



2012 FWAA President Lenn Robbins of the *New York Post* (left) and 2013 President Chris Dufresne of the *Los Angeles Times*.



Chris Dufresne of LA Times becomes new FWAA President

Chris Dufresne, a long-time sports writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, became the Football Writer Association of America's 70th President on Jan. 7 at the organization's annual awards breakfast in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is the paper's second FWAA President, but the first since Paul Zimmerman in 1958, the year Dufresne was born.

Dufresne, 54, will preside over the FWAA during a college football season in which the Rose Bowl will celebrate its 100th game on Jan. 1, 2014, and five days later host the Bowl Championship Series 1-2 Game in Pasadena.

Dufresne grew up in California and really has never left the state.

Just out of high school in 1976 he started loading papers at the *Los Angeles Times* dock, which is now a cafeteria. He helped do that for five years while attending California State University-Fullerton where he was Sports Editor of the *Daily Titan* in 1980.

"One of the finest newspaper loaders in the history of newspaper loaders," Dufresne says now in jest. "A terrific but demanding job in which bundles would fall on your head if you weren't careful...or you could fall off the

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President's column



CHRIS DUFRESNE

Greetings from your incoming FWAA President.

I hope you have all recovered from the long season. It's amazing what a little deer antler spray, administered orally, can do put some pep in your step. It's an honor to serve as FWAA President in 2013 with so many respected friends and colleagues, and it is my hope to make

it through spring practice without committing a secondary violation.

I want to thank Lenn Robbins for his year as FWAA President and congratulate all the award winners with a special shout out to Dick "Grids" Weiss, this year's 40th Bert McGrane recipient.

There is a lot on our plate in this ever-changing world of college football and the way we cover it. We need to continue to fight press box issues as our working areas get moved farther away from mid-field as they are subdivided like a condominium complex.

We need to continue to fight access and injury polices that wildly fluctuate from

school to school. We need to praise the many who help us do our jobs and hold accountable those who do not. We should reasonably expect to have access to press parking that does not require a dog-sled ride to our cars after the game. We need to keep boosters out of the post-game interview process.

We will be working this year on a new ratings system for sports information departments and continue to highlight excellence with our "Super 11" awards. We acknowledge that SIDs are under increasing pressure and are many times constrained by the dictates and whims of their current head coach. This should be an exciting year, with the Rose Bowl hosting the last BCS championship game.

This year's BCS spring meetings will be held in Pasadena and they could impact us as commissioners consider including a FWAA member (probably retired, with very thick skin and an unlisted phone number) as part of the future playoff selection committee. Gina Chappin of the Rose Bowl is also working on an initiative that would involve the FWAA in helping to choose a "Rose Bowl Hall of Fame All-Century Class" in conjunction with this year's 100th game. It is Gina's hope to announce the team in early December. More news as it becomes available.

That's all for now.

FWAA Best Writing Contest Information

FWAA BEST WRITING CONTEST CATEGORIES

- Game Story (Immediate Deadline)
- Feature Story/Profile
- Enterprise/Investigative
- Column/Analysis/Commentary

You may begin sending entries now. You must be an FWAA member in good standing to enter. **Deadline:** June 15, 2013. Entries sent after the deadline WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Limit: One (1) article per category, although a series of articles may be submitted in the enterprise category.

- Entries must have appeared in print

or on line between Feb. 1, 2012 and Jan. 31, 2013.

- Entries must be submitted electronically to contest@fwa.com.
- Entries not sent to this e-mail address will not be accepted
- Send MS Word or text files only
- DO NOT SEND HTML files, Word Perfect files, stories in other word processing software or links to stories on the Internet or electronic libraries
- Delete any embedded advertising, photos and cutlines from the files (The file

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FWAA News and Notes

FWAA Supports the ACC's Injury Reporting Policy

In action taken at an FWAA Meeting on Jan. 6 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the FWAA Board voiced support of the Atlantic Coast Conference "Injury Release Guideline." The FWAA Board urges other conferences to adhere to such a consistent policy.

Under the ACC policy, approved by the league coaches, once the season starts the coaches defer all injury questions to the primary sports medicine contact for football.

