



FWAA honors Pat Harmon with Bert McGrane Award

Pat Harmon, long-time *Cincinnati Post* sports editor and current historian for the National Football Foundation and the College Football Hall of Fame, has won the 2004 Bert McGrane Award.

Harmon was selected as the winner by a panel of previous McGrane Award winners. He will receive a plaque and special recognition during a breakfast at the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., this coming August.

The Bert McGrane Award, which serves as the Football Writers Association of America Hall of Fame, was established in 1974. The award honors an FWAA member who has performed great service to the organization and the game of college football. It is named after McGrane, who was the executive secretary of the organization from the early 1940s until 1973.

Harmon, a father of 11 children, was president of the FWAA in 1984. He has had an illustrious career as a sports writer and editor and covered such greats as Vince Lombardi, Pete Rose, Casey Stengel, Arnold Palmer, Eddie Robinson, John Wooden, Bear Bryant, Jack Nicklaus, Woody Hayes, Paul Brown and Joe Louis.

Harmon's career started when he

was a young sports writer in Illinois. Harmon began covering events at age 17 at the *Freeport (Ill.) Journal Standard* during the Depression era of the early 1930s. He would hitchhike to games, sleep on wrestling mats in gyms of teams he covered, and also break into the food-lines of the teams.

But he will be forever remembered for inaugurating the selection of the Illinois all-state high school football and basketball teams.

Harmon moved to the *Champaign (Ill.) News-Gazette* in 1934 when became a student at the University of Illinois. And he stayed in that central Illinois town, married his wife Anne, and built a strong reputation before spending four years at the *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette* from 1947-51.

Harmon went to Cincinnati in 1951 and served as a sports editor and columnist for the *Post* for 34½ years. After retiring and traveling for a year, Harmon settled in his current job as historian in 1986.

Harmon's name also will be placed on a plaque in the rotunda of the College Football Hall of Fame with the previous McGrane Award winners.



Pat Harmon



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President's column



DICK WEISS

NEW YORK — The University of Texas is the "War and Peace" of football media guides, running 591 pages. Most beat writers in the Big 12 suggest you can avoid a hernia if you just rip out 100 pages near the front and another 100 in the back. Media attending the Southeastern Conference two-day preseason football kickoff in Birmingham don't even try to lug home the heavy-weight guides they receive from 12 schools. They simply call UPS and ship them to the office. What's a \$100 bill when it comes to your health?

We can joke about the size of these books all we want. But the valuable information SIDs work so hard to supply in print is both helpful and necessary for us to do our jobs properly.

At least, that's what I thought before hearing that the ACC athletic directors voted 8-1 recently to do away with them all together and are passing along the results to the NCAA Management Council, which may attempt to put an end to media guides all together in the future, replacing them with CDs that can be downloaded into personal computers.

I can only imagine a writer trying to look up pertinent facts on deadline in the BCS championship game and an SID handing him a CD. You'll have that information in 30 minutes.

It started out as an innocent suggestion from North Carolina Associate Athletic Director for Communications Steve Kirschner, one of the most respected people in his profession, to his AD Dick Baddour to consider limiting the size of these books in effort to curtail what has become an out of control arms race in recruiting. But that suggestion has taken on an unforeseen twist. This is just another example of athletic administrators worrying more about cost cutting than taking a common sense approach to the

professionals who cover their teams.

We at the Football Writers Association can never condone that. We hope CoSIDA and the APSE feel the same way. It's tough enough for writers to make their ever increasingly early deadlines without running through unnecessary hoops. We're also sure most, if not all, coaches would not be too pleased by this development when they make a home visit and have to sell their school by handing a recruit software for a computer the prospect may not even own.

We'd much rather buy into the idea of limiting media guides for football and basketball to 300 pages and all nonrevenue sports to 75 pages and tone down the recruiting aspects in an effort to bring back some sanity.

But the idea of doing away with media guides is totally ridiculous.

