Auburn for the first time since 2001.

Saban previously was coach of the Miami Dolphins for two seasons (2005 and '06) after spending 11 seasons as a head coach in the college ranks at Toledo (one season) and five years each at Michigan State and LSU. He won the national title at LSU in 2003. He's a native of Fairmont, W. Va., and played college football



20008 FWAA President Ron Higgins and Eddie Robinson Jr. present the FWAA/Eddite Robinson Coach of the Year Award to Alabama's Nick Saban.

and graduated from Kent State.

In 1997, the FWAA coaching award was named after Eddie Robinson, a coaching legend at Grambling State University for 55 years. The late "Coach Rob" has more Division I victories (408) than any other coach. Robinson passed away on April 4, 2007. But his legacy will certainly not be forgotten. He coached his entire career at Grambling and produced numerous professional players and coaches.

### EDDIE ROBINSON COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

1957 Woody Hayes, Ohio State 1958 Paul Dietzel, LSU 1959 Ben Schwartzwalder, Syracuse 1960 Murray Warmath, Minnesota 1961 Darrell Royal, Texas 1962 John McKay, USC 1963 Darrell Royal, Texas 1964 Ara Parseghian, Notre Dame 1965 Duffy Daugherty, Michigan St. 1966 Tom Cahill, Army 1967 John Pont, Indiana 1968 Woody Haves. Ohio State 1969 Bo Schembechler, Michigan 1970 Alex Agase, Northwestern 1971 Bob Devaney, Nebraska 1972 John McKay, USC Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh 1973 1974 Grant Teaff, Baylor

1975 Woody Hayes, Ohio State 1976 Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh 1977 Lou Holtz, Arkansas 1978 Joe Paterno, Penn State 1979 Earle Bruce, Ohio State 1980 Vince Dooley, Georgia 1981 Danny Ford, Clemson 1982 Joe Paterno, Penn State 1983 Howard Schnellenberger, Miami 1984 LaVell Edwards, BYU 1985 Fisher DeBerry, Air Force 1986 Joe Paterno, Penn State 1987 Dick MacPherson, Syracuse 1988 Lou Holtz, Notre Dame 1989 Bill McCartney, Colorado 1990 Bobby Ross, Georgia Tech Don James, Washington 1991 1992 Gene Stallings, Alabama

1993 Terry Bowden, Auburn Rich Brooks, Oregon 1994 1995 Gary Barnett, Northwestern 1996 Bruce Snyder, Arizona State 1997 Mike Price, Washington State Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee 1998 1999 Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech 2000 Bob Stoops, Oklahoma 2001 Ralph Friedgen, Maryland 2002 Jim Tressel, Ohio State 2003 Nick Saban, LSU 2004 Urban Mever, Utah Charlie Weis, Notre Dame 2005 2006 Greg Schiano, Rutgers 2007 Mark Mangino, Kansas 2008 Nick Saban, Alabama



FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The Football Writers Association of America and AON Insurance announced their eighth annual Freshman All-America Team on Thursday morning during the association's annual awards breakfast.

Each member of the team will receive a customdesigned mini helmet courtesy of Schutt Sports, the world's leading maker of football helmets and faceguards.

The Atlantic Coast, Big Ten, Southeastern, Big 12 and Pacific 10 conferences each placed four players on the 27-man team. Conference USA was the only other conference with multiple players on the team with two. Of the 26 players selected, 15 were true freshmen and 12 were redshirt freshmen.

In addition, Georgia Tech coach Paul Johnson was named the top first-year coach at his school after leading the Yellow Jackets to a 9-4 season and a berth in the Chick-Fil-A Bowl.

The team and coach are selected by a 11-member panel of writers led by Mike Griffith of the Knoxville News Sentinel. Both true freshmen and redshirt freshmen were considered for the team and are so noted. A total of 116 players were nominated for the team and considered by the committee.



