



# FWAA, Armed Forces Bowl join to create new award



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The Football Writers Association of America has joined with the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl to initiate the Armed Forces Merit Award. It honors an individual or a group within the realm of the sport of football that has created, developed or produced a program that provides care, concern and support for past or present members of the United States armed forces or their families.

The Armed Forces Merit Award will be awarded for the first time before the playing of the 2012 Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. Nominations for the Armed Forces Merit Award will be accepted this summer with the selection process beginning in October. The inaugural recipient will be announced in November on Veteran's Day.

The 10th annual Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will be played on Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012, featuring schools from Conference USA and the Mountain West Conference. Kickoff is set for 10:45 a.m. (CST) at the newly renovated 45,000-seat Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas. The game will air on ESPN and ESPN Radio.

"We are excited to become more

involved with the Football Writers Association of America by jointly initiating our award to recognize the achievements of an individual or group from the realm of football that has successfully produced a program to benefit our country's armed forces" said Brant B. Ringler, executive director of the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl.

"There are numerous individuals and groups in our country that have devoted a lot of time, energy and financial backing to support programs associated with the armed forces and their families," said Steve Richardson, executive director of the FWAA. "By teaming with the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, the FWAA will help recognize

these groups or people. Within the FWAA, we also have members who have military backgrounds, either as enlisted men or with relatives who have served this country. Additionally, this will be meaningful to them."

The Armed Forces Merit Award will be selected by a panel of individuals from the Football Writers Association of America and the Bell Helicopter Armed

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## Executive director's column



STEVE RICHARDSON

On the evening of July 21, the FWAA is involved in a very important ceremony. Long-time FWAA member Dave Sittler will receive the Bert McGrane Award in South Bend, Indiana.

Sittler's name will follow 38 others who already have their names on a large plaque in the rotunda of the Col-

lege Football Hall of Fame.

Current FWAA president Lenn Robbins of the *New York Post* will handle the presentation.

Since the South Bend Hall is scheduled to close this fall, this will be the last time the winner of our Bert McGrane Award will be saluted there. The National Football Foundation has plans to move the Hall to Atlanta and re-open it in the fall of 2014. The FWAA will continue to be part of the College Football Hall of Fame enshrinement program as it makes the transition to Atlanta and home there.

Along with countless boxes of other memorabilia, our plaque will make the trip to the Southeast in one of five large trucks. The McGrane Award, symbolic of the association's Hall of Fame, is presented to an FWAA member who has performed great service to the organization or the writing profession. It is named after McGrane, a Des Moines, Iowa, writer who was the executive secretary of the FWAA from the early 1940s until 1973.

Sittler's acceptance of the Bert McGrane Award will coincide with his retirement year. Dave, 66, stepped down as a full-time columnist at the *Tulsa World* this past winter. He hopes to write occasional columns and also appear on a radio talk show in the area. But an end to an era in Oklahoma sports is occurring at the paper.

Dave also has been the face of our Volney Meece Award program (so named

after our late, long-time executive director) since it started in the mid-1990s.

Since that time, the FWAA has given away thousands of dollars over the years to deserving students. Sittler, the 2001 FWAA president and a member since 1973, first proposed the idea of the Volney Meece Scholarship. He has been the only selection chairman the award has known. The annual \$1,000 grant, which has been awarded since 1997 and is renewable for up to four years, is given to a deserving son or daughter of an FWAA member.

His administration of that program in itself would be enough to warrant the McGrane for Sittler. But the fact that he has been an always steady and sometimes relentless journalist over the years is an added bonus.

Sittler grew up in Nebraska and was raised on Bob Devaney, but much of his Nebraska career covered Tom Osborne. That could be

worth one book, dealing with those contrasting personalities. Then later, he had another dose of contrasts in Barry Switzer and ultimately Bob Stoops at Oklahoma.

I think I can say this over the years: Dave was not always the most popular person in either Nebraska or Oklahoma. Nor should he have been. He had the gumption to challenge the legends when they needed to be challenged, praised them when they needed to be praised, and stayed neutral when he needed to be neutral. The latter quality is something many younger journalists should take note.

