

It's Award Season for FWAA; Time to meet at the Rose Bowl

Presenting awards is what the Football Writers Association of America does best in December and January, including during the annual meeting at the Rose Bowl on Jan. 3-5.

The FWAA awards season kicked off on Dec. 5 when Louisville senior end Elvis Dumervil became the first Cardinal to win the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which the FWAA awards to the best defensive player in college football.

Dumervil received the trophy at a gala banquet at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C., where a sellout crowd of 900 attended and Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis gave the keynote address.

Next up was the presentation of the FWAA's Outland Trophy on the ESPN College Football Awards Show on Dec. 8 from Disney World. Minnesota center Greg Eslinger became the third Golden Gopher to win the award, which is given to the best interior lineman in college football on either side of the ball.

The 25-man FWAA All-America (Pages 4-5) Team was announced on television during a one-hour ABC show sponsored by Cingular from Disney MGM Studios on the afternoon of Dec. 10. The team was presented to the public the previous evening at a banquet, which was sponsored by Florida Citrus Sports at Disney/MGM Sound Stage.

Six finalists for the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award were announced on Dec. 5. They appear on Page 3 of *The Fifth Down*. On-line voting

by the entire FWAA membership will be from Dec. 5-15. The winner will be announced during a BCS bowl game and honored at an event in the winning coaches' city next fall.

The FWAA's annual meeting will be Jan. 3-5 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Bowl Championship Series 1-2 game at the Rose Bowl.

The FWAA Board meeting will be the afternoon of Jan. 3. And the awards breakfast and meeting the next morning at the media hotel. Commissioners Kevin Weiberg of the Big 12 and Mike Slive of the SEC will be in attendance and answer media questions about the BCS.

The Scripps FWAA Freshman All-America team will be announced at the breakfast as well as the 2006 Bert McGrane winner. The FWAA will also recognize winners of the Best Writing Contest and reveal the name of the Volney Meece Scholarship winner.

The presentation of the Grantland Rice Super 16 Trophy is scheduled for the morning of Jan. 5 at the media hotel. The winner will be the FWAA's national champion as selected by 16 FWAA members who vote in the weekly poll.

On Jan. 12 in Omaha, the annual Outland Trophy presentation banquet will be held at the Doubletree Hotel. Eslinger will receive his trophy at the banquet sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee and First Data Corporation.



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President's column



ALAN SCHMADTKE

Sitting on the dais at the National Football Foundation's annual awards dinner in early December, Moravian College Coach Scot Dapp, president of the American Football Coaches Association, asked a question. "How many years do you serve?" "Just one," I said. "How about you?"

"One," he said, "and one is enough."

He's right. For anyone who thinks being FWAAs president is merely a line for future resumes, come serve. The reason it's only a one-year team is because most of us can't fool our full-time bosses for more than a year into believing this isn't time consuming.

This year began with a flap over the FWAAs possible participation in the new BCS poll and concluded with complaints about Joe Paterno's last-minute decision not to make players available during Penn State's media day for the Orange Bowl. In between were the ins and outs of the NCAA's new media guide policy, access issues at Notre Dame and Texas Tech and the usual handful of complaints about cheering or noise in the press box.

The fight goes on — and that's the point. While I tag out and *CBS SportsLine's* Dennis Dodd tags in, with the *Knoxville News-Sentinel's* Mike Griffith waiting in the wings, FWAAs Executive Director Steve "Tiger" Richardson continues the hard labor.

Richardson received our Bert McGrane Award in August, a just honor for someone who all but single-handedly saved the FWAAs with his ability to organize, persuade and manage. It's difficult to outline all that Tiger does, because any description needs video of his ability to work a room, charm a sponsor, cut a deal.

He would have made a ferocious

bowl director — and the hospitality suite would have had a plentiful stock of full-bodied cabernet.

The FWAAs may have had better days, but that's difficult to fathom, given our current relationships with awards partners and the civility with which the BCS and others treat us.

