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## Here's to the FWAA's 50-plus club

The FWAA is honoring members who joined the Association in 1956 or before by placing them in the "50-Plus Club."

From the FWAA archives, research indicates there are 28 current members who joined the organization in 1956 or before. That is a remarkable number for one of the oldest writing organizations in the country.

Those members are being honored for their longevity of membership and will receive a token of the FWAA's appreciation later this year.

In addition, the 50-Plus Club will be featured on the front cover of the 2005-06 print FWAA Directory.

Pat Harmon, former FWAA president and Bert McGrane winner, has been a member since 1942 and leads the organization in membership longevity.

There are actually six members who have been members for 60 years or more. Harmon, Norris Anderson (1946), Bob Broeg (1945), Sid Hartman (1945), Paul Morrison (1946) and Edwin Pope (1946).

Here's the complete list of the 50-Plus Members, the year they joined and their past or current affiliation:



**Former Bert McGrane award winner Jimmie McDowell, who became a member in 1948, is one of 28 members who joined the FWAA in 1956 or before.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Norris Anderson (1946) <i>Football News</i>              | Post-Dispatch                            |
| Furman Bisher (1950) <i>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> | Don Bryant (1950) University of Nebraska |
| Bob Broeg (1945) <i>St. Louis</i>                        | Arnie Burdick (1956) <i>Syracuse</i>     |

*(Continued on page 4)*

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*Orlando Sentinel*

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**Chad Hartley**  
*Reno Gazette Journal*

**Dave Jones**  
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**Todd Jones**  
*Columbus Dispatch*

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**Brian Koonz**  
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**Ted Lewis**  
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**Joseph Person**  
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**Kalani Simpson**  
*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*

**Bob Thomas**  
*Florida Times-Union*

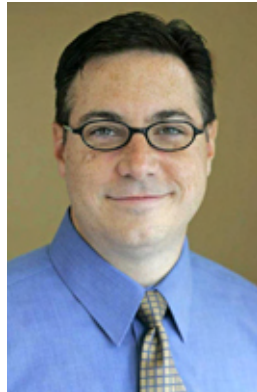
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*Los Angeles Daily News*

Ex-officio

**Bob Burda**  
*Big 12/BCS liaison*

**Jon Jackson**  
*Duke/CoSIDA*

# President's column



**ALAN  
SCHMADTKE**

The Bowl Championship Series may be full of uncertainty as conference commissioners try to sort out their poll problems. Its media representatives are playing a much smoother game.

Among 2005's first-half developments:

- Big 12 assistant commissioner Bob Burda smartly convened a gathering in Dallas of BCS media reps from the Orange, Fiesta, Rose and Sugar bowls, plus reps from the SEC, Big East and Pac-10.

- Orange Bowl media coordinator Joe Hornstein briefed his peers on his bowl's 2005 BCS Championship Game media plan, one that drew raves.

- And Mitch Dorger, executive director of the Rose Bowl, host of the 2006 BCS Championship, hosted a small group from the FWAA to preview his bowl's media plan, one specially tailored for the inherent challenges of Los Angeles.

Burda is BCS coordinator Kevin Wieberg's point man for the media, and he was among those attending the A-to-Z Rose Bowl preview. Media members can expect shuttles to the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif., and back for media day (Jan. 2, 2006); to the media party that night and back; and to the Rose Bowl and back on game day (Jan. 4).

Rose Bowl chief administrative officer Kevin Ash and his staff already have made one move to accommodate East Coast members: timing of media day was moved forward three hours to 2:30 to 5 p.m. EST. The Home Depot Center, a monster practice facility, will be equipped with phones so members writing on deadline can file without having to go back to the media hotel.

The media hotel (the Beverly Hilton)

is equipped with wireless in the media center. Rooms won't have wireless but will have optional high-speed service.

Wireless service at the Rose Bowl is still a question, one that won't be answered until football season. As it is, Ash's staff is promising one free phone for every three working writers. High-speed service also may be an option.

A few words of caution: Nothing in LA is inexpensive, and covering this game won't be, either. The Beverly Hilton -- Rate: \$175. Rose Bowl officials negotiated a discounted daily parking rate (\$21, down from \$25).