# FWAA Freshman All-America Team

	OFFENSE			DEFENSE	
Pos.	Player, School	Hometown	Pos.	Player, School	Hometown
QB	Kellen Moore, Boise State	Prosser, Wash.	DE	Brandon Harold, Kansas St.	East St. Louis, III.
RB	Darren Evans, Virginia Tech	Indianapolis, Ind.	DE	Thomas Keiser, Stanford	Wexford, Pa.
RB	<ul> <li>Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon</li> </ul>	Richmond, Texas	DT	<ul> <li>Marcus Forston, Miami</li> </ul>	Miami, Fla.
WR	DeAndre Brown, Southern Miss	Ocean Springs,	DT	Lawrence Guy, Arizona St.	Las Vegas, Nev.
WR	<ul> <li>A.J. Green, Georgia</li> </ul>	Summerville,	LB	Dont'a Hightower, Alabama	Lewisburg, Tenn.
WR	<ul> <li>Julio Jones, Alabama</li> </ul>	Foley, Ala.	LB	Travis Lewis, Oklahoma	San Anntonio, Texas
Т	<ul> <li>Andrew Datko, Florida St.</li> </ul>	Weston, Fla.	LB	Brandon Maye, Clemson	Mobile, Ala.
Т	Matt Reynolds, BYU	Provo, Utah	СВ	<ul> <li>Janoris Jenkins, Florida</li> </ul>	Pahokee, Fla.
G	Joel Foreman, Michigan St.	Highland, Mich.	СВ	Jordan Mabin, Northwestern	Northfield Center, Ohio
G	Moe Petrus, Connecticut	St. Laurent, Que-	S	Sean Baker, Ball State	Canfield, Ohio
С	<ul> <li>Michael Brewster, Ohio State</li> </ul>	Orlando, Fla.	S	Earl Thomas, Texas	Orange, Texas

Camarillo, Calif.
Fort Collins, Colo.
Clearwater, Fla.
Miami, Fla.
HE YEAR

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## **Barnhart wins Bert McGrane Award**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Award-winning journalist Tony Barnhart, a veteran of the reporting scene for 32 years, has been named the winner of the Football Writers Association of America's Bert McGrane Award for 2009

The McGrane Award, symbolic of the association's Hall of Fame, is presented to an FWAA member who has performed great service to the organization and/or the writing profession. It is named after McGrane, a Des Moines, Iowa, writer who was the executive secretary of the FWAA from the early 1940s until 1973.

Barnhart, a long-time writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, was president of the FWAA in 1998. He worked 24 years for the paper before becoming a freelancer this past football season. He has continued to write his highly popular and informed "Mr. College Football" column for the newspaper's web site, ajc.com.

Barnhart is a locally and nationally known television and radio personality who has excelled in that part of the business for a number of years. He is a regular contributor to the "College Football Today" Show on CBS. He hosts weekly television and radio shows during the college football season.

"Tony Barnhart has been a staple of college football coverage for more than three decades and we would expect the same from him for many more," said 2009 FWAA President George Schroeder. "His vast knowledge of the Southern football scene enhances any medium he is involved with, whether it be print, internet, radio or television. He has served as an invalubale resource for the FWAA over the years."

A native of Union Point, Ga., Barnhart is a 1976 graduate of the Henry Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia. In 1999, Tony was named the

Georgia Sportswriter of the Year and also has been honored for his work by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and the All-America Football Foundation.

Barnhart has been nominated for two Southern Regional Emmy Awards. In 1996, he was nominated as the screenwriter of "The Southern Game," a documentary on Southern College Football. In 2007 his television show, "Talkin'

Football," was also nominated for



**Tony Barnhart** 

a Regional Emmy.

Tony is the author of three books: "Southern Fried Football," "What It Means to Be A Bulldog" and "Dooley: My 40 Years at Georgia." "Southern Fried Football," which was first released in 2000, was recently updated and re-released.

Barnhart will be honored this summer during the National Football Foundation's Hall of Fame induction weekend in South Bend, Ind., and his name will be placed in the College Football Hall of Fame's rotunda.

Tony lives in Atlanta with his wife, Maria. Their daughter, Sara Barnhart Fletcher, is a first-year associate with the Atlanta law firm of Smith, Gambrell & Russell.