On each Monday during the season, the school announces "any players who are out for the season or are scheduled to have surgery." Two days before any football game the rest of the season, and within 90 minutes of the end of practice, schools must announce injury status of players in one of four categories: probable, questionable, doubtful, out.

Rose Bowl-FWAA

The Rose Bowl has enlisted the FWAA to serve as its voting body for its "Rose Bowl Game Hall of Fame All-Century Class", commemorating the 100th Rose Bowl Game to be played on Jan. 1, 2014. The Rose Bowl's voting will center on selecting one legend (either a coach or a player) from each of the 10 decades that the game has been played.

The FWAA will provide a geographically representative body of voters who will select the All-Century Class. It will be announced on the BCS Selection Sunday in December with the presence of the legendary players selected or with a relative or relatives in attendance for those who are deceased.

Miscellaneous

Lee Barfknecht, who covers Big Ten football for the Omaha World-Herald, is the FWAA's new second vice president....**Scott Chipman** of the Big Ten Conference has been appointed as an ex-officio member of the FWAA Board....The SEC's **Charles Bloom**, the main spokesman for the league for the past 17 years and a past ex-officio member of the FWAA Board, has moved from the conference office to his alma mater, South Carolina, as a senior associate athletic director....The first Bowl Championship Series (soon to be renamed) office will be located in Irving, Texas, and is expected to be established there in coming weeks. **Michael Kelly**, moving from the Atlantic Coast Conference, will be the



Outland Trophy winner Luke Joeckel (left) and Discover Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award winner Daniel Rodriguez (right) meet Eddie Robinson Jr. at the FWAA Awards Breakfast.

new college football playoff's Chief Operating Officer and live in the Dallas area.

FWAA board member **Malcolm Moran** has moved from Penn State University to the position of director of the National Sports Journalism Center based in Indianapolis. Moran was the inaugural Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and Society in the College of Communications at Penn State. In his new job, Moran will oversee "programming for the center, which serves as a comprehensive institute for the study of sports journalism. It is connected with the Indiana University School of Journalism at IUPUI.

Outland Trophy winner **Jonathan Ogden** of UCLA (1995) was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in early February, only two months after he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in early December....Another Outland Trophy winner (Wisconsin in 2006), **Joe Thomas**, current Cleveland Browns left offensive tackle, was one of three finalists for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award that was won by Dallas Cowboys tight end Jason Witten....Charlotte Panthers linebacker **Luke Kuechly** (the 2011 Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner from Boston College) was named the NFL Defensive Rookie of Year during the second annual NFL Honors on Feb. 2.

Post-Season Festivities



Left: Dick Weiss of the New York Daily News was named winner of the Bert McGrane Award. Center: Notre Dame Coach Brian Kelly accepts the FWA Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award as Fiesta Bowl President Robert Shelton, FWA 2012 President Lenn Robbins, Eddie Robinson Jr. and ESPN announcer Derrick Mayes look on. Right: ND Coach Brian Kelly and Eddie Robinson Jr.



Left: Phil Marwill of the National Football Foundation, Mike Finn of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Matthew Sign of the NFF and NFF President and CEO Steve Hatchell. Center: FWA beat writer award winners Steve Wieberg and Mark Blaudschun flank Malcolm Moran, director of the new National Sports Journalism Center. Right: Clemson's Daniel Rodriguez, a former Army soldier who earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star in Afghanistan, receives the Discover Orange Bowl-FWA Courage Award from former FWA president George Schroeder.

THE FIFTH DOWN



Left: FWAAs President Chris Dufresne, Alabama Athletic Director Hal Moore and Alabama Coach Nick Saban with the FWAAs Grantland Rice Trophy, which goes annually to the team voted No. 1 in the nation by the FWAAs.

Below, left to right: FWAAs member Randy Riggs, Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Executive Director Brant Ringler, Merit Award winner Nate Boyer and Texas Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds at the UT team banquet. Boyer, Texas' long snapper and a former Green Beret and Bronze Star recipient, was named winner of the inaugural FWAAs Merit Award.



Chris Dufresne of Los Angeles Times becomes FWAA's 70th President

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truck.”

Dufresne, while attending college, in his spare time played in a rock band and was the lead singer of the Shades, which performed at roller rinks and sold-out halfway houses. He started at the *Los Angeles Times* in 1981 and covered high schools.

