

FWAA's All-America team to be named on ABC-TV

The Football Writers Association of America's 25-man All-America team will be announced on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 10, and shown during a tape-delayed program on ABC Television from Disney's Boardwalk in Orlando, Fla.

The FWAA All-American Team, the second longest continuously published team in college football, has been a staple of the college football scene since 1944. And for the third straight season, the unveiling of the

team will be shown on television during a program sponsored by Cingular.

The FWAA joined with the Florida Citrus Sports Foundation for an All-America Team Celebration in 2002. The first two years, the event was staged in a climate-controlled tent on the floor of the Capital One Bowl's floor (Citrus Bowl Stadium). The event moved to the Disney property with the inclusion of television in

(Continued on page 3)

Courage Award nominees to be named weekly

For the first time, the FWAA and the FedEx Orange Bowl have been announcing a weekly nominee each Wednesday during the season. A blue-ribbon panel will determine the winner from all of the nominees. The winner of the FedEx Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award will be announced in December and be presented with the trophy.

The Courage Award was created by ESPN The Magazine's senior writer Gene Wojciechowski, also a FWAA member. A select group of writers from the FWAA vote on the winner each year. The requirements for nomination include displaying courage, on or off the field, including overcoming an injury or physical handicap, preventing a disaster or living through hardship.

FEDEX ORANGE BOWL COURAGE AWARD NOMINEES

Sept. 20	Ray Ray McElrathbey	Clemson
Sept. 27	Martel Van Zant	Oklahoma State
Oct. 4	Terry Hoepfner	Indiana
Oct. 11	Dan Howell	Washington
Oct. 18	Eddie Martin	Navy



October 2006

Vol. 44, No. 4

Inside
this issue

President's
column,
Page 2

All-America
ballot,
Page 3

FWAA
Notes,
Page 4

President

Dennis Dodd
CBS SportsLine

First Vice President

Mike Griffith
Knoxville News Sentinel

Second Vice President

Ron Higgins
Memphis Commercial Appeal

Executive Director

Steve Richardson

2006 Directors

Eric Bailey

Tulsa World

Craig Barnes

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Chad Cripe

Idaho Statesman

Al Featherston

Freelance

Scott Ferrell

Shreveport Times

Robert Gagliardi

Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

Paul Gattis

The Huntsville Times

Tim Griffin

San Antonio Express-News

Eric Hansen

South Bend Tribune

Mike Huguenin

Orlando Sentinel

Dave Jones

The Patriot News

Brian Koonz

Danbury News-Times

Ted Lewis

New Orleans Times-Picayune

Andrew Logue

Des Moines Register

Tom Luicci

Newark Star-Ledger

Jeff Metcalfe

Arizona Republic

George Schroeder

Daily Oklahoman

Kalani Simpson

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Scott Wolf

Los Angeles Daily News

Ex-officio

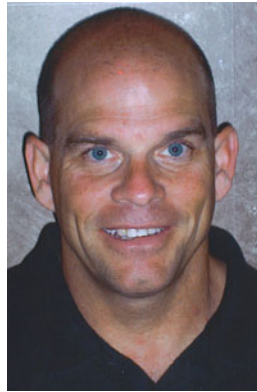
Charles Bloom

SEC/BCS liaison

Jon Jackson

Duke/CoSIDA

President's column



**DENNIS
DODD**

Those breezy, carefree conference calls to pick the All-America teams are right around the corner. Lay in a supply of heating oil, medical supplies and the complete first season of *The Office* on DVD (Volume on mute, of course). Picking the best players in the country is going to be the usual marathon.

Which reminds me to remind you to keep these names in mind ... for various awards including the FWAA's Bronko Nagurski (Best Defensive Player regardless of position).

There are strong Nagurski candidates, particularly at places such as Ohio State, LSU, Penn State, Texas.

But the magical Mkristo Bruce led the nation with 10 sacks halfway through the season. Never heard of him? Part of the problem -- well, all of it -- is that Bruce plays in Pullman, Wash. If the 6-foot-7, 234-pound Washington State defensive end were in a major football media market like Austin or Tuscaloosa, he'd have entire sorority houses groveling at his feet.

The former high school quarterback from Renton, Wash., has been a sack master his entire career -- with 28.5 career sacks and 40.5 tackles for loss.

"He gets in your head. He strikes fear," Gary Rogers said.

Sound scary, scarier for Rogers who is the Cougars backup quarterback....

As far as the best quarterback in college football comparisons to Vince Young don't apply anymore. Ohio State's Troy Smith is a better passer, a pure pocket passer. He has matured before our eyes this season picking apart defenses and managing games. If the Buckeyes are going to be beat some defense is going to have to find a way to harass No. 10.

Chase Holbrook was a little known high school option quarterback in Texas. New Mexico State's Hal Mumme transformed him into the nation's leading passer. ...

First there was Peyton, then Eli, Tennessee offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe is trying to make Erik Ainge into his latest prodigy.

As far as the Doak Walker Award (Best Running back), Northern Illinois' Garrett Wolfe is not a product of MAC defenses. He has sliced through the Michigan and Ohio State defenses the past two seasons. The Huskies' senior is chasing Barry Sanders' single-season yards record ...

Every defense knows West Virginia running back Steve Slaton is going to get the ball, that quarterback Patrick White doesn't pass much, and West Virginia still pounds people with the run. The Mountaineers are in contention for the Big East and national championship because of the guy Maryland didn't want. ...

