

SEC's 10 picks dominate FWAA All-America team

DALLAS — The 68th Football Writers Association of America All-America Team is dominated by standouts from the Southeastern Conference, which placed 10 players on the squad. That is twice as many as the next highest number from any league, five from the offense-oriented Big 12 Conference.

The FWAA All-America Team, the second longest continuously published team, has been a staple of college football scene since 1944. The FWAA has only selected a first-team All-America squad in each season since 1950.

Of the 10 SEC players, seven were on defense, where LSU and Alabama, considered the nation's two top defensive teams, had three each. Georgia had the other. Alabama also placed two offensive players on the team, running back and Heisman Trophy finalist Trent Richardson and Outland Trophy-winning tackle Barrett Jones.

Eleven of the 25 players selected to the team by the All-America committee come from the nation's top three teams. No. 2 Alabama led all teams with five FWAA All-Americans, followed by three each from No. 1 LSU and No. 3 Oklahoma State. The Cowboys, one of college football's most potent scoring

teams, placed two players on the offensive side of the ball and another on special teams.

There were five FWAA All-America repeat selections, including two receivers, Oklahoma State's Justin Blackmon and Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles. Alabama defensive back Mark Barron and Boston College linebacker Luke Kuechly also earned All-America honors for the second straight season. Kicker Quinn Sharp from Oklahoma State

made the team last season as a punter.

Overall, eight of the 11 Division I Bowl Subdivision Conferences were represented on the team. The Big Ten had four players and the ACC two. Conference USA, the Mountain West, the Pac-12 and the WAC were each represented by one player.

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. 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' head football coach and athletic director.



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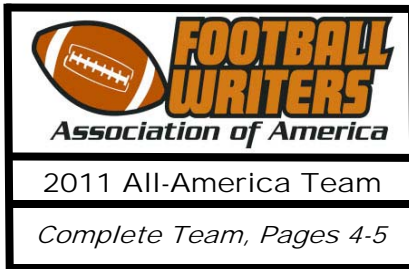
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President's column



TOMMY HICKS

For it or agin' it, The Rematch is set. The BCS national championship game will feature unbeaten LSU against once-beaten Alabama (LSU responsible for the lone Alabama loss). It is a rerun surrounded by great anticipation. It's also a scalpers' dream — a title game featuring teams with two of the most fiercely loyal (and ticket-buying) fan bases. It will be crazy in New Orleans.

Hopefully, though, not for FWAA members and others who will be covering the game. John Sudsbury, media relations director for the Allstate Sugar Bowl, and his staff have put together a plan for coverage of the game, both on game day Jan. 9 and the days leading up to the rematch. In a recent visit to New Orleans, Sudsbury provided a quick run-through of the media plans for the event.

In an effort to prepare everyone for the game, here's a brief list of some important things to remember:

- Dress warmly. The press box is located on the top level of the Superdome, which is in the path of the air conditioning vents. Jackets are suggested.
- For best Internet access, please bring your own Ethernet cables. Some cables will be available, but media members are encouraged to bring their own if possible.
- Media can reach the press box by using Elevators 7 and 8. Both will be designated for media use for the game.
- Media may use the designated seat in the press box or work in the northwest warehouse area on field level that will be supplied with tables, chairs, power outlets and Internet access.
- Postgame interviews will take place in the warehouse area interview room. The losing team (head coach, two players)

will appear in the room first, with the winning team (head coach, two players) to follow. On-field interviews with members of the winning team will be allowed as long as they do not interfere with the trophy presentation.

- Considering deadline issues, the postgame interviews will be available via a live video feed in the main press box. The ASAP quote service will also provide complete quotes from both teams. Quotes will also be available at www.allstatesugarbowl.org/quotes.

- The pregame meal will be served in the West Bunker Suite from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Meals will not be served in the press box and only small snacks will be made available in the main press box.

- Media with proper credentials will be allowed in designated areas on the field during the game's final five minutes of play.

Other media information:

- Credential pick-up will be in the Fleur De Lis Room of the designated media hotel, which is the New Orleans Marriott at the Convention Center. Credential pick-up will be Jan. 4 from noon until 6 p.m., Jan. 5-8 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and game day from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Credentials may be picked up at the Superdome's media will call at the Gate A entrance from 4 p.m. until halftime.