What Tiger has cultivated in a decade on the job is easily seen at the end of a president's turn. The FWAAs gives out or announces awards in Charlotte, N.C., Orlando and then at a floating site. Formal banquets at several stops meticulously detailed and stunningly executed by our partners. We just show up, smile and say thanks.

Which is where we ran into Coach Dapp, who fights the good fight at Division III Moravian in Pennsylvania.

His presidential advice: "Show up, look good and try not to say anything dumb."

Exactly.

Before the end of the term, some thanks are needed:

To the members of the All-America Committee. Yes, you can consider four hours on the phone as philanthropy, but your opinions are worthy.

To David Jones and Charles Durrenberger, both of whom were instrumental in pushing a membership drive in early 2005 with e-mails and follow-up phone calls. You did well.

To Chris Dufresne of the *Los Angeles Times* and Mark Blaudschun of the *Boston Globe*. You set the table for a seamless Rose Bowl.

To Ted Gangi of HiTEX! Enterprises. We've got the best directory in the business.

To Kevin Ash and his staff at the Rose Bowl. You have great foresight and even better grace.

To Charlie Fiss, Michael Konradi and everyone else at the Cotton Bowl and to Shawn Schoeffler at the Fiesta Bowl. How you keep Tiger in line I'll never know, and your unwavering support of the FWAAs does not go unnoticed.

To sports information directors Jim Muldoon at the Pac-10, Charles Bloom

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Eddie Robinson award down to six finalists

The FWAA All-America Committee has arrived at a list of six finalists for the association's Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.

The six coaches — Texas' Mack Brown, USC's Pete Carroll, UCLA's Karl Dorrell, Central Florida's George O'Leary, Penn State's Joe Paterno and Notre Dame's Charlie Weis — will be on the online ballot made available to all FWAA members.

The FWAA final vote will be revealed during a BCS bowl game on ABC Television. The FWAA has honored a major college coach with its Coach of the Year Award since 1957. Among the six finalists, there is one previous winner — Paterno.

The FWAA coaching award is named after Robinson, a coaching legend at Grambling State University for 55 years. He has more Division I victories (408) than any other coach.

The winner of the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award also will be honored at his campus before a football game next fall. Here's a capsule look at the FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year finalists:

- Mack Brown has Texas poised to win its first national title in more than three decades. The Longhorns have the second longest winning streak (19 games) in college football behind USC and won Brown's first conference title this year. The Longhorns (12-0) will be going for their second straight Rose Bowl victory after beating Michigan last season in Pasadena.

- Pete Carroll has led USC to another Pac-10 championship and has a shot at a third straight national title. The unbeaten and No. 1-ranked Trojans will meet No. 2 Texas in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 4 for the national championship. Carroll is an Eddie finalist for the third straight season and his USC team has won 34 straight games.

- Karl Dorrell's UCLA team is 9-2 and has lost only to Arizona and USC this season. The explosive Bruins had a penchant for falling behind and making great comebacks to win. A year ago UCLA finished 6-6.

- George O'Leary has posted the biggest turnaround in major college football this season in Orlando. A year ago, Central Florida was winless (0-11), but this season the Knights have an 8-4 record and nearly won Conference USA but lost to Tulsa in the league's title game.

- Joe Paterno rallied the Nittany Lions from the depths of 4-7 (2004) to a 2005 Big Ten title tie with Ohio



Mack
Brown
Texas



Karl
Dorrell
UCLA



Joe
Paterno
Penn State



Pete
Carroll
USC



George
O'Leary
Central Fla.



Charlie
Weis
Notre Dame

State. It was Penn State's first league title in 11 years. Paterno has won three previous FWAA Coach of the Year Awards (1978, '82, '86). Only Paterno and Woody Hayes (1957, '68, '75) have won as many as three FWAA Coach of the Year Awards.

- Charlie Weis turned around Notre Dame in astonishing fashion after leaving the coaching staff of the Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots. He took basically the talent of a year ago (6-6), installed his offensive system, and fashioned a 9-2 record that landed the Fighting Irish in the Fiesta Bowl.