“Big break was (when I was) named to cover the LA Express of the fledgling USFL in 1983 when I met two very important Youngs,” Dufresne remembered. “Steve Young, who became quarterback in 1984 and Sheila Young, former Stanford volleyball player who worked in Express PR and became my wife in 1986.”

He was the Los Angeles Rams beat writer from 1986-90, then moved to the Los Angeles Raiders for a couple of seasons, before being named enterprise/features writer, which also has led to his coverage of six Olympic games, primarily as an Alpine Ski writer.

In October 1995, he became the *Los Angeles Times*' college/football basketball columnist and has held that

position since, while also mixing in major golf coverage in the spring and summers.

Dufresne says his best sporting coverage moment was in college football — at the Orange Bowl the day after Thanksgiving in 1984. He was standing next to the end zone where Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie heaved his game-winning pass to beat the Miami Hurricanes in one of the greatest finishes ever to a college or professional game.

“My career almost ended before it started,” Dufresne recalled. “I was a young kid on the staff who got handed the assignment because no one wanted to travel on Thanksgiving. I almost missed the red eye flight on Thanksgiving night from LAX to Miami. Those were days when you could actually get the flight attendant to open the cabin door after it was closed! I often imagine what would have happened in my career had I missed Flutie's game that day.”

FWAA Best Writing Contest (continued)

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should contain only your story and your identifying information)

At the top of each entry, the following information should be included:

- Writer or writers
- Publication or online service
- Category
- Date of publication
- E-mail address and telephone number for the writer or writers of the entry.

Entries will be sorted and stripped of identifying information and forwarded to the judges.

- Files containing your entries should follow this naming convention: yourname-category.doc

- The category must be one of these four words: Game, Feature, Enterprise or Column

- Example: KenStephens-game.doc

Only entries sent electronically will be accepted and all entries will be sorted and stripped of identifying information and forwarded to the judges.

FWAA BEAT WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

In addition, we have created a special award for the

top beat writer as judged by a special FWAA committee headed by long-time FWAA member Malcolm Moran. He is now the new National Sports Journalism Center Director.

If you have a nomination of a beat writer who covers major college football (either a team or a conference) or you want to nominate yourself, please send an e-mail/letter explaining the qualifications of the person (no more than 250 words) to:

Malcolm Moran
Indiana University School of Journalism
IUPUI
535 W. Michigan St., Room 571
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5154

Malcolm's e-mail is moranma@iupui.edu. Malcolm and his committee will then make inquiries into the FWAA members nominated. In order to qualify for this award the person nominated must have been an FWAA member during the 2012 football season.

Questions? E-mail Ken Stephens at ken.stephens@sbcglobal.net.



Former FWAA President and Bert McGrane Award winner Dick Weiss (left), his wife, Joni, and Alan Schmadtke, also a former FWAA President, share a table at the Past President's Dinner in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The event was sponsored by the National Football Foundation.

Emily Alford of Tupelo, Miss., wins Volney Meece Scholarship

Emily Alford, a senior at Tupelo High School in Tupelo, Miss., has been named the 16th 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.

The 18-year-old Alford is the daughter of longtime FWAA member Parrish Alford of the *Northwest Mississippi Daily Journal*.

Emily's academic record at Tupelo High School includes membership in the National Honor Society and a fixture on the school's Honor Roll all four years. Emily accumulated a 3.968 GPA while taking several accelerated, advanced placement and honor courses.

In addition to her academic achievements, Emily has been involved in numerous extracurricular projects at school, in the community and with her church. Some of those activities include membership in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Educators of American, Mississippi All State Honor Choir, Calvary Baptist Church Tornado Relief Volunteer, Bible Club Leader, Calvary Baptist Church Ecuador Mission Trip and Vacation Bible School Teacher.

Dr. Suzy White Williams, director of several of Emily's choral activities, wrote in her letter of recommendation: "Emily has excellent rapport with teachers, students and administrators. She is self-assured and self-motivated and handles the stress associated with school and activities easily. I have rarely met a student upon whom I can rely as much as Emily."

Scheduled to graduate May 17, Emily plans to attend Mississippi State University.