

Awards, national meeting take center stage with FWAA

The Football Writers Association of America has selected winners of the Bronko Nagurski and Outland Trophies and named its 25-man All-America team. The FWAA also is preparing for its annual Meeting Jan. 2-4 in Los Angeles and selection of the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year.

The Nagurski Trophy was claimed by Oklahoma safety Roy Williams, who picked up the award at the Charlotte Touchdown Club Banquet on Dec. 10 in Charlotte, N.C. (Page 7). The Outland Trophy went to Miami (Fla.) offensive tackle Bryant McKinnie (Page 6), who was named the winner on Dec. 6 in Orlando, Fla.

The FWAA All-America team, which has been selected since 1944, was named in late November and appears on Pages 4-5 of the Fifth Down. The team is highlighted by three players from both Miami (Fla.) and Florida and two each from Oklahoma and Tennessee. There were four repeat All-Americans, including 2000 Outland Trophy winner John Henderson of Tennessee.

On Page 3, three finalists for the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award appear: Washington State's Mike Price, Illinois' Ron Turner and Maryland's Ralph Friedgen. Instructions on voting will be e-mailed to members in December. The winner will be announced on Jan. 10 at a banquet hosted by the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and shown on Fox Sports Net from Scottsdale, Ariz.

The FWAA's annual meeting will be

Jan. 2-4 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles in conjunction with the Bowl Championship Series 1-2 game at the Rose Bowl in nearby Pasadena. A schedule of Rose Bowl events is on Page 8 of the Fifth Down.

The FWAA Board Meeting will be from 1-3 p.m. on Jan. 2 at the Governor's Board Room at the Century Plaza Hotel. An invitation only Past Presidents dinner will be that evening. On Jan. 3 the FWAA's award breakfast/meeting will be from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Westside Room, also at the Century Plaza Hotel.

The presentation of the FWAA's Grantland Rice Trophy tentatively is scheduled for the morning of Jan. 4.

The FWAA has named a national champion since 1954. A five-person committee, which is composed of members from different regions of the country, will determine the winner. The possibility of a split national champion exists in the event the FWAA selects a team other than the winner of the BCS 1-2 game.

The FWAA will name the winner of the Bert McGrane Award, which is named after the long-time FWAA director and recognizes service to the organization and the game of college football.

The FWAA also will honor a deserving son or daughter of an FWAA member by awarding the Volney Meece Scholarship, so named after the other long-time executive director.

Winners of the FWAA's Annual Best Writing Contest also will receive certificates and cash prizes on Jan. 3.



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Tulsa World

First Vice President
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- Tim Peeler**
Greensboro News & Record
- Dan O'Kane**
Tulsa World
- Greg Pogue**
Daily News Journal (Tenn.)
- Ken Davis**
Hartford Courant
- Chris Fowler**
ESPN
- Andy Bagnato**
Chicago Tribune
- Brian Higgins**
Oakland Tribune
- Natalie Meisler**
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Herald-Dispatch (W.Va.)

One-Year Terms

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Knoxville News-Sentinel
- Adam Thompson**
Denver Post
- Mike Vega**
Boston Globe
- Gregg Doyel**
Charlotte Observer
- Neal Farmer**
Houston
- Bob Condotta**
Tacoma News-Tribune
- Steve Kornacki**
Tampa Tribune
- Doug Zaleski**
Muncie Star Press

- Ex-Officio**
- Jim Daves**
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CoSIDA

President's column



DAVE SITTLER

The 2001 college football season has indeed been a spaced-out odyssey. One filled with tragedy for us all, but also one of triumph for our organization and nation.

The longest regular season in NCAA history grew even longer with the horrific events of Sept. 11. Many of the games of Sept. 15 were either canceled or postponed until

early December.

It certainly has been an interesting ride for me while representing the FWAA as its 58th president. I would like to use my final President's Column to review some of the highlights and lowlights of that journey.

I believe one of the finest hours in the FWAA's history came out of the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. Steve Richardson, our incomparable and invaluable executive director, proposed the idea that the FWAA stage its own blood drive as a way to honor this nation that allows us the freedom to cover the game thousands of Americans love to play, observe and read about.

There is no way to judge how many of you answered our plea to donate blood. But after being an FWAA member for nearly 30 years, I know the character of this organization and will always believe many of you responded and gave the gift of life.

Unfortunately, many of the work-related problems we've battled for years were evident again this season. Limited access and sub-standard working conditions continue to exist in many press boxes and universities.