FWAA ALL-AMERICA OFFENSE



Pos.	Player, School	Ht., Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
QB	Vince Young, Texas	6-5, 233	Jr.	Houston, Texas
RB	Reggie Bush, USC	6-0, 200	Jr.	Spring Valley, Calif.
RB	Jerome Harrison, Washington St.	5-10, 199	Sr.	Kalamazoo, Mich.
WR	Dwayne Jarrett, USC	6-5, 210	So.	New Brunswick, N.J.
WR	Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame	6-5, 216	Jr.	Valparaiso, Ind.
TE	Mercedes Lewis, UCLA	6-6, 256	Sr.	Lakewood, Calif.
OL	Taitusi Lutui, USC	6-6, 365	Sr.	Mesa, Ariz.
OL	Marcus McNeill, Auburn	6-9, 338	Sr.	Decatur, Ga.
OL	Jonathan Scott, Texas	6-7, 315	Sr.	Dallas, Texas
OL	Zach Strief, Northwestern	6-7, 335	Sr.	Milford, Ohio
C	Greg Eslinger, Minnesota	6-3, 285	Sr.	Bismarck, N.D.



Young
Texas



Bush
USC



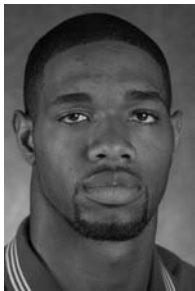
Harrison
Wash. St.



Jarrett
USC



Samardzija
Notre Dame



Lewis
UCLA



Eslinger
Minnesota



Lutui
USC



McNeill
Auburn



Scott
Texas



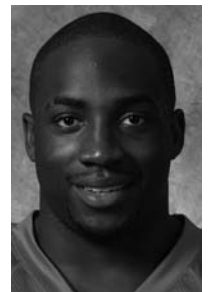
Strief
Northwestern

ALL-AMERICA DEFENSE, SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Player, School	Ht., Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
DL	Brodrick Bunkley, Florida St.	6-3, 284	Sr.	Tampa, Fla.
DL	Elvis Dumervil, Louisville	6-0, 256	Sr.	Miami, Fla.
DL	Tamba Hali, Penn State	6-3, 267	Sr.	Teaneck, N.J.
DL	Haloti Ngata, Oregon	6-5, 338	Jr.	Salt Lake City
LB	A.J. Hawk, Ohio State	6-1, 240	Sr.	Centerville, Ohio
LB	Paul Posuluszny, Penn State	6-2, 220	Jr.	Aliquippa, Pa.
LB	DeMeco Ryans, Alabama	6-2, 232	Sr.	Bessemer, Ala.
DB	Michael Huff, Texas	6-1, 205	Sr.	Irving, Texas
DB	Brandon Meriweather, Miami	6-0, 188	Jr.	Apopka, Fla.
DB	Ko Simpson, So. Carolina	6-1, 201	So.	Rock Hill, S.C.
DB	Jimmy Williams, Virginia Tech	6-3, 216	Sr.	Hampton, Va.
K	Mason Crosby, Colorado	6-2, 210	Jr.	Georgetown, Texas
P	Ryan Plackemeier, Wake Forest	6-3, 235	Sr.	Bonsall, Calif.
KR	Maurice Drew, UCLA	5-8, 205	Jr.	Antioch, Calif.



Bunkley
Florida St.



Dumervil
Louisville



Hali
Penn St.



Ngata
Oregon



Hawk
Ohio St.



Posuluszny
Penn St.



Ryans
Alabama



Huff
Texas



Meriweather
Miami



Simpson
So. Carolina



Williams
Virginia Tech



Crosby
Colorado



Plackemeier
Wake Forest



Drew
UCLA

Minnesota's Eslinger wins Outland

ORLANDO, FLA. — Minnesota center Greg Eslinger became the third Golden Gopher to be named the winner of the Outland Trophy on Dec. 8 during the ESPN College Football Awards show from Disney World.