Such rates won't play well with many editors, especially those in college towns like Norman, Okla., and Knoxville, Tenn., but they're a couple ticks down from at the last Super Bowl in Jacksonville.

One key thing to note about this season's Rose Bowl include credentials. Just like the Orange, the Rose will require photos for its credentials.

Unlike the Orange, the Rose will not permit media members to e-mail photos to the bowl. All media photos must be taken by the bowl, which plans to send a photographer to the SEC, ACC and Big 12 championship games. Other media that need credentials can apply without a photo and will have their pictures taken when the pick up credentials. The process will add only about two minutes to credential pickup, Ash said.

As for football business at the BCS, the bowls and conference partners are exploring a replacement poll. That poll won't be the FWAA's.

First, our board has no interest in doing away with a pre-season poll.

Second, there simply is too much downside in allowing our poll to plug directly into a BCS formula. FWAA reps Chris Dufresne (Los Angeles Times) and Mark Blaudschun (Boston Globe) relayed this sentiment to BCS partners at their April meeting.

It's possible some FWAA members will be asked to participate in a newly created BCS poll. And that decision will be up to each member and each member's boss. Regardless what it touches, the BCS is never dull.

# Bowl press operations improving

By Ron Higgins

*Memphis Commercial-Appeal*

To borrow and tweak a phrase of a popular commercial concerning a corporate sponsor of one of the post-season bowl games, "Capital One, what's in your bowl game press operation?"

Actually, it wasn't just the Capital One Bowl's press operation we were interested in. It was all the bowls, which is why we tried to get media surveys from as many postseason games as possible.

What the surveys told us that that there's a clear line between the operation of the BCS bowls and a few of the upper level bowls and the operation of the rest of the bowls that seem to spring up every other year like acne.

Understandably, the BCS bowls should have an edge. They have more money, bigger budgets and there's a reason they are BCS bowls. They are professional operations with year-round personnel.

They also listen to FWAA when we have suggestions. We don't ask for much.

All we really care about is good access to players and coaches during the week, a press room at the press hotel where brochures and updates may be obtained, plenty of phones and electrical outlets on game day and an efficient postgame for writers battling deadline.

Anything else that we get is gravy. Which is why covering the Fiesta and Cotton Bowls is a dream. Both bowls bring a wave of key players and coaches to the media hotels for interviews, and they back it up with extensive quote sheets.

The media hospitality at both bowls is a dream. They actually have several events for the media and spouses/ or girlfriends. And it's nice to have transportation to and from these events and to and from the game.

In our survey, other bowls got high marks for innovative ideas. At the Orange Bowl, press conferences with the teams and players were broadcast on TV in the media hotel. Brilliant!

The Outback Bowl drew raves for just about everything but rated the highest for its media center, media hospitality suite and bowl staff and volunteers. The main gripes came from photographers, who said that the "standing only" policy in end zones was dangerous and that too many sideline passes were issued on the Wisconsin sideline.

Also, there were a couple of complaints about lack of access to Wisconsin players during the week, but that's often something a bowl can't control. And frankly, it has been my experience, having been spoiled by covering the mostly media friendly SEC, that Big 10 schools treat the media like the enemy.

The smaller bowls seem to struggle handling the basic needs of the media.

At the Mobile Bowl (one of two bowls I covered this year), they didn't have a press room. When I asked the bowl's alleged media director for press guides of both teams, as well as a bowl press guide, he said, "I have some in the trunk of my car." I never got the press guides and didn't see any until game night.

And then on game night, I almost fell out of my chair when the pregame media notes informed us that the press box would close at midnight and that the press box must be clear.

What about writers who had to file more than one story? When I walked out of the press box at 11:45 p.m., there were about six or seven guys left hammering away. I hope they made it out before midnight. They may still be locked in up there for all we know. Maybe they've gotten the postgame quotes by now.

The Liberty Bowl, which may have been the most competitive and most entertaining non-BCS bowl this year featuring Louisville and Boise State, also received mostly critical surveys. One writer put it best on our survey when he wrote, "For the most part, it seemed like the media was on its own."

There were breakdowns in several areas. The press conferences for both coaches the day before the game were held at separate locations. The bowl media guide came out late, and no information was provided on directions to and from key locations. There were no free use phones in the press box, and the postgame interview area was in a tent in a parking lot with a band playing outside.