One of the worst incidents this season occurred in the final minutes of the Arkansas-LSU game in Baton Rouge. Several Arkansas beat writers became the targets of some uncalled for behavior

by some overzealous security guards. The only reason things didn't turn extremely ugly was that the writers, led by FWAA second vice-president Wally Hall of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, kept their cool while the law officers were losing theirs.

LSU officials reacted quickly, apologizing to all the writers involved and promising to make changes in its security personnel. The FWAA will continue to monitor this situation.

On the flipside of what transpired in Baton Rouge this season was the dramatic improvement of the press operation at the Oklahoma-Texas game at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas on Oct. 6.

For those of you have never covered the Red River Riot, trust me when I say the working conditions were nothing short of horrible. But all of that changed this year thanks to the hard work and cooperation of officials at both schools and the Cotton Bowl.

One theme repeated itself while I represented the FWAA in various functions from Miami, to San Diego, Madison, South Bend, Omaha, Phoenix, Orlando, Charlotte and many other stops. I am delighted to report that the respect for our organization is very high, and I think much of the credit for that has to go to Steve Richardson and the tireless work he has done on our behalf.

My great adventure comes to an end during the week of the Rose Bowl. And the FWAA will reach another milestone at the annual meeting on Jan. 2, when I pass the president's gavel to my successor, first vice-president Kelly Whiteside.

Kelly, the national college football correspondent for *USA Today*, will be the first woman president in FWAA history. To quote my Australian bride: "*It's about bloody time!*"

It's also about time for me to say goodbye. Before I go, I want you to know it's been an honor and privilege to represent you and the FWAA during this remarkable year of our 60th anniversary.

Thanks for the opportunity and the memories.

Finalists for Coach of the Year

Illinois' Ron Turner, Maryland's Ralph Friedgen and Washington State's Mike Price were named as finalists for the 2001 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award on Dec. 12.

From those finalists, the winner will be announced on Jan. 10 in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Fox Sports Net at a banquet hosted by the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. FWAA members will begin voting for the Coach of the Year Award in mid December. The balloting will conclude on Jan. 4, the day after the Rose Bowl game.

The FWAA Award is named after the legendary Robinson, who has won more games than any coach in college football history, all at Grambling State University.

The FWAA has presented a Coach of the Year Award since 1957. And Price could become be the seventh coach to win the FWAA Coach of the Year at least twice. He also won the award in 1997.

Other repeat winners: Ohio State's Woody Hayes (1957, 1968, 1975), Texas' Darrell Royal (1961, 1963), USC's John McKay (1962, 1972), Pitt's Johnny Majors (1973, 1976), Arkansas' and Notre Dame's Lou Holtz (1977, 1988) and Penn State's Joe Paterno (1978, 1982, 1986).

Now in his 13th year at Washington State, Price is the dean of Pac-10 football coaches. Only five Division I-A coaches have been at their schools longer.

During the 2001 season, the Cougars tied for second place in the Pac-10 and finished with a 9-2 record. Washington State was picked to finish near the bottom of the league after an eighth-place finish in 2000. But despite the great improvement this season, Price is no stranger to success.

Price is the only Cougar coach in the 100-plus years of the program to coach WSU to four bowl games: the 1992 Copper Bowl, the 1994 Alamo Bowl, the 1998 Rose Bowl and now the 2001 Sun Bowl.

Price coached the Cougars to their most successful gridiron season in 67 years in 1997 (10-1). The resulting honors included Pac-10 and numerous national coach-of-the-year awards, including the Eddie Robinson.

During his 13-year WSU career, Price has coached four Cougars picked in the first round of the NFL's spring draft. The first was Steve Broussard, the 20th pick in 1990. In 1992, New England made Cougar quarterback

Drew Bledsoe the top pick in the draft, while in 1994 linebacker Mark Fields was the 15th player selected. In the spring of 1998 Ryan Leaf joined the list of first rounders when he was selected the second pick of the NFL draft by San Diego.

Friedgen led Maryland to its first Atlantic Coast Conference title in 16 years during the 2001 season. In his first year as a head coach, Friedgen guided his alma mater to a 10-1 record and gained a berth in the Orange Bowl against Florida. The Terrapins reached 10 victories for only the fifth time in school history.

"Coach Friedgen has made extraordinary progress and is fully committed to continue to build Maryland foot-

ball into a perennial Top 20 program," Maryland athletic director Deborah Yow said. "There could be no better fit for our institution."

Friedgen was an assistant for 29 years before he became coach of the Terrapins a year ago. He came to Maryland from Georgia Tech, where he served for

four years as the offensive coordinator under George O'Leary.