Can we just hand Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson the Biletnikoff Award (Best Receiver) right now? ...

Utah defensive back Eric Weddle might be the most versatile player in the country. ...

Ohio State, Michigan, Texas, USC, Oklahoma, Notre Dame, Iowa, Nebraska usually have Outland Trophy (Best Interior Linemen) candidates aplenty. But could a Wisconsin or LSU have their first winners in 2006?.

Through the first half of the season Rutgers' Greg Schiano was the nation's best coach and a prime candidate for the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award. The former Miami defensive coordinator led the Knights to their first bowl game in 27 years last season. Through mid season, Rutgers was undefeated and a candidate to win the Big East. If the school can hold onto Schiano, even greater things are coming.

And if we could save a spot somewhere for Steve Logan it would be appreciated. The former East Carolina coach is my new favorite talk show host. Logan is so easy on the ears during his

(Continued on page 3)

All-America team (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

2004, with FCS still holding the banquet each year.

The FWAA All-America Team has a long history of media involvement in different forums and is perhaps the most prestigious team in college sports.

First selected three years after the organization was formed, the FWAA's inaugural team included Army's Heisman Trophy tandem of Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis and Georgia Tech's Frank Broyles, who later became Arkansas' football coach and athletic director.

From 1946-1970, LOOK Magazine published the FWAA team and brought players and selected writers to New York City for a celebration. During that 25-year period, the team also was introduced on television shows by Bob Hope, Steve Allen, Perry Como and others.

After LOOK folded, the FWAA started a long association with NCAA Films (later known as NCAA Productions), which produced a 30-minute television show. The team was part of ABC Television's 1981 College Football Series. From 1983-1990, the team was announced either on ABC or ESPN and now has returned to the national spotlight on ABC.

FWAA members will have a chance to vote for the 25-member team when ballots will be e-mailed to them in early November, along with where to transmit to their regional representative. A sample ballot is included in this Fifth Down on this page.

President's column (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

daily show out of Raleigh, N.C. that he may have missed his calling.

Logan likes blues, fine wine and, bless him, Saturday afternoon football.

Which is another way of saying he hates Thursday night football.

"If I wanted to torture a terrorist, I'd put him in charge of a football team, put him in a hotel and tell him we're not going to kick it off until 8 o'clock that night, watch 'I Love Lucy' reruns for about eight hours. I could get him to confess to anything. I've been there."

We need you, Steve. Either back on the sidelines or in the FWAA. Now.

SAMPLE FWAA ALL-AMERICA BALLOT <i>(Will be e-mailed to FWAA members by Nov. 5)</i>		
OFFENSE		
Position	Name	School
QB		
RB		
RB		
C		
OL		
OL		
OL		
OL		
TE		
WR		
WR		
DEFENSE		
Position	Name	School
DB		
DB		
DB		
DB		
DL		
DL		
DL		
DL		
LB		
LB		
LB		
SPECIAL TEAMS		
Position	Name	School
K		
P		
R		

FWAA notes

FWAA PERSONNEL CHANGES

Andy Bagnato has stayed in the Phoenix area but has left the *Arizona Republic* to join the Associated Press Bureau **Malcolm Moran** has left *USA Today* to become director of the Center for Sports Journalism at Penn State **Brian Murphy** has left Mobile and is now at the *Idaho Statesman* **Chuck Pool** is the new Sports Information Director at Rice **Joe Hornstein** has moved from the Orange Bowl to become Sports Information Director at Central Florida ... And **Ryan Powell** has moved from Conference USA to join Hornstein's staff at UCF.... **Jeff Purinton** has left Florida State to replace Hornstein as director of media services at the Orange Bowl **Jason Baum** left Central Florida to go to Rutgers **Donna Turner** left Tulane to become SID at Northern Illinois Long-time Northern Illinois SID **Mike Korcek** has retired but is now SID emeritus **Kevin Klintworth** left Cal to become SID at Oklahoma State, replacing **Steve Buzard**, who moved into another position at the school **Doug Walker** has left Notre Dame to become an associate athletics director of media operations at Alabama **Steve Shutt** has moved from the Southern Conference to become Wofford College SID **Greg**

Creese has resigned from the University of Maryland and taken a job with Florida Citrus Sports (Capital One Bowl).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From **George Schroeder** of the *Daily Oklahoman*: "Just wanted to note a unique occurrence in today's college football. Covered USC-Arkansas (On Sept. 2) . Both post-game locker rooms were open. I wonder if that might have been the only game this year between big-name programs to feature two open locker rooms?"

Editor's Note: USC-UCLA should also be one of those post-game situations where both teams will have open locker rooms. Can anyone think of another?

MOVING AROUND

Former Sugar Bowl Executive Director and Missouri Valley Conference commissioner **Mickey Holmes** has moved to Lubbock, Texas The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl offices have moved from Tempe to Scottsdale. The new address is 7135 E. Camelback Rd. #290, Scottsdale, AZ. 85251 And the Big 12 Conferences have moved to 400 East John Carpenter Freeway in Irving, TX 75062 **Bob Roesler**, *New Orleans Times-Picayune* retired, is now living in Eugene, Ore.



18652 Vista Del Sol
Dallas, TX 75287

FIRST CLASS MAIL