- Those planning on covering both the Sugar Bowl and the BCS national title game must apply for credentials separately. Because there are two games, credentials for the BCS game will not be available until Jan. 4.

- Press conferences will take place at the Blaine Kern ballrooms at the media hotel. A media workroom will be available in the same rooms used for the press conferences. Complimentary wireless access will be available. The workroom will be open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. each day.

- The designated media hospitality room is located in the Riverbend Room of the media hotel. Media meals will also be available. Check the schedule upon arrival.

Those who have further questions

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Oklahoma State's Gundy named Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy has been named the winner of the 2011 Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award. The award, presented by the Fiesta Bowl, is selected by the members of the 1,200-member strong Football Writers Association of America.

Gundy, a finalist for the award a year ago, is the first Oklahoma State coach to win the FWAA's coach of the year award and was selected in an association-wide vote from five finalists, including Michigan's Brady Hoke, LSU's Les Miles, Kansas State's Bill Snyder and Clemson's Dabo Swinney. Gundy is the third coach from the Big 12 Conference to win the award in the last 12 years.



Mike Gundy

Gundy received the award on Jan. 8 in New Orleans in an event hosted by ESPN's Mark May and attended by officials from the Fiesta Bowl, the FWAA and the Eddie Robinson Museum.

"What an honor to be recognized with the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award," Gundy said. "We've had a tremendous year at Oklahoma State, winning the Big 12 and earning our first-ever trip to a BCS bowl. It's a testament to our players and our coaching staff that we are in the position that we are in. I want to thank the Football Writers Association of America for recognizing our team in this way."

Gundy led the Cowboys to their first outright conference title since 1948, when the school was a member of the Missouri Valley Conference. The Cowboys (11-1) won their first 10 games before they suffered an upset loss in overtime at Iowa State. But they rebounded with a decisive 44-10 season-ending victory over arch-rival Oklahoma to win the undisputed Big 12 title and earn the school's first berth in a BCS bowl game.

"Mike Gundy has earned this honor by inspiring excellence in his players. He led Oklahoma State to an 11-1 record in one of the nation's toughest conferences, and he did it with an entertaining style of play that captured the nation's attention," said Robert Shelton, the Fiesta Bowl



A statue of legendary Coach Eddie Robinson greets visitors when they tour his museum in Grambling, La. *Photo courtesy of Louisiana Secretary of State.*

Executive Director. "The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl is thrilled to match the Cowboys against the Stanford Cardinal in the highest-rated non-championship BCS bowl this year."

The Cowboys are one of the most explosive teams in college football this year, ranking second in the country in points per game (49.3), second in the country in passing offense (386.2 yards) and third in the country in total offense (557.0 yards).

"Coach Gundy is a very worthy winner of the Eddie Robinson Award this season," said Tommy Hicks, 2011 FWAA president. "The Cowboys were one of college football's most exciting offensive teams and came within an overtime loss of making the national title game. Oklahoma State has risen to national prominence under Coach Gundy."

Gundy, 44, become Oklahoma State's head

(Continued on page 8)

FWAA ALL-AMERICA OFFENSE

Pos.	Player, School	Ht., Wt.	Cl.
QB	Robert Griffirin III, Baylor	6-2, 220	Jr.
RB	Trent Richardson, Alabama	5-11, 224	Jr.
RB	Monte Ball, Wisconsin	5-11, 214	Jr.
TE	Dwayne Allen, Clemson	6-4, 255	Jr.
WR	Ryan Broyles, Oklahoma	5-11, 187	Sr.
WR	Justin Blackmon, Oklahoma St.	6-1, 211	Jr.
OL	Barrett Jones, Alabama	6-5, 311	Jr.
OL	David Molk, Michigan	6-2, 288	Sr.
C	David DeCastro, Stanford	6-5, 312	Jr.
OL	Levy Adcock, Oklahoma St.	6-6, 322	Sr.
OL	Nate Potter, Boise St.	6-6, 300	Sr.



Griffin
Baylor



Richardson
Alabama



Ball
Wisconsin



Blackmon
Oklahoma St



Broyles
Oklahoma



Allen
Clemson



Jones
Alabama



Molk
Michigan



DeCastro
Stanford



Adcock
Oklahoma St.



Potter
Boise St.