Eslinger, a 6-3, 285-pound senior from Bismarck, N.D., joins Bobby Bell (1962) and Tom Brown (1960) as former Minnesota winners of the Outland Trophy, which goes to the top interior lineman in college football. The Outland has been presented by the FWAAs since 1946.

In an ironic twist, Eslinger was announced as the winner over other finalists Auburn offensive tackle Marcus McNeill and Oregon defensive tackle Haloti Ngata by USC's Ron Yary, a former No. 1 draft pick of the Minnesota Vikings. Yary won the Outland in 1967.

"I am extremely surprised. I am extremely humbled and honored to be mentioned with the other two gentlemen," Eslinger said after receiving the award.

Eslinger became the first player who has played center to win the award since Nebraska's Aaron Taylor, who started as a guard, switched to center as a junior, and then moved back to guard as a senior in 1997, when he took the Outland Trophy. The last true center to win the Outland Trophy was Dave Rimington of Nebraska in 1981 and '82.

"The true story about Greg is he was a tone-setter, on the field, in the weight room, in the classroom and with community service," said Minnesota head coach Glen Mason. "You very seldom get one of those guys."

"He was a perfect for our offense. He pulls so well. We run the ball awfully well and we do a lot of complicated things, and it's because of him. He can figure it out on the run. He's really a fullback playing center."

A former high school hockey player and track (discus/shot put) star, Eslinger also was a finalist for the National Football Foundation's Draddy Award. Eslinger has started a remarkable 49 straight games — his entire career — at Minnesota. A repeat FWAAs All-America in



Greg Eslinger is Minnesota's third winner of the Outland Trophy.

2005, Eslinger was named the *Detroit Free Press* Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year. He helped lead Minnesota to 497.8 yards of offense per game this past season, which ranked fifth nationally and third best in Big 10 history.

PAST OUTLAND WINNERS

1946 George Connor, Notre Dame	1961 Merlin Olsen, Utah State	1976 Ross Browner, Notre Dame	1991 Steve Emtman, Washington
1947 Joe Steffy, Army	1962 Bobby Bell, Minnesota	1977 Brad Shearer, Texas	1992 Will Shields, Nebraska
1948 Bill Fischer, Notre Dame	1963 Scott Appleton, Texas	1978 Greg Roberts, Oklahoma	1993 Rob Waldrop, Arizona
1949 Ed Bagdon, Michigan State	1964 Steve Delong, Tennessee	1979 Jim Ritcher, N.C. State	1994 Zach Wiegert, Nebraska
1950 Bob Gain, Kentucky	1965 Tommy Nobis, Texas	1980 Mark May, Pittsburgh	1995 Jonathan Ogden, UCLA
1951 Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma	1966 Loyd Phillips, Arkansas	1981 Dave Rimington, Nebraska	1996 Orlando Pace, Ohio State
1952 Dick Modzelewski, Maryland	1967 Ron Yary, USC	1982 Dave Rimington, Nebraska	1997 Aaron Taylor, Nebraska
1953 J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma	1968 Bill Stanfill, Georgia	1983 Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska	1998 Kris Farris, UCLA
1954 Bill Brooks, Arkansas	1969 Mike Reid, Penn State	1984 Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech	1999 Chris Samuels, Alabama
1955 Calvin Jones, Iowa	1970 Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State	1985 Mike Ruth, Boston College	2000 John Henderson, Tennessee
1956 Jim Parker, Ohio State	1971 Larry Jacobson, Nebraska	1986 Jason Buck, BYU	2001 Bryant McKinnie, Miami
1957 Alex Karras, Iowa	1972 Rich Glover, Nebraska	1987 Chad Hennings, Air Force	2002 Rien Long, Washington State
1958 Zeke Smith, Auburn	1973 John Hicks, Ohio State	1988 Tracy Rucker, Auburn	2003 Robert Gallery, Iowa
1959 Mike McGee, Duke	1974 Randy White, Maryland	1989 Mohammed Elewonibi, BYU	2004 Jammal Brown, Oklahoma
1960 Tom Brown, Minnesota	1975 Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma	1990 Russell Maryland, Miami (Fla.)	