"I came back to Maryland a year ago with a vision for this program and I am anxious to see the plan through," said Friedgen, who served as Bobby Ross' offensive coordinator at Maryland from 1982-86.

Turner has turned a winless team into a 10-1 team and winner of the 2001 Big Ten Championship. He has completed that task in five years. The undisputed Big Ten title — Illinois' first in 18 years — landed the Illini in the Sugar Bowl against LSU. It is the Illini's first berth in the Bowl Championship Series and only fourth season with 10 or more victories.

When Turner took over the Illini in 1997, they lost all 11 games in his first season. Illinois won only three the next season but has bounced back with 23 victories in the past three seasons.

Turner's 2001 Illini possess the highest scoring offense in school history, averaging 32.4 points per contest. During the last three seasons the Illinois offenses have ranked among the school's best. Turner, brother of NFL coach Norv Turner, is known for developing quarterbacks, including the architect of this team's success, Kurt Kittner.



Ralph Friedgen



Mike Price



Ron Turner

FWAA ALL-AMERICAN OFFENSE



Randle El
Indiana

Position	Player	School	Comment
Quarterback	Antwaan Randle El	Indiana	Started season at WR
Running back	Travis Stephens	Tennessee	Set UT season rushing record
Running back	Luke Staley	BYU	Led Division I-A in scoring
Wide receiver	Josh Reed	LSU	149.4 ypg receiving
Wide receiver	Jabar Gaffney	Florida	108 receiving ypg, 13 TDs
Tight end	Daniel Graham	Colorado	51 catches, 6 TDs
Offensive lineman	Toniu Fonoti	Nebraska	Set NU pancake records
Offensive lineman	Bryant McKinnie	Miami (Fla.)	No sacks allowed in career
Center	LeCharles Bentley	Ohio State	Best lineman in Big Ten
Offensive lineman	Mike Pearson	Florida	Protected most accurate QB
Offensive lineman	Joaquin Gonzalez	Miami	Repeat All-American
Place kicker	Seth Marler	Tulane	Made 15 of 16 FGs
Kick returner	Luke Powell	Stanford	16 yards per punt return



Stephens
Tennessee



Staley
BYU



Reed
LSU



Gaffney
Florida



Graham
Colorado



Fonoti
Nebraska



Gonzalez
Miami



McKinnie
Miami



Bentley
Ohio State



Pearson
Florida



Marler
Tulane



Powell
Stanford

FWAA ALL-AMERICAN DEFENSE

Position	Player	School	Comment
Defensive lineman	Dwight Freeney	Syracuse	Led nation with 16.5 sacks
Defensive lineman	John Henderson	Tennessee	UT's 13th 2-time All-American
Defensive lineman	Julius Peppers	North Carolina	Def. Player of Week vs. FSU
Defensive lineman	Alex Brown	Florida	Gators' career sacks leader
Linebacker	Rocky Calmus	Oklahoma	109 tackles, 1 INT, 2 fumbles
Linebacker	E.J. Henderson	Maryland	Maryland record 28 TFL this year
Linebacker	Robert Thomas	UCLA	5 TFL vs. Ohio St.
Defensive back	Roy Williams	Oklahoma	Nagurski, Thorpe winner
Defensive back	Edward Reed	Miami	Led nation with 9 INTs
Defensive back	Quentin Jammer	Texas	UT record 24 passes broken up
Defensive back	Troy Polamalu	Southern Cal	3 INTs, two returned for TDs
Punter	David Zastudil	Ohio	45.6 yards per punt



Henderson
Tennessee



Peppers
No. Carolina



Calmus
Oklahoma



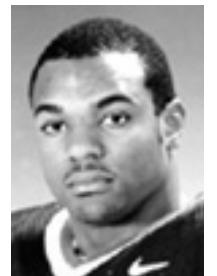
Henderson
Maryland



Thomas
UCLA



Brown
Florida



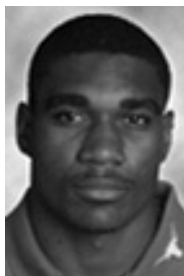
Freeney
Syracuse



Williams
Oklahoma



Reed
Miami



Jammer
Texas



Polamalu
Southern Cal



Zastudil
Ohio

Outland Trophy: Bryant McKinnie, Miami

ORLANDO — Miami offensive tackle Bryant McKinnie was named the winner of the 56th Outland Trophy on Dec. 6 during the ESPN College Football Awards Show.

McKinnie beat out Nebraska offensive guard Toniu Fonoti and 2000 Outland Trophy winner John Henderson of Tennessee for the award, which has been presented annually since 1946 to be the best interior lineman in college football by the FWAA.