A word of praise here about the FWAAsponsored Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year dinner the Fiesta Bowl folks put on the week after the season at the Phoenician in Scottsdale. John Junker and Shawn Schoeffler, who have always been good friends of this organization, outdid themselves with this one. So did the three finalists — Nick Saban of LSU, Paul Johnson of Navy and Gary Patterson of TCU — who all handled the interviews they did during the course of the sold-out event with class and dignity.

Saban, the winner, took the time to do his homework about Robinson and his impact in both the state of Louisiana and the college football landscape and came across as a gracious winner. It's a shame he and his wife couldn't stick around, but he had to fly out to meet with the Chicago Bears' organization about a job he eventually turned down.

Our association with The Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award has become one of the best things we do to help promote the best efforts in the sport.

I want to thank executive director Steve Richardson, for attending the Outland Trophy dinner honoring Robert Gallery of Iowa for us and Wally Hall of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* for leaving this organization in such good shape.

Saban named coach of year

Louisiana State coach Nick Saban, whose Tigers claimed a share of the 2003 national championship, has been named the winner of the 2003 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.

Saban, Texas Christian's Gary Patterson and Navy's Paul Johnson attended the banquet, which is sponsored by the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and America West Airlines.

Other coaches considered for the award were Southern California's Pete Carroll, Oklahoma's Bob Stoops and Tulsa's Steve Kragthorpe.

Saban's Tigers (13-1) won the Southeastern Conference title and then defeated Oklahoma, 21-14, in the Nokia Sugar Bowl to claim the Bowl Championship Series national championship.

Saban is a first time winner of the FWAA award and only the second LSU coach to win it. In 1958, LSU coach Paul Dietzel won the FWAA award in the second year of its existence.

LSU had not won a national title since 1958, when the Tigers finished 11-0 and also won in the Sugar Bowl, 7-0 over Clemson.

Saban led the Tigers to a 12-1 record going into the Sugar Bowl showdown with the Sooners. The

Tigers' only blemish was a 19-7 loss to Florida on Oct. 11. LSU defeated Georgia, 34-13, in the SEC title game to vault into the Sugar Bowl. This is LSU's first 13-victory season.

With the victory, Saban was believed to become the highest paid coach in college football at more than \$2.3 million a season. In four seasons at LSU, Saban has compiled a 39-13 overall record and won two SEC titles.

Saban became the 31st head coach of the LSU Tigers in 2000 following a five-year stint at Michigan State. His first LSU team finished 8-4 after beating Georgia Tech in the Peach Bowl. The following season he took the Tigers to their first SEC title since 1986 with a victory over Tennessee in the SEC title game. And in 2002, the Tigers capped off another fine season by playing Texas in the Cotton Bowl before winning it all this past season.

The FWAA has presented a Coach of the Year Award since 1957 and annually selects the winner by a vote of its entire membership. Stoops won the FWAA award in 2000, when the Sooners compiled a 13-0 season by defeating Florida State in the Orange Bowl.

The FWAA honors an outstanding coach each year in the



FWAA president Dick Weiss presents the Eddie Robinson Trophy to Nick Saban, coach of the BCS champion LSU Tigers.

name of Grambling State University's s Eddie Robinson, the winningest Division I head coach in college football history. The banquet also helps support the Eddie Robinson Foundation, which is based in Atlanta.