The tent was also so far from the Boise State locker room that Boise State was gone by the time the press conference ended.

Living in Memphis and having covered games at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium, I can't blame all the postgame problems on the Liberty Bowl media operation.

Postgame has always been a pain in that stadium. There's no large postgame interview room where it's quiet. Unless you are in the hastily set up an interview tent at midfield, halfway between the dressing rooms, there is no good location.

There's also the fact they remodeled the press box and made it even worse. One writer wrote in his survey that it would be nice to have high-speed internet in that stadium. Hey, they're lucky to have electricity that works most of the time in that dump. The only real way to improve Liberty Bowl Stadium is to implode it.

The good news from all surveys tell us that more and more bowls are getting their press operations in line.

But we're shooting for 100 percent. All they have to do is listen to us. If they do that, they may get there yet.

A wag can dream the possible dream, can't she or he?

# ALL-AMERICA OFFENSE

## QUARTERBACKS

Chad Henne, Michigan  
Drew Tate, Iowa  
Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green  
Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo  
Chris Leak, Florida  
Brodie Croyle, Alabama  
Jay Cutler, Vanderbilt  
Matt Leinart, USC  
Jared Zabransky, Boise St.  
Darrell Hackney, UAB  
Jordan Palmer, UTEP  
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame  
Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M  
Vincent Young, Texas  
Brian Brohm, Louisville  
Tyler Palko, Pittsburgh  
Brad Smith, Missouri  
Charles Whitehurst, Clemson  
Marcus Vick, Virginia Tech

## RUNNING BACKS

Jamario Thomas, North Texas  
Laurence Maroney, Minnesota  
Michael Bush, Louisville  
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois  
Kenneth Darby, Alabama  
Brian Leonard, Rutgers  
P.J. Daniels, Georgia Tech  
Damien Rhodes, Syracuse  
Terrence Whitehead, Oregon  
Mike Hart, Michigan  
Cornell Brockington, UConn  
Jerious Norwood, Miss. St.  
Joseph Addai, LSU  
Alley Broussard, LSU  
Reggie Bush, USC  
LenDale White, USC  
Maurcie Drew UCLA  
Marshawn Lynch, California  
Bryson Sumlin, Fresno St.

DeAngelo Williams, Memphis  
Carlton Jones, Army  
Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma  
Chris Barclay, Wake Forest  
Wali Lundy, Virginia  
Leon Washington, Florida St.  
Lynell Hamilton, San Diego St.  
Lonta Hobbs, TCU  
DonTrell Moore, New Mexico  
Gerald Riggs, Tennessee

## WIDE RECEIVERS

Santonio Holmes, Ohio St.  
Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio St.  
Greg Lee, Pittsburgh  
Chad Jackson, Florida  
Tres Moses, Rutgers  
Dwayne Bowe, LSU  
Marcus Monk, Arkansas  
Travis Wilson, Oklahoma  
Steve Odom, Toledo  
Ed Hinkel, Iowa  
Steve Breaston, Michigan  
Courtney Taylor, Auburn  
Kyle Ingraham, Purdue  
Andre Caldwell, Florida  
Glenn Holt, Kentucky  
Craig Davis, LSU  
Mike Hass, Oregon St.  
Derek Hagan, Arizona St.  
Dwayne Jarrett, USC  
Rufus Skillern, San Jose St.  
Nichiren Flowers, Nevada  
Paul Dombrowski, New Mexico St.  
Vincent Marshall, Houston  
Todd Blythe, Iowa St.  
Jarrett Hicks, Texas Tech  
Calvin Johnson, Georgia Tech  
David Anderson, Colorado St.  
Jovon Bouknight, Wyoming

Cory Rodgers, TCU  
Todd Watkins, BYU  
Jeff Webb, San Diego St.  
D'Juan Woods, Oklahoma St.