ALL-AMERICA DEFENSE, SPECIALISTS

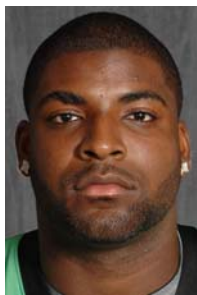
Pos.	Player, School	Ht., Wt.	Cl.
DL	Devon Still, Penn State	6-5, 305	Sr.
DL	Whitney Mercilus, Illinois	6-4, 265	Jr.
DL	Vinny Curry, Marshall	6-4, 263	Sr.
DL	Sam Montgomery, LSU	6-4, 245	So.
LB	Jarvis Jones, Georgia	6-2, 234	So.
LB	Luke Kuechly, Boston College	6-3, 237	Jr.
LB	Courtney Upshaw, Alabama	6-2, 265	Sr.
DB	Morris Claiborne, LSU	6-0, 170	Jr.
DB	Mark Barron, Alabama	6-2, 218	Sr.
DB	Tyrann Mathieu, LSU	5-9, 180	So.
DB	Dre Kirkpatrick, Alabama	6-3, 192	Jr.
K	Quinn Sharp, Oklahoma State	6-1, 189	Jr.
P	Bobby Cowan, Idaho	6-5, 229	Jr.
R	Joe Adams, Arkansas	5-11, 190	Sr.



Still
Penn St.



Mercilus
Illinois



Curry
Marshall



Montgomery
LSU



Kuechly
Boston College



Jones
Georgia



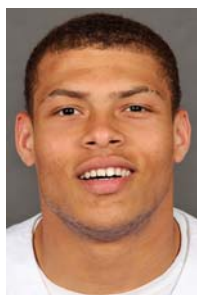
Upshaw
Alabama



Claiborne
LSU



Barron
Alabama



Mathieu
LSU



Kirkpatrick
Alabama



Cowan
Idaho



Sharp
Oklahoma St.



Adams
Arkansas

'Bama's Jones wins Outland Trophy

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Alabama offensive tackle Barrett Jones has been named the 66th winner of the Outland Trophy, becoming the third Crimson Tide player to win the award and second in the last four seasons.

The winner of the Outland Trophy, which goes to the best interior lineman in college football, was announced on ESPN during "The Home Depot College Football Awards" from the Walt Disney World Resort.

The FWAA selects the Outland Trophy winner from interior linemen on its 25-man All-America team. Jones claimed the trophy over Penn State senior defensive tackle Devon Still and Stanford junior offensive guard David DeCastro.

Jones, a 6-5, 311-pound junior from Memphis, Tenn., follows previous Outland Trophy winners from Alabama, offensive tackles Chris Samuels (1999) and Andre Smith (2008). In 2011, Jones was one of the most versatile and productive linemen in the game. He has started 10 games at left tackle, but has also played right tackle, center and left guard. The only interior offensive line position he did not play in 2011 for the Crimson was right guard. Before this season, he had started 25 games at the position during the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

"It was kind of fun, it was definitely a challenge," Jones said. "I watched a lot of film. Playing all those positions gave me a greater understanding of the schemes and concepts of the entire offensive line. It helped me understand the big picture better."

Jones spearheads the blocking effort for Heisman Trophy finalist running back Trent Richardson, who led the Southeastern Conference with 1,583 yards rushing and 23 total touchdowns. During his career, Jones has blocked for 25 individual 100-yard rushing performances, including nine this season.

"(Richardson) is an unbelievable player," Jones said.



Alabama offensive tackle Barrett Jones

"... Trent is so strong, probably the strongest guy I've ever seen in the weight room. And he's so fast. I owe a lot to No. 3. He makes me look good on a regular basis."