### **BERT McGRANE AWARD WINNERS**

1974 1992 Charley Johnson, Minneapolis Star Volney Meece, The Daily Oklahoman/FWAA 1975 1993 Bob Hentzen, Topeka Capital-Journal Wilfrid Smith, Chicago Tribune 1976 Paul Zimmerman, Los Angeles Times 1994 Edgar Allen, Nashville Banner 1977 Dick Cullum, Minneapolis Tribune 1995 Dick Herbert, Raleigh News & Observer/AFCA 1978 Wilbur Evans, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association 1996 Bob Hammel, Bloomington Herald-Times 1979 Tom Siler, Knoxville News-Sentinel 1997 Bill Lumpkin, Birmingham Post-Herald 1998 1980 Maury White, Des Moines Register Don Bryant, University of Nebraska 1981 Fred Russell, Nashville Banner 1999 Field Scovell, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association 1982 Furman Bisher, Atlanta Journal 2000 Jimmie McDowell, All-American Football Foundation 1983 John Mooney, Salt Lake City Tribune 2001 Edwin Pope, Miami Herald 1984 2002 Orville Henry, Morning News of Northwest Arkansas Si Burick, Dayton News 1985 Blackie Sherrod, The Dallas Morning News 2003 Dan Foster, Greenville News 1986 Raymond Johnson, Nashville Tennessean 2004 Pat Harmon, Cincinnati Post 1987 Tim Cohane, Look Magazine 2005 Steve Richardson, FWAA/Dallas Morning News 1988 Dave Campbell. Waco Tribune-Herald 2006 John Junker. Fiesta Bowl 1989 Jim Brock, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association 2007 Mark Blaudschun, Boston Globe 1990 Jack Hairston, Gainesville Sun 2008 Claude Felton, University of Georgia 1991 Murray Olderman, Newspaper Enterprise Association 2009 Tony Barnhart, Atlanta Journal-Constitution





## **Florida claims Grantland Rice Trophy**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Following their 24-14 win over Oklahoma in the FedEx BCS Championship Game, the Florida Gators (13-1) were presented the 2008 Grantland Rice Trophy for the second time in three years by the Football Writers Association of America. FWAA president George Schroeder of the *Eugene Register-Guard* made the presentation at a morning news conference.

With the score tied 14-14, quarterback Tim Tebow led the Gators on two fourth-quarter scoring drives culminating in a 27-yard field goal by Jonathan Phillips and the game-sealing touchdown pass to David Nelson with 3:07 remaining. Tebow, the championship game's Most Valuable Player, threw for 231 yards to go with 109 yards on the ground.

Percy Harvin chipped in 122 yards and a touchdown on the ground, while the Florida defense limited Oklahoma to season-low 14 points and stopped two first-half drives inside the 5-yard line.

The Grantland Rice Trophy has been presented by the Football Writers Association of America to college football's national champion since 1954. Named for the legendary sportswriter, the Grantland Rice Trophy was the first national championship award to be presented after the college football postseason.

This is the third time Florida has won the FWAA national championship trophy and the third straight season a team from the Southeastern Conference has earned the award. The SEC also claimed three straight Grantland Rice trophies from 1978 to 1980 (Alabama in 1978 and 1979 and Georgia in 1980). In addition to their national title in 2006, the Gators won the FWAA's championship trophy in 1996.



2009 FWAA President George Schroeder presents the Grantland Rice Trophy to Florida coach Urban Meyer.

## Kansan wins Volney Meece Scholarship

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Jack Caywood, a senior at Free State High School in Lawrence, Kan., is the 12th winner of the Volney Meece Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded annually by the Football Writers Association of America and named for the late Volney Meece, who served 22 years as the FWAA's executive director and was the organization's president in 1971.

The scholarship is a \$1,000 annual grant for four years. It is given to a deserving son or daughter of an FWAA member.

Caywood, 18, is the son of long-time FWAA member Kurt Caywood of the *Topeka Capital-Journal*. He is also the grandson of Barbara Caywood, the first female sports writer in Kansas and a pioneer for women's rights in sports journalism. Jack's impressive academic record at Free State High School includes selection to the National Honor Society with a 3.97 GPA and the President's Award for Educational Excellence.

An all-conference and honorable mention all-state selection in football, Jack helped lead his team to the Kansas Class 6A championship game. He is also twotime state qualifier in wrestling and captain of the team.

In addition to his academic and athletic achievements, Jack has been involved in numerous extracurricular activities, including working for Habitat for Humanity and participating in his Church Youth Group and Chamber Choir.

Scheduled to graduate in May 2009, Jack plans to attend Baker University, where he will study engineering and play football.

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# Tulsa's Wilson Holloway named winner of FWAA Courage Award

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Tulsa's Wilson Holloway is the winner of the FedEx Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award. Holloway, a redshirt freshman offensive lineman from Oklahoma City, has battled cancer since last spring, when a softball-sized mass was discovered in his chest.

Holloway received the award on the field during the third quarter of the BCS Championship Game on Jan. 8 in Miami Lakes. He also was honored that day at the FWAA's Annual Awards Breakfast at the media hotel.