## TIGHT ENDS

Brent Celek, Cincinnati  
Charles Davis, Purdue  
Cooper Wallace, Auburn  
Leonard Pope, Georgia  
Derek Schouman, Boise St.  
Mercedes Lewis, UCLA  
Tim Day, Oregon  
Dominique Byrd, USC  
Anthony Fasano, Notre Dame  
Zach Miller, Arizona St.  
Joe Newton, Oregon St.  
Matt Herian, Nebraska  
Joe Klopfenstein, Colorado  
David Thomas, Texas  
Jeff King, Virginia Tech  
Garrett Mills, Tulsa  
Clark Harris, Rutgers

## CENTERS

Kyle Roper, Arkansas  
Greg Eslinger, Minnesota  
Nick Mangold, Ohio St.  
Brian Van Acker, Northern Illinois  
Mike Degory, Florida  
J.B. Clossner, Alabama  
Jason Spitz, Louisville  
Grayling Love, Arizona St.  
Marvin Philip, California  
Kyle Young, Fresno St.  
Will Montgomery, Virginia Tech  
Jesse Boone, Utah  
Ryan Cook, New Mexico  
Lance Reynolds, BYU  
Patrick Ross, Boston College  
Mike McCloskey, UCLA

Jon Wilson, Air Force

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Mark Setterstrom, Minnesota  
Rob Warren, Bowling Green  
Marcus McNeill, Auburn  
Max Jean-Gilles, Georgia  
Andrew Whitworth, LSU  
Nate Livings, LSU  
Na'Shan Goddard, So. Carolina  
Jabari Levey, South Carolina  
Ryan O'Callaghan, California  
Josh Linehan, Oregon St.  
Winston Justice, USC  
Daryn Colledge, Boise St.  
Samson Satele, Hawaii  
Aaron Lips, Louisiana Tech  
Ryan Wendell, Fresno St.  
Toby Bullock, Marshall  
Chris Magee, Tulane  
Dylan Lineberry, North Texas  
Ryan Harris, Notre Dame  
Dan Mozes, West Virginia  
Will Allen, Texas  
Jerome Clary, Kansas St.  
Brian Daniels, Colorado  
Davin Joseph, Oklahoma  
Jonathan Scott, Texas  
Steve Vallos, Wake Forest  
D'Brickshaw Ferguson, Virginia  
Eric Winston, Miami, Fla.  
Kyle Ralph, North Carolina  
Jake Kuresa, BYU  
Doug Free, Northern Illinois  
Travis Leffew, Louisville  
Fred Matua, USC  
Tony Palmer, Missouri  
Arron Sears, Tennessee  
Matt Lentz, Michigan

## 50-plus club (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

*Herald-Journal*

Dave Campbell (1956) *Texas Football*  
Don Clerkin (1956) Author  
Beano Cook (1956) ESPN  
Joe Doyle (1951) *South Bend Tribune*  
Wayne Duke (1951) Big Ten Conference  
Dick Forbes (1948) *Cincinnati Enquirer*  
Dan Foster (1954) *Greenville News*  
Jack Hairston (1954) *Hairston's Gator Pipeline*  
Wiles Hallock (1951) Pacific-10 Conference  
Pat Harmon (1942) *Cincinnati Post, College Hall*  
Sid Hartman (1945) *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

Bob Hurt (1950) *Daily Oklahoman/Arizona Republic*  
Kaye Kessler (1952) *Columbus Citizen-Journal*  
Jimmie McDowell (1948) All-American Football  
Paul Morrison (1946) Drake University  
Jim Mott (1955) University of Wisconsin  
Murray Olderman (1953) NEA  
Joe Pollack (1954) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*  
Edwin Pope (1946) *Miami Herald*  
Bob Roesler (1953) *New Orleans Times-Picayune*  
Blackie Sherrrod (1950) *Dallas Morning News*  
Al Shrier (1956) Temple University  
Nick Vista (1956) Michigan State University