FWAA COACH OF THE YEAR WINNERS

1957	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1973	Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh	1989	Bill McCartney, Colorado
1958	Paul Dietzel, LSU	1974	Grant Teaff, Baylor	1990	Bobby Ross, Georgia Tech
1959	Ben Schwartzwalder, Syracuse	1975	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1991	Don James, Washington
1960	Murray Warmath, Minnesota	1976	Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh	1992	Gene Stallings, Alabama
1961	Darrell Royal, Texas	1977	Lou Holtz, Arkansas	1993	Terry Bowden, Auburn
1962	John McKay, USC	1978	Joe Paterno, Penn State	1994	Rich Brooks, Oregon
1963	Darrell Royal, Texas	1979	Earle Bruce, Ohio State	1995	Gary Barnett, Northwestern
1964	Ara Parseghian, Notre Dame	1980	Vince Dooley, Georgia	1996	Bruce Snyder, Arizona State
1965	Duffy Daugherty, Michigan St.	1981	Danny Ford, Clemson	1997	Mike Price, Washington State
1966	Tom Cahill, Army	1982	Joe Paterno, Penn State	1998	Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee
1967	John Pont, Indiana	1983	Howard Schnellenberger, Miami	1999	Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
1968	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1984	LaVell Edwards, BYU	2000	Bob Stoops, Oklahoma
1969	Bo Schembechler, Michigan	1985	Fisher DeBerry, Air Force	2001	Ralph Friedgen, Maryland
1970	Alex Agase, Northwestern	1986	Joe Paterno, Penn State	2002	Jim Tressel, Ohio State
1971	Bob Devaney, Nebraska	1987	Dick MacPherson, Syracuse	2003	Nick Saban, LSU
1972	John McKay, USC	1988	Lou Holtz, Notre Dame		

USC wins FWAA's Grantland Rice Trophy

The University of Southern California Trojans are the winners of the 2003 Grantland Rice Trophy after finishing atop final Grantland Rice Super 16 Poll.

It was the fifth time in the 50-year history of the trophy that USC has been named the FWAA's national champion. The Trojans also were declared the national champion by the FWAA in 1962, 1967, 1972 and 1974.

"It's an extreme honor for the 2003 USC football team to win the Grantland Rice Trophy," said USC coach Pete Carroll. "We are very appreciative that the Football Writers Association of America has rewarded our successful season by presenting us with a trophy that has such a prestigious history to it. It is the culmination of a lot of hard work, preparation and focus by those involved with our program. On behalf of our players, coaches, staff and the entire Trojan Family, the 2003 Trojans are honored to win USC's fifth-ever Grantland Rice Trophy."

USC edged out LSU for the trophy by virtue of its 11 first-place votes. The Trojans completed their 2003 season with a convincing 28-14 win over Michigan in the Rose Bowl. LSU, which finished the season 13-1 with a 21-14 win over Oklahoma in the Nokia Sugar Bowl, was second in the poll and garnered the remaining five first-place votes. The Tigers were among four Southeastern Conference teams in the final Super 16.

Oklahoma and Ohio State were ranked third and fourth, respectively, leading the Big 12 and Big Ten, which each featured three teams in the final poll.

The Grantland Rice Trophy has been presented to the national champion by the FWAA since 1954. For the past two seasons, the winner has been decided by poll voted on by 16 regionally balanced writers.



USC coach Pete Carroll accepts the FWAA's Grantland Rice Trophy from the FWAA's Steve Henson of the Los Angeles Times.

FWAA SUPER 16 POLL

Rank	School	1st Pl. Votes	Record
1.	Southern California	11	12-1
2.	LSU	5	13-1
3.	Oklahoma		12-2
4.	Ohio State		11-2
5.	Miami		11-2
6.	Georgia		11-3
7.	Michigan		10-3
8.	Iowa		10-3
9.	Washington St.		10-3
10.	Florida State		10-3
11.	Miami (Ohio)		13-1
12.	Kansas State		11-4
13.	Texas		10-3
14.	Ole Miss		10-3
15.	Boise State		13-1
16.	Tennessee		10-3