McKinnie, a 6-9, 336-pound senior, has not allowed a sack during his college career and anchors a line that averaged 5.5 yards each rushing attempt. The top-ranked Hurricanes swept 11 opponents this fall and will play for the national title on Jan. 3 in the Rose Bowl.

"I'm shocked. I mean I'm up against a guy like John Henderson from Tennessee who won it last year, he's up for it again, and I win it," McKinnie said. "I was nervous not knowing if I was going to win. I never expected when I came to Miami that I would ever be up for an award like this. It's icing on the cake. I'm truly shocked. This is a big deal and makes it so complete."

McKinnie dominated Syracuse All-America defensive end Dwight Freeney in Miami's 59-0 victory over Syracuse. McKinnie held Freeney without a sack in 52 plays. McKinnie's performance set the pace for an offense that rushed for a season-best 331 yards and accumulated 566 yards against the Orangemen.

"He is a phenomenal player," said Miami coach Larry Coker. "You can't describe that (not allowing a sack in his career). He takes a lot of pride in that. Everybody tries to challenge him. He's unbelievable."

McKinnie is the second player from Miami to win the Outland Trophy. Defensive tackle Russell Maryland won the award in 1990.



Miami's Bryant McKinnie, a 6-9, 336-pound senior, has never allowed a sack in his collegiate career.

Henderson, a 6-7, 290-pound senior defensive tackle, had been seeking to become only the second player in the 56-year history of the award to repeat as the Outland Trophy winner. Nebraska center Dave Rimington won the award in 1981 and 1982.

PAST OUTLAND WINNERS

Year	Player, school
1946	George Connor, Notre Dame
1947	Joe Steffy, Army
1948	Bill Fischer, Notre Dame
1949	Ed Bagdon, Michigan State
1950	Bob Gain, Kentucky
1951	Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma
1952	Dick Modzelewski, Maryland
1953	J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma
1954	Bill Brooks, Arkansas
1955	Calvin Jones, Iowa
1956	Jim Parker, Ohio State
1957	Alex Karras, Iowa
1958	Zeke Smith, Auburn
1959	Mike McGee, Duke
1960	Tom Brown, Minnesota
1961	Merlin Olsen, Utah State
1962	Bobby Bell, Minnesota
1963	Scott Appleton, Texas
1964	Steve Delong, Tennessee

Year	Player, school
1965	Tommy Nobis, Texas
1966	Loyd Phillips, Arkansas
1967	Ron Yary, USC
1968	Bill Stanfill, Georgia
1969	Mike Reid, Penn State
1970	Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State
1971	Larry Jacobson, Nebraska
1972	Rich Glover, Nebraska
1973	John Hicks, Ohio State
1974	Randy White, Maryland
1975	Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma
1976	Ross Browner, Notre Dame
1977	Brad Shearer, Texas
1978	Greg Roberts, Oklahoma
1979	Jim Ritcher, N.C. State
1980	Mark May, Pittsburgh
1981	Dave Rimington, Nebraska
1982	Dave Rimington, Nebraska
1983	Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska

Year	Player, school
1984	Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech
1985	Mike Ruth, Boston College
1986	Jason Buck, BYU
1987	Chad Hennings, Air Force
1988	Tracy Rucker, Auburn
1989	Mohammed Elewonibi, BYU
1990	Russell Maryland, Miami (Fla.)
1991	Steve Emtman, Washington
1992	Will Shields, Nebraska
1993	Rob Waldrop, Arizona
1994	Zach Wiegert, Nebraska
1995	Jonathan Ogden, UCLA
1996	Orlando Pace, Ohio State
1997	Aaron Taylor, Nebraska
1998	Kris Farris, UCLA
1999	Chris Samuels, Alabama
2000	John Henderson, Tennessee

Nagurski Trophy: Roy Williams, Oklahoma

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Oklahoma safety Roy Williams was named the best defensive player in college football on Dec. 10 when he claimed the Bronko Nagurski Trophy.

Williams, a 6-1, 221-pound junior, beat out teammate linebacker Rocky Calmus and three defensive ends — North Carolina's Julius Peppers, Syracuse's Dwight Freeney and Florida's Alex Brown — to win the award, which is presented by the Football Writers Association of America and the Charlotte Touchdown Club. The FWAA has presented a Defensive Player of the Year Award since 1993.

Williams was the top player on one of college football's best defenses. Included in his resume was his hit on Texas quarterback Chris Simms near the goal line that resulted in an interception and return for a touchdown by the Sooners' Teddy Lehman in a 14-3 OU victory.