# CHECKLIST

## DEFENSE

### DEFENSIVE LINE

Jeremy Chase, Navy  
Gabe Watson, Michigan  
Ray Edwards, Purdue  
Manny Lawson, N.C. St.  
Tamba Hail, Penn St.  
Devan Long, Oregon  
Manase Hopoi, Washington  
Dan Bazuin, Central Michigan  
T. J. Jackson, Auburn  
Stanley McClover, Auburn  
Quentin Moses, Georgia  
Kyle Williams, LSU  
Claude Wroten, LSU  
Willie Evans, Miss. St.  
Stanley Doughty, So. Carolina  
Larry McSwain, UAB  
James Wyche, Syracuse  
Mathias Kiwanuka, Boston College  
Orien Harris, Miami, Fla.  
Mario Williams, N.C. St.  
Garrett McIntyre, Fresno St.  
Mel Purcell, Hawaii  
Alex Guerrero, Boise St.  
Larry Birdine, Oklahoma  
Keyunta Dawson, Texas Tech  
Dusty Dvoracek, Oklahoma  
Rodrique Wright, Texas  
Darryl Tapp, Virginia Tech  
Eric Henderson, Georgia Tech  
Steve Fifita, Utah

Jesse Mahelona, Tennessee  
Parys Haralson, Tennessee  
Haloti Ngata, Oregon

### LINEBACKERS

Spencer Havner, UCLA  
Abdul Hodge, Iowa  
A.J. Hawk, Ohio St.  
Paul Posluszny, Penn St.  
Chad Greenway, Iowa  
Terna Nande, Miami, Ohio  
Thomas Howard, UTEP  
AJ Nicholson, Florida St.  
Gerris Wikinson, Georgia Tech  
Jamar Williams, Arizona St.  
Keon Jackson, Toledo  
Will Derting, Wash. St.  
Dale Robinson, Arizona St.  
Jon Alston, Stanford  
Trent Bray, Oregon St.  
Bernard Davis, Troy  
David Mahoney, Navy  
Korey Hall, Boise St.  
Byron Santiago, La. Tech  
Chris Moore, East Carolina  
Anthony Cannon, Tulane  
Nick Reid, Kansas  
Brandon Hoyte, Notre Dame  
H.B. Blades, Pittsburgh  
D'Qwell Jackson, Maryland  
Ahmad Brooks, Virginia  
Ernie Sims, Florida St.

Brian Toal, Boston College  
Cameron Jensen, BYU  
Spencer Toone, Utah  
Patrick Willis, Ole Miss  
Ricardo Hurley, South Carolina  
Cameron Vaughn, LSU  
Travis Williams, Auburn  
Brandon Siler, Florida  
Earl Everett, Florida  
Freddie Roach, Alabama  
Moses Osemwegie, Vanderbilt  
DeMeco Ryans, Alabama  
Kevin Simon, Tennessee

Charles Gordon, Kansas  
Daniel Bullocks, Nebraska  
Donnie McCleskey, California  
Josh Powell, San Jose St.  
Richard Marshall, Fresno St.  
John Eubanks, Southern Miss  
Wesley Smith, Memphis  
Curtis Keyes, Marshall  
Hunter Reddick, Navy  
Dhyan Tarver, Army  
Nate Salley, Ohio St.  
Jimmy Williams, Virginia Tech  
Tye Hill, Clemson  
Antonio Cromartie, Florida St.  
Ashton Youboty, Ohio St.  
Gabriel Fulbright, New Mexico  
Derrick Martin, Wyoming  
Eric Weddle, Utah  
Jahmile Addae, West Virginia  
Anthony Smith, Syracuse  
Darnell Bing, USC  
Jason Simpson, Missouri  
Antwan Allen, Iowa  
Bernard Pollard, Purdue  
Jaxson Appel, Texas A&M

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

Alan Zemaitis, Penn St.  
Jason Allen, Tennessee  
Roman Harper, Alabama  
Charlie Peprah, Alabama  
Muhammad Abdullah, Kentucky  
LaRon Landry, LSU  
Jessie Daniels, LSU  
Ko Simpson, South Carolina  
Pat Watkins, Florida St.  
Michael Huff, Texas

## SPECIALISTS

### KICKERS

Andrew Wellock, Eastern Michigan  
John Vaughn, Auburn  
Andy Bailey, Georgia  
Chris Jackson, LSU  
Josh Brown, South Carolina  
James Wilhoit, Tennessee  
Colby Smith, Middle Tennessee  
Stephen Gostkowski, Memphis  
Mason Crosby, Colorado  
Justin Medlock, UCLA  
Deric Yaussi, Wyoming  
Alexis Serna, Oregon St.  
Josh Cummings, Pittsburgh  
Travis Bell, Georgia Tech  
Matt Nuzie, UConn