GRANTLAND RICE TROPHY WINNERS

1954	UCLA	1966	Notre Dame	1979	Alabama	1992	Alabama
1955	Oklahoma	1967	USC	1980	Georgia	1993	Florida State
1956	Oklahoma	1968	Ohio State	1981	Clemson	1994	Nebraska
1957	Ohio State	1969	Texas	1982	Penn State	1995	Nebraska
1958	Iowa	1970	Nebraska	1983	Miami (Fla.)	1996	Florida
1959	Syracuse	1971	Nebraska	1984	BYU	1997	Michigan
1960	Mississippi	1972	USC	1985	Oklahoma	1998	Tennessee
1961	Ohio State	1973	Notre Dame	1986	Penn State	1999	Florida State
1962	USC	1974	USC	1987	Miami (Fla.)	2000	Oklahoma
1963	Texas	1975	Oklahoma	1988	Notre Dame	2001	Miami (Fla.)
1964	Arkansas	1976	Pittsburgh	1989	Miami (Fla.)	2002	Ohio State
1965	Alabama	1977	Notre Dame	1990	Colorado	2003	USC
	Michigan St.	1978	Alabama	1991	Washington		

San Jose State's Neil Parry wins FWAA's second Courage Award

NEW ORLEANS — San Jose State's Neil Parry received the 2003 FWAA/ESPN *The Magazine* Courage Award on during the association's annual awards breakfast in conjunction with the Nokia Sugar Bowl at the New Orleans Hyatt hotel.

Parry suffered a broken right leg as a sophomore against Texas-El Paso in 2000. He lost the lower part of his right leg after an infection. But he underwent 25 surgeries during the following two seasons and was fitted with an artificial limb.

Parry returned to play this season, mainly on San Jose State's long punt return team. He completed his inspirational comeback when he played his first game since the amputation on Sept. 18 against Nevada.

Sixteen athletes, a student manager and an assistant coach, each with a special story of accomplishment in the face of difficult circumstances, were nominees for the 2003 FWAA/ESPN *The Magazine* Courage Award.

The award honors someone in college football who shows great courage in the face of adversity. Candidates must display a courageous action on or off the field, overcome an injury or physical handicap, prevent a disaster or live through a lifetime of hardship.

Toledo running back William Bratton, who endured a blood disorder and great pain but still played football, won the inaugural award after the 2002 season.

Nominations for the award were solicited by the FWAA. A panel of nearly three dozen members reviewed the nominees and selected Parry.

Parry was fitted with a prosthetic leg for the first time in November 2000. After several surgeries, he



San Jose State's Neil Parry accepts the FWAA's Courage Award from 2003 president Wally Hall.

was shooting golf in the mid 80s. He also was lifting weights and worked out on a treadmill by April 2001.

Neil returned to the team in August 2001. He participated in non-contact drills and he had his own workout regimen with the San Jose State University strength and conditioning coaching staff.

Parry spent game days in 2001 keeping charts for the San Jose State defensive coaches. In preparation for his return to competition, San Jose State University received written clearance from the NCAA allowing Neil to participate with his medically approved prosthetic leg.

But before the 2002 season, Parry suffered a season-ending set-

back just after Labor Day.

He suffered discomfort at the end of his right leg. The prosthetic fit was no longer fitting properly and he could not run at full speed. So he did not play in games. He continued the weight training directed by the San Jose State strength and conditioning staff. Parry was only a spectator at 2002 home football games before the attachment was improved and he could play in 2003.

Inspired by the story of Jekely Johnson, an Alcorn State linebacker who was murdered while coming to the aid of a woman being harassed by four non-students on campus, the award was created by *ESPN The Magazine's* Gene Wojciechowski.

Snapshots from the FWAA's annual meetings during Sugar Bowl Week



Big East commissioner and 2002-03 BCS boss Mike Tranghese fields questions from FWAA members in New Orleans.



FWAA executive director Steve Richardson is flanked by 2004 president Dick Weiss and 2003 president Wally Hall in New Orleans.



Shawn Schoeffler of the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl (left) and Bernie Kish of the College Football Hall of Fame (right) join former FWAA presidents Mark Blaudschun of the Boston Globe, Tony Barnhart of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Kelly Whiteside of USA Today at the annual Past Presidents Dinner in New Orleans.

FWAA Freshman All-America Team

The third annual Scripps/FWAA Freshman All-American Team included two players from the FWAA's national champion USC Trojans and two more from the BCS's national champion LSU Tigers.