In 2011, Jones allowed just three sacks all season at left tackle, despite routinely facing the opposing team's top pass rusher. Jones has faced seven of the nation's top 51 defenses and has graded out at 87 percent, in-

(Continued on page 8)

PAST OUTLAND WINNERS

1946 George Connor, Notre Dame	1963 Scott Appleton, Texas	1980 Mark May, Pittsburgh	1997 Aaron Taylor, Nebraska
1947 Joe Steffy, Army	1964 Steve Delong, Tennessee	1981 Dave Rimington, Nebraska	1998 Kris Farris, UCLA
1948 Bill Fischer, Notre Dame	1965 Tommy Nobis, Texas	1982 Dave Rimington, Nebraska	1999 Chris Samuels, Alabama
1949 Ed Bagdon, Michigan State	1966 Loyd Phillips, Arkansas	1983 Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska	2000 John Henderson, Tennessee
1950 Bob Gain, Kentucky	1967 Ron Yary, USC	1984 Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech	2001 Bryant McKinnie, Miami
1951 Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma	1968 Bill Stanfill, Georgia	1985 Mike Ruth, Boston College	2002 Rien Long, Washington State
1952 Dick Modzelewski, Maryland	1969 Mike Reid, Penn State	1986 Jason Buck, BYU	2003 Robert Gallery, Iowa
1953 J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma	1970 Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State	1987 Chad Hennings, Air Force	2004 Jammal Brown, Oklahoma
1954 Bill Brooks, Arkansas	1971 Larry Jacobson, Nebraska	1988 Tracy Rocker, Auburn	2005 Greg Eslinger, Minnesota
1955 Calvin Jones, Iowa	1972 Rich Glover, Nebraska	1989 Mohammed Elewonibi, BYU	2006 Joe Williams, Wisconsin
1956 Jim Parker, Ohio State	1973 John Hicks, Ohio State	1990 Russell Maryland, Miami (Fla.)	2007 Glenn Dorsey, LSU
1957 Alex Karras, Iowa	1974 Randy White, Maryland	1991 Steve Emtman, Washington	2008 Andre Smith, Alabama
1958 Zeke Smith, Auburn	1975 Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma	1992 Will Shields, Nebraska	2009 Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska
1959 Mike McGee, Duke	1976 Ross Browner, Notre Dame	1993 Rob Waldrop, Arizona	2010 Gabe Carimi, Wisconsin
1960 Tom Brown, Minnesota	1977 Brad Shearer, Texas	1994 Zach Wiegert, Nebraska	
1961 Merlin Olsen, Utah State	1978 Greg Roberts, Oklahoma	1995 Jonathan Ogden, UCLA	
1962 Bobby Bell, Minnesota	1979 Jim Ritcher, N.C. State	1996 Orlando Pace, Ohio State	

Bronko Nagurski Trophy awarded to Boston College's Luke Kuechly

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Boston College linebacker Luke Kuechly, the Atlantic Coast Conference's all-time leading tackler, has claimed the 2011 Bronko Nagurski Trophy, which is awarded annually to the best defensive player in college football.

Kuechly, a junior from Cincinnati, Ohio, became the 19th winner of the national defensive player of the year award, as voted on by the membership of the Football Writers Association of America. He received the Bronko Nagurski Trophy on Dec. 12 at a gala banquet sponsored by the Charlotte Touchdown Club at the Westin Hotel.

The four other 2011 Nagurski Trophy finalists were Alabama safety Mark Barron, LSU cornerback Morris Claiborne, Illinois end Whitney Mercilus and Penn State tackle Devon Still.

"It's a great honor to be mentioned in this category," Kuechly said upon winning the award. "They picked five great candidates. Any one of us would have been a great choice. It is something special to win this award. I am going to take it and run. It will mean something special down the road."

Kuechly led the Football Bowl Subdivision in total tackles for a second straight season with 191 (102 unassisted), a whopping 15.9 per game. On leading the country in tackles, Kuechly said, "I think it is preparation. That is one of the big things we do at Boston College. When they (opposing offenses) are out there, we know what they are going to do. It is like practice to us."

Although Boston College posted only a 4-8 record, Kuechly was all over the field making plays. He had three interceptions for 71 yards in returns, including a 45-yarder for a touchdown in the final game of the season, a 24-17 victory at Miami.

"He is a great player with an indomitable spirit," said Miami coach Al Golden. "He has a physical, mental and competitive toughness that is off the charts. His durability, lateral quickness and mobility are off the charts. He is just a really good player. ... He is the type of player that you want to coach or develop. He is a fierce competitor."