"I don't think anyone sets their goal at the beginning of the year that, 'Boy, I hope I win the Courage Award," said Tulsa co-offensive coordinator Herb Hand. "But ... I can't think of a better guy to get it. On top of that, once he whips this cancer, he'll be a tremendous player for us and he'll be an inspiration to a bunch of people."

After Holloway was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, he underwent chemotherapy treatment throughout the spring and returned to play for the Golden Hurricane this season on special teams and in a reserve role.

Last October, however, tests on a swollen lymph node showed the cancer had returned. He began a treatment cycle that included two rounds of chemotherapy with three-week breaks between, followed by five straight days of treatment during which he was sequestered in the hospital.

Despite the cancer, Holloway played in six games – including one game (Oct. 26 vs. Central Florida) after he had begun treatment. When he began losing his hair, his fellow offensive linemen shaved their heads. Hand did, as well.

His coaches and teammates say that through it all, Holloway has remained optimistic and determined.

"The natural thing a person asks in that situation is, 'Why me?'" Hand said. "Whether Wilson has ever asked himself that or not, you'd never know just because of the way he's handled it. He's shown an unbelievable courage and a great spirit and attitude."

"There's a light on the other side," Holloway told the *Tulsa World*. "I'm keeping an upbeat, positive spirit about it. God doesn't put anything on us that we can't handle. That's the one reason that I've been so calm about it."

"We're extremely proud of Wilson's courage and his faith," Tulsa coach Todd Graham said. "His example to our team has been absolutely outstanding. We're so excited for him to be honored this way with the Courage Award. It's an unbelievable reflection on such a great human being. He's been a tremendous example to everyone on how to face adversity and that's with an unbe-



Flanking Courage Award winner Wilson Holloway are Tulsa offensive line coach Herb Hand (left) and Tulsa head coach Todd Graham (right).

lievable faith and determination. He's got a spirit that is extremely unique and has been an inspiration to our team."

For the third straight year, the Football Writers Association of America and the FedEx Orange Bowl announced a weekly nominee for the Courage Award during the season. A blue-ribbon panel determined the winner from all of the nominees.

The Courage Award was created by *ESPN The Magazine* senior writer Gene Wojciechowski, also an FWAA member. 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.

Previous winners of the FWAA's Courage Award are Navy's Zerbin Singleton (2007), Clemson's Ray Ray McElrathbey (2006), the Tulane football team (2005), Memphis' Haracio Colen (2004), San Jose State's Neil Parry (2003) and Toledo's William Bratton (2002).





## President's column (continued)

#### (Continued from page 2)

tion Forum will take place May 14-15 in Fort Lauderdale. This will bring together a group of conference and college administrators and coaches with media to discuss issues related to the game. A year ago in Grapevine, Texas, we heard them and they heard us — and the exchange was positive. Details of this year's forum are still being worked out, but expect a similar lineup and format. And consider this a significant baby step.

•John Humenik, executive director of CoSIDA, is a solid ally in our push for more access. Again this year we'll send a representative to that group's annual meeting. Also, recognizing the difficult dance that's often performed by SIDs, we'll work with Humenik to revive a tradition of recognizing very best in the profession. Former FWAA president Mike Griffith will chair the committee, which will first develop a list of criteria for the honor, which has a working title of the "Super 11."

•As I said earlier, Ron Higgins will remain involved, building on some of the momentum created in 2008. He's a member of an SEC media committee composed of journalists, conference and school officials. He'll also chair an FWAA ethics committee that will develop a code of conduct for members. The Knight Foundation's Malcolm Moran, a former national college football writer, will also serve on the committee. These are just a few of the ways the FWAA will keep pushing in 2009. We've got a few more baby steps before we can get to work on world peace.

### New president (continued)

### (Continued from page 1)

homa City, one in Little Rock and one in Eugene. This May, he plans to run another one in Oregon.

Schroeder has written one book — Hogs, A History: The Story of Razorbacks Football. He has placed often in FWAA Best Writing and Associated Press Sports Editor (APSE) contests. In 2007, he was named one of APSE's Top 10 columnists in the 40,000-100,000 circulation category. He also covered the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

In the offseason, Schroeder enjoys exploring the Pacific Northwest with his wife, Shannon, and two children, nine-year-old Elizabeth and seven-year-old George. But he is always ready for college football to crank up in the fall.

"My favorite thing is on a Saturday night when the stadium is so loud it is shaking, and you are, too," Schroeder said.



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