Dave never stirred up news or made the headlines about himself. He covered the news in a professional manner. Too many times, Dave stayed long into the night in press boxes helping or waiting for fellow workers to finish. He did his job and probably that of some others during his stints in Nebraska and Oklahoma. I think all of those people had respect for Dave and the job he did. I know I did.

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Dave Sittler

# FWAA lists players to watch for Bronko Nagurski Trophy

The Football Writers Association of America has announced its annual Bronko Nagurski watch list for the 2012 season. There were 84 players on the initial list that highlights the top defenders in college football for this upcoming season.

Players from the Southeastern, Big 12, Big Ten, Pacific 12 and Atlantic Coast conferences dominated the field of candidates. The players were pretty equally divided among linemen, linebackers and defensive backs.

The FWAA will name a Defensive Player of the Week during the regular season. Five finalists for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy will be named on Nov. 15. The winner

will be revealed on Dec. 3 during a gala sports banquet that will be hosted by the Charlotte Touchdown Club at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, N.C.

The FWAA has named a Defensive Player of the Year since the 1993, when Arizona's Rob Waldrop claimed the award. This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award. Last year, Boston College linebacker Luke Kuechly claimed the Bronko Nagurski Trophy.

A player can be added or deleted from the list as the season progresses. An appearance on the list is not a pre-requisite for being named a finalist or winning the award.

## Defensive Linemen

Jesse Williams, Alabama  
 John Jenkins, Georgia

## Defensive Ends

Alex Okafor, Texas  
 Barkevious Mingo, LSU  
 Bjoern Werner, Florida St  
 Brandon Jenkins, Florida St  
 Corey Lemonier, Auburn  
 Devin Taylor, South Carolina  
 Dion Jordan, Oregon  
 Jackson Jeffcoat, Texas  
 Jadeveon Clowney, South Carolina  
 John Simon, Ohio St  
 Kapron Lewis-Moore, Notre Dame  
 Michael Buchanan, Illinois  
 Sam Montgomery, LSU  
 Stansly Maponga, TCU  
 Travis Johnson, San Jose St  
 Trevarde Williams, Connecticut  
 William Gholston, Michigan St

## Defensive Tackles

Joe Vellano, Maryland  
 Johnathan Hankins, Ohio St  
 Kawann Short, Purdue  
 Roosevelt Nix, Kent St  
 Sharrif Floyd, Florida  
 Star Lotulelei, Utah

## Linebackers

A.J. Klein, Iowa St  
 Andrew Jackson, WKU  
 Arthur Brown, Kansas St  
 Bruce Taylor, Virginia Tech  
 Chase Thomas, Stanford  
 Chris Borland, Wisconsin  
 C.J. Mosley, Alabama  
 Dion Bailey, USC  
 Dwayne Woods, Bowling Green  
 Gerald Hodges, Penn St  
 Jake Knott, Iowa St  
 Jamie Collins, Southern Miss  
 Jarvis Jones, Georgia  
 Jonathan Brown, Illinois  
 Kevin Pierre-Louis, Boston College  
 Kevin Reddick, North Carolina  
 Khalil Mack, Buffalo  
 Khaseem Greene, Rutgers  
 Kyle Van Noy, BYU  
 Manti Te'o, Notre Dame  
 Max Bullough, Michigan St  
 Mike Taylor, Wisconsin  
 Nico Johnson, Alabama  
 Sean Porter, Texas A&M  
 Shayne Skov, Stanford  
 Steve Greer, Virginia  
 Tom Wort, Oklahoma  
 Travis Brown, Fresno St  
 Travis Long, Washington St  
 Trent Mackey, Tulane

## Safeties

Dexter McCoil, Tulsa  
 Eric Reid, LSU  
 Hakeem Smith, Louisville  
 Jarred Holley, Pittsburgh  
 John Boyett, Oregon  
 Jordan Kovacs, Michigan  
 Kenny Vaccaro, Texas  
 Lamarqus Joyner, Florida St  
 Matt Elam, Florida  
 Robert Lester, Alabama  
 T.J. McDonald, USC  
 Tony Jefferson, Oklahoma