Kyle Stringer, Boise St.  
Chris Beckman, Tulane  
Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor  
John Torp, Colorado  
Brendan Carney, Syracuse  
Ryan Dougherty, East Carolina  
Joel Stelly, Louisiana-Monroe  
Adam Podlesh, Maryland

### RETURNERS

Kevin Robinson, Utah St.  
Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio St.  
Tyrone Prothro, Alabama  
Thomas Flowers, Georgia  
Skyler Green, LSU  
Jonathan Lowe, Miss. St.  
Mike Espy, Mississippi  
Reggie Bush, USC  
Ashlan Davis, Tulsa  
John Eubanks, Southern Miss  
Travis Williams, East Carolina  
Devin Hester, Miami, Fla.  
Larry Taylor, Connecticut  
Danny Amendola, Texas Tech

### PUNTERS

Steve Weatherford, Illinois  
Ryan Plackmeier, Wake Forest  
Brandon Fields, Michigan St.  
Kody Bliss, Auburn  
Eric Wilbur, Florida  
Kyle Basler, Washington St.  
Tom Malone, USC

## FWAA ALL-AMERICA COMMITTEE

- ▶ **Al Featherston**, Freelance, feather@mindspring.com, ACC
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- ▶ **Ted Lewis**, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, tlewis@timespicayune.com, C-USA, Sun Belt
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- ▶ **Kalani Simpson**, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, kalanisimpson@hotmail.com, WAC
- ▶ **Scott Wolf**, *Los Angeles Daily News*, Scwolf1@aol.com, Pac-10
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- ▶ **Mike Huguenin**, *Orlando Sentinel*, mhuguenin@orlandosentinel.com, National

# Outland Trophy watch list announced

The FWAA has announced the 2005 Outland Trophy Watch List.

The Outland Trophy has been awarded to the best offensive or defensive lineman in college football since 1946. The winner is usually selected by the FWAA's All-America Committee, which selects the association's 25-man team and picks three Outland Trophy finalists.

The 2005 Outland Trophy announcement will be on Dec. 8 in Orlando, Fla., on the ESPN College Football Awards Show. The Outland Trophy presentation ban-

quet, which is sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee and First Data Corporation, is on Jan. 12, 2006, in Omaha, Neb.

Oklahoma offensive tackle Jammal Brown won the 2004 Outland Trophy. Former Outland winner Ron Yary from USC (1967), will make the announcement of the 2005 winner in Orlando.

Outland Trophy candidates may be added or deleted during the course of the season. Tackles, guards and centers are eligible for consideration.

## OUTLAND TROPHY WATCH LIST

Gabe Watson, Michigan  
D'Brickshaw Ferguson, Virginia  
Mark Setterstrom, Minnesota  
Greg Eslinger, Minnesota  
Nick Mangold, Ohio State  
Eric Winston, Miami, Fla.  
Jesse Boone, Utah  
Mike Degory, Florida  
Orien Harris, Miami, Fla.

Marcus McNeill, Auburn  
Ryan Cook, New Mexico  
Travis Leffew, Louisville  
Ryan O'Callaghan, California  
Matt Lentz, Michigan  
Manase Hopi, Washington  
Max Jean-Gilles, Georgia  
Steve Fifita, Utah  
Jake Kuresa, BYU

Jon Wilson, Air Force  
Davin Joseph, Oklahoma  
Jonathan Scott, Texas  
Rodrique Wright, Texas  
Dylan Lineberry, North Texas  
Manase Hopoi, Washington  
Haloti Ngata, Oregon  
Daryn Colledge, Boise State  
Samson Satele, Hawaii

Garrett McIntyre, Fresno State  
Marvin Philip, California  
Graying Love, Arizona State  
Josh Linehan, Oregon State  
Ben Siegert, Oregon State  
J.B. Closner, Alabama  
T.J. Jackson, Auburn  
Andrew Whitworth, LSU  
Jesse Mahelona, Tennessee  
Dan Mozes, West Virginia

# Bronko Nagurski watch list announced

The FWAA has announced the Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List for the 2005 season.

The Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which is awarded to the best defensive player in college football, has been a staple of the FWAA's awards since 1993. The Bronko Nagurski Trophy is sponsored by the Charlotte Touchdown Club, which has held the annual awards banquet since 1995.

The CTC will hold the 2005 banquet on Monday,

Dec. 5 at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, where five finalists will be present.

Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson won the 2004 Bronko Nagurski Trophy.

The FWAA All-America Committee selects the Bronko Nagurski winner from the association's 11-man All-America defensive team in late November or early December. Players may be added or deleted from the Bronko Nagurski Watch List during the season.

## NAGURSKI WATCH LIST

Dan Bazuin, Central Michigan  
H.B. Blades, Pittsburgh  
Terna Nande, Miami, Ohio  
Gabe Watson, Michigan  
Ray Edwards, Purdue  
Abdul Hodge, Iowa  
A.J. Hawk, Ohio State  
-Chad Greenway, Iowa  
Paul Posluszny, Penn State  
Alan Zemaitis, Penn State  
Larry Birdine, Oklahoma  
Charles Gordon, Kansas  
-Rufus Alexander, Oklahoma  
-Darryl Tapp, Virginia Tech

-Darnell Bing, USC  
Michael Huff, Texas  
-Jimmy Williams, Virginia Tech  
Rodrique Wright, Texas.  
Steve Fifita, Utah  
Gabriel Fulbright, New Mexico  
Cameron Jensen, BYU  
Derrick Martin, Wyoming  
Muhammad Abdullah, Kentucky  
Dhyan Tarver, Army  
DeMeco Ryans, Alabama  
Roman Harper, Alabama  
Travis Williams, Auburn  
Quentin Moses, Georgia

Ko Simpson, South Carolina  
Jesse Mahelona, Tennessee  
Jason Allen, Tennessee  
LaRon Landry, Alabama  
Kyle Williams, LSU  
Jeremy Chase, Navy  
Mario Williams, N.C. State  
D'Qwell Jackson, Maryland  
Ahmad Brooks, Virginia  
Mathias Kiwanuka, Boston Col.  
Ernie Sims, Florida State  
Bernard Davis, Troy  
Larry McSwain, UAB  
Thomas Howard, UTEP

John Eubanks, USM  
Korey Hall, Boise State  
Josh Powell, San Jose State  
Jon Alston, Stanford  
Haloti Ngata, Oregon  
Trent Bray, Oregon State  
Will Derting, Washington State  
Spencer Havner, UCLA

# Controlling the message is out of control

**By Dennis Dodd**

*FWAA First Vice-President*

The exact moment it happened is hard to pin down. The moment when the ability to establish a relationship — a certain working intimacy with players and coaches — was all but taken away.

We'll estimate it happened, oh, about 10 to 15 years ago. Not to preach, but many of you are too young to remember having lunch with a coach or a player and chatting them up after practice or meeting the offensive coordinator for a beer.

Don't gasp, sports editors. Back then it was called reporting. Now such interaction is so rare the catch-all term is "access." Increasingly, we have less of it in our sport. Over the past 1½ decades, something happened to the informal atmosphere surrounding college football, and it wasn't good.

By and large, we know less about the athletes and coaches. Their time with us has been homogenized. It's all about controlling the message, which might be OK if you're the president but distasteful in college athletics.

It comes down to the public's right to know — more. Whether they like or not, players and coaches are public figures. At most institutions, the public pays for those scholarships through taxes, endowments, donations, etc.

Private schools can't have it both ways. Roll over and have their bellies scratched by the networks on Saturday and have two SIDs watch-dogging the 15 precious minutes we get with the quarterback on Tuesday.

The overriding question is: Why have these public figures increasingly been turned into private citizens?

Yes, the proliferation of media has something to do with it. There are more outlets (newspaper, cable, Internet, magazine) than ever. What might be a juicy topic for the student newspaper is a waste of time for the national cable network looking for a 20-second bite. Too often all the interviewers are lumped in a pack.

That's the path of least resistance. You know the routine: "Yes, you in the back, far left, please identify yourself and affiliation and wait until the microphone reaches you."

Ugh. The one-on-one, the get-to-know, the simple lunch is becoming extinct.

A recent FWAA survey of sports information departments showed that the overwhelming majority of major-college programs provide what in modern-day terms is considered adequate access (there's that word again) to coaches and players during game week.