Louisville's Dumervil wins Nagurski

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Louisville senior defensive end Elvis Dumervil has won the 2005 Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which annually is awarded to the best defensive player in college football.

Dumervil is the 13th Nagurski Trophy recipient and the first Louisville player to win the award, as voted upon by the Football Writers Association of America All-America committee and sponsored by the Charlotte Touchdown Club. The announcement was made Dec. 5 at the annual awards banquet attended by about 900 people at the Westin Hotel.

"I am really grateful," Dumervil said. "It is a great deal for me. Coach Petrino (Bobby, Louisville's head coach) is one of the best coaches in America. And I want to thank my teammates, they were there all season and they worked hard. We really sweated together."

The award is given in memory of the legendary Bronko Nagurski, a former All-American lineman at Minnesota (1927-29) and star for professional football's Chicago Bears in the 1930s.

Other finalists were Oregon junior defensive tackle Haloti Ngata, Penn State senior defensive end Tamba Hali, Virginia Tech senior defensive back Jimmy Williams and Alabama senior linebacker DeMeco Ryans.

Dumervil won the award after leading the nation with 20 sacks (1.82 per game) for 151 yards in losses. He also led the country in forced fumbles with 10 in 11

games. He was second in the country in tackles for loss with 22 for 165 yards in losses.

Dumervil Louisville, participating in the Big East Conference for the first time in 2005, compiled a 9-2 record and earned a trip to the Toyota Gator Bowl to face Virginia Tech.

Dumervil registered nine sacks in his first two games of the season against Kentucky and Oregon State and surpassed the old two-game NCAA Division I-A record of eight by Georgia Tech's Pat Swilling. Later, in a 69-14 thumping of North Carolina, Dumervil had three sacks, two forced fumbles and an interception.

Dumervil, a 6-0, 256-pounder from Miami, Fla., is highly coveted by the Indianapolis Colts in their 4-3 defensive scheme. Former Syracuse defensive end Dwight Freeney, who was a Bronko Nagurski Trophy finalist in 2001, now plays defensive end for the Colts.

"I sorta used size to my advantage, I could get extra leverage," Dumervil said. "During the season, I knew I was not the proto-typical defensive end. I knew I had to work that much harder, if I wanted to pursue a career at the next level.

"I would love to play for the Colts. I have spoken to Freeney during the year. And he is a good guy. I have learned from him. He told me when I got double-teamed – and that started to happen – to keep going hard and try to key the ball."



Louisville's Elvis Dumervil led the nation with 20 quarterback sacks this season, including nine in the first two games.

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
2001	Roy Williams	Oklahoma
2002	Terrell Suggs	Arizona State
2003	Derrick Strait	Oklahoma
2004	Derrick Johnson	Texas

President's column (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

at the SEC, John Paquette at the Big East, Russ Anderson at Conference USA, Joe Hornstein at the Orange Bowl, Joe Hernandez at Ball State, Jason Baum at UCF, Chris Cook at Texas Tech, Doug Walker at Notre Dame and Jeff Nelson at Penn State. You were accessible at difficult times, and your professionalism is admired.

To Bob Burda at the Big 12 (and BCS). Kate, you've got a good man.

To Steve Hatchell and Matthew Sign at the National Football Foundation. You have an impressive team.

To Chris Fowler. Who before ever associated a TV personality with brevity?

To Bob Mancuso of the Greater Omaha Sports Committee. We appreciate your embracing the Outland. If only you could find a warm front in Nebraska in January.

To John Rocco and Dave Myers at the Charlotte Touchdown Club. We should all have as much passion in our lives as you do for the Bronko Nagurski Award.

To Tom Mickle and Shannon Clark at Florida Citrus Sports. You make our organization better just by our association with you.

To Loren Matthews, ABC and Cingular. Loren, we're going to miss you.

Finally, to Tiger. I hope you have a highly detailed memo for your successor (in 20 years). I'm not sure anyone else can do what you do.



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