## Cornerbacks

Brodrick Brown, Oklahoma St  
 Carrington Byndom, Texas  
 David Amerson, NC State  
 Dee Milliner, Alabama  
 Demontre Hurst, Oklahoma  
 Johnny Adams, Michigan St  
 Johnthan Banks, Mississippi St  
 Jordan Poyer, Oregon St  
 Kyle Fuller, Virginia Tech  
 Leon McFadden, San Diego St  
 Micah Hyde, Iowa  
 Nickell Robey, USC  
 Nigel Malone, Kansas St  
 Ricardo Allen, Purdue  
 Tyrann Mathieu, LSU  
 Xavier Rhodes, Florida St

# News and Notes: Catching up with FWAA members, events

## RETIREMENTS:

**Mike DeArmond** (Kansas City Star) left the paper, retiring in February 2012 after 40 years on the job at the same newspaper. How is that for longevity? In addition to covering University of Missouri sports the last two decades, DeArmond also covered eight Olympic Games, chronicled George Brett's chase for .400 in 1980 and worked as an assistant sports editor and assistant city editor for the newspaper.

**Natalie Meisler** retired from the Denver Post in November 2011. Natalie spent most of her writing career at the newspaper (since 1977) after graduating from Colorado in 1973. She is a former member of the FWAA Board and covered college sports (Colorado and Colorado State) and bicycle races for much of her 34-plus years at the newspaper.

**Dave Sittler**, an FWAA past president (2001) and Bert McGrane winner (2012) retired from his full-time job this past winter as columnist at the Tulsa World. He was named the winner of the McGrane Award in January and will be honored on July 21 in South Bend, Ind., at the College Football Hall of Fame. A story on Dave appears on Page 2 of this issue of The Fifth Down.

## CHANGING JOBS:

**Pat Forde** has left ESPN.com to join Yahoo! Sports. ... **Shelly Poe** left Ohio State to become Assistant AD for Football Communications at Auburn University. ... **Ben Blevins** left the sports information office at Duke to join the one at the University of Texas. ... **Joe Hornstein**, formerly the sports information director at Central Florida, now holds a similar position at Florida International University. ... **Jack Bogaczyk** has left the *Charleston Daily Mail* and has become Director of Publications and Editor of the *Herd Insider* at Marshall University. ... **Austin Ward** resigned from the *Knoxville News Sentinel* to join ESPN.com and cover Ohio State. ... **Steve Wieberg** has left *USA Today* and will go into the educational field. Steve has been the pillar of the paper's college coverage since it first began in the early 1980s and one of the most respected journalists in the country. ... Columnists **Rick Bozich** and **Eric Crawford** have resigned from the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and are now at Louisville Fox affiliate WDRB-41. ... **Andy Seeley** has moved from Minnesota to Central Florida as assistant

athletics director for communications.

## HAPPENINGS:

At the annual CoSIDA Convention in St. Louis in late June, the FWAA was a supporting sponsor. Several FWAA members were on panels during the four-day convention. ... **Tim Griffin** of the *San Antonio News-Express* is back on the college beat covering several Big 12 schools.

## HONORS:

FWAA member **Stephen Nesbitt**, a University of Michigan student, has been named this year's recipient of the Big Ten Conference William R. Reed Memorial Award. The conference annually honors a student journalist from one of the Big Ten campuses who, through his or her coverage during the previous academic term, best exemplifies the spirit, ideals and dedication to the Big Ten and intercollegiate athletics, which marked the life of Commissioner William R. Reed. Nesbitt, an English major who just completed his junior year, is the managing sports editor for the *Michigan Daily*.

## DEATHS:

Longtime *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* columnist **Furman Bisher** passed away on March 18, 2012, after a heart attack. Bisher had been a member of the FWAA for 62 years and was a past president of the organization (1959) and a Bert McGrane Award winner (1982). He was 93. Until recent years he had still been writing a column for the newspaper and had been a fixture at The Masters, Kentucky Derby and Georgia-Georgia Tech football games for more than 50 years. ... **Arnie Burdick**, 92, an FWAA past president (1966), passed away on June 5, 2012. He was a former SID for Syracuse and later worked at the *Syracuse Herald-Journal*, where he was sports editor and columnist for 28 years. In 1986, he became the media director for the Heritage Golf Tournament in Hilton Head, S.C., and later retired there. He worked his 29<sup>th</sup> Heritage this past spring.