The 26-member team was selected by an 11-man committee representing each of the NCAA's Division I-A football conferences. More than 70 players were nominated and evaluated by the committee.

OFFENSE

QB — Chris Leak, Florida
 RB — Justin Vincent, LSU
 RB — Robert Merrill, TCU
 RB — Laurence Maroney, Minnesota
 *OL — Leroy Harris, N.C. State
 OC — Kyle Young, Fresno St.
 OL — Samson Satele, Hawaii
 OL — Justin Blalock, Texas
 OL — Robert Turner, New Mexico
 WR — Steve Odom, Toledo
 WR — Steve Breaston, Michigan

DEFENSE

*DL — Jason Berryman, Iowa State
 DL — Ray McDonald, Florida
 DL — Brian Smith, Missouri
 DL — Mario Williams, N.C. State
 *LB — Channing Crowder, Florida
 *LB — Ahmad Brooks, Virginia
 LB — Nick Bunting, Tulsa
 DB — Brandon Browner, Oregon St.
 DB — LaRon Landry, LSU
 DB — Darnell Bing, USC
 DB — Eric Weddle, Utah

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK — James Wilhoit, Tennessee
 P — Brandon Fields, Michigan St.
 All-Purpose — Willie Idlette, Wake Forest
 KR — Reggie Bush, USC
 *PR — Ryne Robinson, Miami, Oh.

First-Year Coach

Steve Kragthorpe, Tulsa

* Indicates unanimous selection

Garrett Holtz wins Meece scholarship

NEW ORLEANS — Garrett Holtz, a freshman at the University of Colorado, is the seventh winner of the Volney Meece Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded by the Football Writers Association of America and named for the late Volney Meece. Meece 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.

Holtz is the son of FWAA member Randy Holtz, a staff writer for the *Rocky Mountain News* in Denver.

Garrett Holtz is a 2003 graduate of Mullen High School, where he maintained a 3.27 grade point average. In his junior and senior years, Holtz was a member of Mullen track team, which won consecutive Colorado state championships.

Holtz was heavily involved in Mullen's theater department, where he acted in more than a dozen plays and musicals and won the school's Best Actor Award his senior year. He will major in drama in college, where he has just completed his first semester at CU.

Previous Meece Scholarship winners include: Bret Goering, Topeka, Kan.; Kelley Brooks, Denver, Colo.; James Butz, Schaumburg, Ill.; Sara Barnhart, Atlanta, Ga.; Patrick Davis, Coventry, Conn., and Jacqueline O'Toole, Laytonville, Md.

BERT McGRANE AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the FWAA's Bert McGrane award for outstanding service to the organization and the writing profession:

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

Best Writing Contest Rules, Procedures

Categories

Game/Event (Immediate deadline)
Game/Event (Loose Deadline)
Feature Story/Profile
Enterprise/Investigative
Column/Commentary/Analysis

You can begin sending entries now. You **MUST BE** an FWAA member in good standing. If you did not pay your dues for 2003, you must submit 2004 dues of \$40.00 (payable to the FWAA at the national office in Dallas) at the time of your entry.

1. Deadline: June 15, 2004
2. Limit: One (1) article per category.
3. Entries had to appear in print or on-line between Feb. 1, 2003, and Jan. 31, 2004.

4. Entries must be e-mailed to contest@sportswriters.net. Send MS Word or text files only. Do not send HTML files or links to stories on the Internet or electronic libraries because links sometimes become inactive. Make your entry easy to read by taking out unnecessary carriage returns at the ends of lines. The carriage returns can give your entry an odd look when opened by the judge's word processing program.

5. At the top of each entry, this information should be included: publication (on-line service), writer(s), category, date of publication, plus an email address and telephone numbers for the writer(s) of the entry. The entries will be sorted and stripped of identifying information and forward to the judge.

6. Only entries sent electronically will be accepted.



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