"There is no doubt that he is the most productive and active defensive back I've ever watched or been around as far as impacting a game, making big plays and producing turnovers," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "And he's the best open-field tackler I've ever seen."

During the 2001 regular season, Williams had 101 tackles (73 unassisted), 11 tackles for loss (-40 yards), two sacks (-16 yards), five interceptions, 22 passes broken up (school record), four quarterback hurries and three fumble recoveries, one of which was returned for a touchdown.

Williams has 268 career tackles, the third highest total for a defensive back in Oklahoma history. Next season, Williams would need just 23 tackles to move past Zac Henderson into second place among defensive backs at the school. His 29 career tackles for loss already rank No. 1 among defensive backs.

During the past season, Williams had two games in which he had double-digit tackles (15 vs. North Texas and 11 against Texas A&M). Williams returned a fumble 18 yards for a touchdown in a victory over Kansas State. In the victory over North Texas, Williams had two interceptions and forced a fumble.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT WILLIAMS:

"As aggressive a secondary player as you'll find anywhere." — **Kansas State head coach Bill Snyder**

"I think he's as dominant a defensive back as there is in the country." — **Texas offensive coordinator Greg Davis**

"Williams runs a 4.5 40 and benches 400 pounds. That's sprinter speed and linebacker lumber in an explosively athletic package. Williams defies label-



OU's Roy Williams (right) beat out teammate Rocky Calmus, North Carolina's Julius Peppers, Syracuse's Dwight Freeney and Florida's Alex Brown for the Nagurski Trophy.

ing." — **Tom Dienhart, The Sporting News, an FWAA member**

"Did you see that hit on Chris Simms? Of course you did. How many players in the country could make that play?" — **Ivan Maisel, Sports Illustrated, former FWAA president**

PAST NAGURSKI WINNERS

Year	Player	School
1993	Rob Waldrop	Arizona
1994	Warren Sapp	Miami (Fla.)
1995	Pat Fitzgerald	Northwestern
1996	Pat Fitzgerald	Northwestern
1997	Charles Woodson	Michigan
1998	Champ Bailey	Georgia
1999	Corey Moore	Virginia Tech
2000	Dan Morgan	Miami

Rose Bowl Schedule of Media Events

(Schedule subject to change)

Credentials may be picked up at the Rose Bowl Press Room (Olympic Ballroom) at the Century Plaza Hotel beginning at 2 p.m. on December 26 and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through January 2. The Rose Bowl Press Room will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through January 3. A work area and media hospitality also will be available at the Olympic Ballroom. The work and hospitality rooms will open from noon to 8 p.m. on Dec. 26, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Dec. 27 & 28, and 8 a.m. to midnight from Dec. 29 on.

Wednesday, Dec. 26

TBA — Team arrivals — Brief media opportunity at team hotels.

Thursday, Dec. 27

3-5 p.m. — Team Day at Disney's California Adventure Park. Media opportunities with both teams.

Friday, Dec. 28

8-9 a.m. — Head coaches press conference at Century Plaza Hotel, Constellation Ballroom.

8-8:30 a.m. — Miami coach

8:30-9 a.m. — Nebraska coach

Sunday, Dec. 30

9:30 a.m.-noon — Media Day at the Rose Bowl. Head coaches and entire team in jerseys. One hour per team.

9:30-10:30 a.m. — Miami

11:00 a.m.-noon — Nebraska

Monday, Dec. 31

8-10 a.m. — Coordinators and players press conference at Century Plaza, Constellation Ballroom.

8-9 a.m. — Nebraska offensive coordinator and five offensive players.

9-10 a.m. — Miami defensive coordinator and five defensive players.

Tuesday, Jan. 1

8-10 a.m. — Coordinators and players press conference at Century Plaza, Constellation Ballroom.

8-9 a.m. — Miami offensive coordinator and five offensive players.

9-10 — Nebraska defensive coordinator and five defensive players.

Wednesday, Jan. 2

8-9:45 a.m. — Final head coaches press conference at Century Plaza, Constellation Ballroom.

8-8:45 a.m. — Nebraska coach

9-9:45 a.m. — Miami coach

1-3 p.m. — FWAA board meeting at Century Plaza, Governor's Board Room

Thursday, Jan. 3

8:30-10:30 a.m. — FWAA award breakfast/meeting at Century Plaza, Westside Room

5 p.m. — Rose Bowl Game

Friday, Jan. 4

9-10 a.m. — Final press conference at Century Plaza, Constellation Ballroom. Winning coach and Player of the Game. National Championship trophy presentation (tentative).



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