## Executive director's column (continued)

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And I think ultimately, all those sources that Dave covered over the years had that same respect. I know because I saw it with my own eyes.

Several years ago, the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) used to have a golf tournament and then a party at the Stadium Club involving the Dallas Cowboys at the old Texas Stadium in Irving. The head coach of the Cowboys sometimes attended (not Tom Landry, of course, but those after him). This particular year, in the mid 1990s, Dave was there. And so was I. The head coach, as the party was about to be put to bed, summoned Dave and gave friendly audience. And I got to come along for the ride.

Barry Switzer hadn't coached a game yet in Dallas.

But the friendly wait staff of Texas Stadium certainly learned that the King wasn't short on words. A couple of hours later, at a small table with a spotlight on it in a darkened stadium, Switzer was still talking. Dave was listening. So was I.

Dave could develop sources, write about coaches and still have a relationship after it was all said and done. I think he needs to teach a journalism class somewhere — because that is an art. It's something he needs to pass on to others.

In any event, Dave's reporting skills and presence as a writer will be missed by the *Tulsa World*. We expect him to continue as the Volney Meece Award gatekeeper and maybe serve on an FWAA occasional committee. He's too valuable of a resource for us to let go.

## Armed Forces Merit Award (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Forces Bowl. Nominations will be sought from various groups and associations involved with the sport of football. The nominees' contributions will be assessed by reviewing various items, including the completion of a nomination form, supporting documents and letters of support.

In addition to their military-based programs, nominees for the Armed Forces Merit Award will also be evaluated on evidence and examples of the following attributes:

**Authentic, Reliable, Motivating, Enthusiastic, Determined, Fair, Organized, Respectful, Committed, Effective, Selfless**

For a fact sheet on the Armed Forces Merit Award, including a nomination form and frequently asked questions, visit [www.armedforcesbowl.com](http://www.armedforcesbowl.com). Tim Simmons ([bfishinc@aol.com](mailto:bfishinc@aol.com)), media director for the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, and Ted Gangi ([ted@collegepressbox.com](mailto:ted@collegepressbox.com)) of the FWAA will be coordinating the collection of nominations for the Armed Forces Merit Award.

## Key dates on the FWAA calendar

**Tues., July 12:** Release of Bronko Nagurski/Outland Watch Lists (ESPN)

**Mon., Aug. 27:** Release of Grantland Rice Pre-Season Poll

**Mon., Nov. 5:** All-America Defense ballots to members

**Sun., Nov. 11:** All-America Defense selection call

**Mon., Nov. 12:** All-America Offense/Special Teams ballots to members

**Thu., Nov. 15:** Bronko Nagurski Trophy finalists announced

**Sun., Nov. 18:** All-America Offense/Special Teams selection call

**Mon., Nov. 19:** Outland Trophy finalists announced (ESPN/Dallas)

**Mon., Dec. 3:** Eddie Robinson Coach of Year finalists announced (Dallas)

**Mon., Dec. 3:** Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner announced (Charlotte, N.C.)

**Thu., Dec. 6:** Outland Trophy winner announced on ESPN (Orlando, Fla.)

**Thu., Dec. 13:** Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Winner announced (Dallas, Scottsdale, Arizona)

**Fri., Dec. 14:** FWAA All-America Team announced (Dallas, Texas)

**Wed., Dec. 19:** Courage Award announced (Dallas, Texas)

**Jan. 5 or 6** Eddie Robinson Coach of Year Trophy Reception/Presentation (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

**Mon., Jan. 7:** FWAA Freshman All-America Team announced (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

**Mon., Jan. 7:** Discover Orange Bowl Courage Award on field presentation (Miami Gardens, Fla.)

**Tue., Jan. 8:** Grantland Rice National Championship Trophy announcement (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

**Thurs., Jan. 10:** Outland Trophy Banquet Presentation, Omaha, Neb.

# FWAA rolls out 2012 Outland Trophy watch list

DALLAS — Senior Barrett Jones from defending national champion Alabama heads a list of 71 players from 11 conferences and two independents on the prestigious 2012 Outland Trophy watch list.