The 6-3, 235-pounder made 12 tackles for 28 yards

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
2005	Elvis Dumervil	Louisville
2006	James Laurinaitis	Ohio State
2007	Glenn Dorsey	LSU
2008	Brian Orakpo	Texas
2009	Ndamukong Suh	Nebraska
2010	Da'Quan Bowers	Clemson



Bronko Nagurski winner Luke Kuechly of Boston College. (Photo courtesy of Ron J. Deshaies/Treasured Events of Charlotte)

in losses this season and also broke up three passes and had three quarterback hurries. His career-high 23 tackles against Duke tied for the second-highest single-game total in the FBS, and his 20 tackles vs. Florida State tied for the eighth-highest.

Jack Youngblood was presented with the Bronko Nagurski Legends Award sponsored by Florida East Coast Railway. Youngblood, a standout end at the University of Florida, was a member of the 1970 FWAA All-America team and later played 14 seasons in the National Football League. Each year the FWAA and the Charlotte Touchdown Club honor one of the defensive legends from a past FWAA All-America team, a tradition which began with the 1966 team.

Coach of the year (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

football coach in 2005, when he succeeded Les Miles. He has a 58-30 overall record in seven seasons. The third-ranked Cowboys are in their sixth straight bowl game under Gundy — the longest postseason streak in school history.

Gundy played quarterback at Oklahoma State from 1986 to 1989 and has been a part of four of the school's five 10-victory seasons as either a player or coach.

"The Robinson Family is very pleased to honor

another outstanding coach," said Eddie Robinson Jr., the late coach's son. "Over the years, the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award has gone to the 'Who's Who' of the coaching profession. My father would be very proud to welcome coach Mike Gundy into that fraternity of coaches."

The FWAA has honored a major-college coach of the year since 1957. In 1997, the award was named after Eddie Robinson, the coaching legend at Grambling State University and second winningest coach in Division I history (408 victories).

Outland Trophy (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

cluding 100 percent in four games. He has registered 20 "pancake" blocks this season.

The Outland Trophy, which has been awarded annually by the FWAA since 1946, is named after the late John Outland, a lineman at Pennsylvania in the early 20th century. The Outland Trophy is the third oldest award in major college football behind the Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Award.

The official 2011 Outland Trophy presentation will be Jan. 12, 2012, in Omaha, Neb., at a banquet sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee. At the same event, former All-America Minnesota defensive lineman

Bobby Bell will receive an Outland Trophy. He won the award in 1962, before the FWAA handed out trophies.

Three days before the Outland Trophy banquet, Jones and his Crimson Tide will meet LSU in the Allstate BCS National Championship Game in New Orleans. The game is a rematch of a 9-6 Alabama loss to LSU in overtime in Tuscaloosa, Ala., earlier this season.

"When we lost to them before, we thought it (Alabama's national championship hopes) were over," Jones said. "In the back of our minds, we were hoping to get another shot, so we're really excited about this next shot. It's a great feeling to get another chance. We feel like we deserve to be there."

President's column (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

should contact John Sudsbury at johns@sugarbowl.org. His cell phone number is (504) 427-7076.

FWAA events: Several FWAA events are scheduled during BCS national title game week. Members are encouraged to attend the FWAA breakfast in the media hotel from 9 to 11 a.m. on Jan. 9, the morning of the game. This year's breakfast will feature a new twist — a roundtable discussion featuring several media topics of interest. As usual, the FWAA writing awards will be presented and Lenn Robbins of the *New York Post* will take over as the organization's president for the following year.

On Sun., Jan. 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., a reception is scheduled at Cochon, near the media hotel, for Oklahoma State head coach Mike Gundy, this year's winner of the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award. Gundy will be attend the event and be honored by the FWAA,

the Fiesta Bowl and the Robinson family.

Awards: The FWAA has headlined many awards in recent weeks. Most notably is the organization's All-America team, as well as the Outland Trophy (won by Alabama's Barrett Jones), Nagurski Award (won by Boston College's Luke Kuechly) and Courage Award (won by Michigan State's Arthur Ray Jr.). The Charlotte Touchdown Club once again put on an impressive banquet to announce the Nagurski winner and the same is expected once again in Omaha for the Outland Award.

Thanks: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and hard work during the past year. Special thanks go to FWAA executive director Steve Richardson, past president Ron Higgins and Ted Gangi for all his work on behalf of the FWAA. It has been a learning experience serving as your president, but more importantly it has been an honor and privilege. Thanks to all for the opportunity, for your patience and your help.