The typical week: Coach is available Sunday or Monday for a press conference and after every practice except Friday. Players are typically cut off from the media after Wednesday practice.

And even that amount of access might be eroding.

The survey showed that four schools limit player interviews to one day per week. "Day" is sometimes stretching the meaning of the term. At a place like Kansas State, reporters have to gather all their material within a 30- to 45-minute window on Tuesday afternoons.

That's just the way it is. As we said, no one is sure when this "packaging" occurred. But we are all worse for it. Players because this is supposed to be the time of their lives. Ninety-nine percent of them will never see an NFL practice field. This is their time.

There is still the simple thrill for these guys getting their name in the paper.

Coaches, because they are first, last and always accountable. Many of us would love to have a Friday sit down with the coach and staff before a game. But we haven't paid enough in rights fees to get that interview.

Again, that's the way of our modern media world. What's not acceptable is this scenario early last season:

On deadline for a night game in the South, a small group of reporters wanted to speak to the kicker whose miss cost his team the game. The harried visiting team's SID either didn't want to ask, or didn't ask the despondent kicker to face the media for a few minutes. That was bad enough but it was unacceptable when images of the kicker in the locker room turned up later in the season on a national cable network.

The rights holder got a compelling image of the grieving kicker face down on the floor. The outlet had written a check big enough to film those images. What the rest of us got that night was an empty notebook.

What coaches and, sometimes, SIDs don't realize is that our sport is unique.

In general, good things are written about college football (unless it's the BCS). Spring practice is still a laidback opportunity to mingle with a staff and players. Reporters can relate to the stud chasing a Heisman or the walk-on who just dropped a game-winning pass.

Mostly because the majority of us have been to college, we know the experience. We can relate to former UCLA linebacker Donnie Edwards having to decide between buying food or repairing his car as money ran out at the end of the month. Matt Leinart staying for his senior season becomes a feel-good story.

But in other ways there has been that disconnect. Ivory towers have grown taller as schools have made millionaires out of coaches. Players matriculate through school used to being herded into a room for 20 minutes of questions. What's worse, reporters are used to it.

We're seeing press box seats given to boisterous boosters. That is our office, our (noisy, sweaty, freezing, cramped) sanctuary. How about if we show up on Monday in bad slacks, sucking down a hot dog, to cheer on

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# Access at many schools is suffering

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the accounting department?

When is some AD going to have the bright idea to start charging US for our seats in the press box? Hey, it's a revenue stream, don't laugh.

The compartmentalization has taken away some of the charm. We've let it happen to a certain extent. There was that moment when we ceded a part of the sport over to "handlers."

There are a handful of coaches who won't even allow assistants to speak to the media. It's the so-called "one-voice" approach. That stifles the coaches' ability to promote themselves and our ability to do our jobs.

OK, deep breath. Down off the soap box. A survey shout out goes to the following for providing continued good access ...

- After a rocky start with the media, Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis, has been more accommodating in the off season. Several national outlets have gone in during the spring and have had plenty of time with Weis, his staff and players. While John Heisler tells us the game-week routine hasn't been determined yet, the traditional Sunday coach press conference will be back.

- The Pac-10 continues to be laidback and friendly. USC, for example, has players and coaches available in some form or another five days a week. The only restricted days are Friday and Sunday. Cal and Arizona State also deserve special mention. Our friend at Washington, Jim Daves, has been through the ringer lately (Neuheiselgate etc.) and handled it admirably. The dearly departed Bob Rose has done a great job promoting the resurgence of the Bears under Jeff Tedford.

- Miami is an aging relic and, no, we're not talking about the Orange Bowl. The Hurricanes' open locker-room policy after games is treasured. Sure there are some bombastic moments (Kellen Winslow's "solider" comment), but over the years media and Miami have both profited from the policy. Too bad more programs don't see how this policy can personalize a program.

- The SEC is reflection of its football fervor. An off-season conference call with coaches. Sunday conference calls after games. Charles Bloom leads a first-class group of schools, coaches and SIDs. Can't wait to see Spur Dog once again pitch it around a little bit.

- Texas is as accommodating during game week (and in the off season) as any program.



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