The 6-foot-5, 302-pound Jones, who has switched from offensive tackle to center, will seek to become only the second player in history to win back-to-back Outland Trophies. Nebraska center Dave Rimington, in 1981-82, is the only player to pull off the double.

The Outland Trophy, presented annually since 1946, is the third oldest award in major college football. The winner of the 67<sup>th</sup> Outland Trophy, named after the late John Outland, an All-America lineman at

Penn and Kansas at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, will be announced on The Home Depot College Football Awards on Dec. 6.

The Outland Trophy presentation banquet, sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee, will be on Jan. 10, 2013 in Omaha, Neb.

The Outland Trophy winner is chosen from three finalists who are part of the FWAA All-America Team. The FWAA All-America Committee, after voting input from the entire membership, selects the 25-man team and eventually the three Outland finalists. Committee members, by individual ballot, select the winner.



2011 Outland Trophy winner Barrett Jones of Alabama

## Defensive Tackles

Aaron Donald, Pittsburgh  
Aaron Tipoti, California  
Akeem Spence, Illinois  
Baker Steinkuhler, Nebraska  
Bennie Logan, LSU  
Everett Dawkins, Florida St.  
Jesse Williams, Alabama  
Joe Vellano, Maryland  
John Jenkins, Georgia  
Johnathan Hankins, Ohio St.  
Jordan Hill, Penn St  
Josh Boyd, Mississippi St.  
Kawann Short, Purdue  
Roosevelt Nix, Kent St.  
Sharrif Floyd, Florida  
Star Lotulelei, Utah  
Sylvester Williams, North Carolina  
Timmy Jernigan, Florida St.

## Centers

Andrew Miller, Virginia Tech  
Barrett Jones, Alabama  
Ben Habern, Oklahoma  
Braxton Cave, Notre Dame

Dalton Freeman, Clemson  
Graham Pocic, Illinois  
James Ferentz, Iowa  
Khaled Holmes, USC  
Mario Benavides, Louisville  
Stephen Warner, Louisiana Tech  
T.J. Johnson, South Carolina  
Travis Frederick, Wisconsin  
Travis Swanson, Arkansas  
Tyler Larsen, Utah St.  
Weston Richburg, Colorado St.

## Offensive Guards

Alvin Bailey, Arkansas  
Blaize Foltz, TCU  
Braden Hansen, BYU  
Carson York, Oregon  
Chance Warmack, Alabama  
Chris Barker, Nevada  
Chris McDonald, Michigan St.  
Cyril Richardson, Baylor  
Dallas Thomas, Tennessee  
David Yankey, Stanford  
Gabe Ikard, Oklahoma  
Gabe Jackson, Mississippi St.  
Joe Kellogg, Boise St.

Jonathan Cooper, North Carolina  
Lane Taylor, Oklahoma St.  
Larry Warford, Kentucky  
Mason Walters, Texas  
Omoregie Uzzi, Georgia Tech  
Spencer Long, Nebraska  
Theo Goins, UCF

## Offensive Tackles

Alex Hurst, LSU  
Caylin Hauptmann, FIU  
Chris Faulk, LSU  
David Bakhtiari, Colorado  
D.J. Fluker, Alabama  
Jake Matthews, Texas A&M  
James Hurst, North Carolina  
Justin Pugh, Syracuse  
LaAdrian Waddle, Texas Tech  
Luke Joeckel, Texas A&M  
Mark Popek, USF  
Matt Summers-Gavin, California  
Morgan Moses, Virginia  
Oday Aboushi, Virginia  
Ricky Wagner, Wisconsin  
Taylor Lewan, Michigan  
Wesley Johnson, Vanderbilt  
Zack Martin, Notre Dame