

SEC again dominates FWAA All-America team

DALLAS — The powerful Southeastern Conference, which has claimed the last six national football championships and has a chance for a seventh next month, placed 11 of the 26 players on the 69th Football Writers Association of America All-America team.

Among the star-studded lineup of players on the team was Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner Manti Te'o of Notre Dame, Outland Trophy winner Luke Joeckel of Texas

A&M and Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel of Texas A&M.

The FWAA All-America team, the second longest continuously published team in major college football, was announced on SiriusXM Radio on Dec. 14. Since 1944 the FWAA has named an All-America team. This season, an extra returner was added to increase the number of players on the team to 26.

Besides the SEC, the other conferences to place multiple players on the team were the Big 12 (three), Pac-12 (three), Atlantic Coast (two) and Mid-American (two). Nine of the 11 NCAA Bowl Subdivision Conferences, however, were represented on the team. It is the first time the Mid-American Conference has had more than a single player

on the team.

Texas A&M and Alabama, two of the SEC's powerhouse teams, placed four and three players on the FWAA team, respectively. Alabama had center Barrett Jones, offensive tackle Chance

Warmack and defensive back Dee Milliner. Texas A&M placed offensive tackles Joeckel and Jake Matthews, Manziel and defensive end Daimontre Moore on the squad. SEC teams LSU, Mississippi State,

South Carolina and Georgia also had one player each on the FWAA team.

Manziel, who is the first freshman at quarterback in the 69-year history of the FWAA team, is the only freshman on the 2012 team. And there were only two sophomores — defensive end Jadeveon Clowney of South Carolina and wide receiver Marqise Lee of Southern California. Barrett Jones of Alabama and linebacker Jarvis Jones of Georgia were the only repeaters from 2011.

The FWAA All-America Committee selected three wide receivers on the team because of the depth of talent at the position and dropped the tight end. Another oddity was that the team included two Outland Trophy win-

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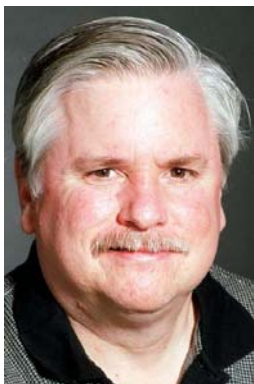
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Executive director's column



STEVE RICHARDSON

The end of the calendar year brings awards season to the Football Writers Association of America. Each year, the FWAA hands out a number of awards to players, coaches and sometimes support personnel in college football as well to its own members.

The December issue of the Fifth Down is annually

devoted to those awards and the association's All-America Team (Pages 1 and 4-5), the second longest continuously published team in college football. We take great pride in selecting the All-America team, which this year includes 26 players for the first time, up from 25 in previous years. The 12-member committee decided to add a second returner on special teams.

The FWAA's All-America team serves as the bedrock for the selection of two major FWAA awards, the Outland Trophy (Best Interior Lineman on offense or defense) and the Bronko Nagurski Trophy (Best Defensive Player in college football). Notre Dame's stellar linebacker Manti Te'o claimed the Bronko Nagurski Trophy (Page 7) and Texas A&M's stand-out offensive tackle Luke Joeckel took the Outland (Page 6).

The process of honoring some of college football's finest players begins way back in July when the FWAA puts out Watch Lists for both of the major player awards. During the season, the FWAA selects a weekly Defensive Player of the Week in conjunction with the Bronko Nagurski Trophy. Then, in November, we ask the entire FWAA membership to submit ballots for offensive, defensive and special teams and nominations for the Outland and Nagurski trophies. The final results of these votes are then sent to each committee member.

The committee, in two separate confer-

ence calls, selects the FWAA All-America team and three finalists for the Outland and five for the Nagurski. By secret ballot, the committee members select the Outland and Nagurski Trophy winners.

It's a system, with a few alterations, that has stood the test of time for 69 years.



We hope you join us at the FWAA annual meeting at the BCS 1-2 game at the Discover Orange Bowl during the period of Jan. 5-8. There are two major events open to all members —the FWAA Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Reception on Sunday, Jan. 6, and the FWAA Annual Awards Breakfast the next morning on Jan. 7. Both events will be held at the Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

FWAA members going to the game will receive invitations to these events and will be asked to RSVP. Those emails should get to you shortly. This will allow for us to plan better for these events and anticipate the crowds we may get.

The Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Reception will welcome Notre Dame Coach Brian Kelly, who won the award by virtue of the FWAA membership's popular vote on the nine coaches sent out on a ballot on Dec. 3, after the last of the conference title games and regular-season games. The story on Kelly winning the trophy is on Page 3.

At the FWAA Annual Award Breakfast on the Monday morning (Jan. 7) of the 1-2 BCS title game, the FWAA will honor winners of the 20th annual Best Writing Contest, including the Beat Writers of the Year Award: Steve Wieberg, former USA Today college writer and current freelancer, and Mark Blaudschun, former Boston Globe college writer who now runs AJerseyGuy.com. In addition, the FWAA will recognize the 2012 Courage Award Winner and announce the winner of the 2013 Bert McGrane Award (FWAA Hall of Fame) and the 2012 FWAA Freshman All-America team.

Here's to Happy Holidays and an enjoyable Bowl Season!

Notre Dame's Brian Kelly named Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year

DALLAS — Notre Dame Coach Brian Kelly, who has taken the Fighting Irish to their first unbeaten regular season since 1988, has been named the recipient of the 2012 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.

Kelly, in his third season at Notre Dame, won the award over eight other coaching finalists in a vote of the 1,200-member FWAA. He is the fourth Notre Dame coach to receive the award, which is sponsored by the Fiesta Bowl. Other Fighting Irish coaches to win the award are Ara Parseghian (1964), Lou Holtz (1988) and Charlie Weis (2005).

The Fighting Irish finished a perfect regular season (12-0) with a victory over arch-rival USC at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Notre Dame is the top-ranked team in college football in all the polls and will face Alabama in the Discover BCS National Championship Game on Jan. 7, 2013.

The 51-year-old Kelly will receive the Eddie Robinson Trophy the evening before the national title game during a reception at the media hotel in Fort Lauderdale. Officials from Notre Dame, the Fiesta Bowl, the FWAA and the namesake coach's son, Eddie Robinson Jr., will be in attendance.

"It is with great pleasure the FWAA presents the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award to Brian Kelly," said 2012 FWAA President Lenn Robbins. "Notre Dame, under Coach Kelly, has returned to national prominence in the college football ranks. This award recognizes that accomplishment for the 2012 season, a season that began with 124 teams vying for an elusive undefeated campaign. Notre Dame was the only bowl eligible school to accomplish that impressive feat."

Notre Dame's season was highlighted by victories over ranked teams at the time the Fighting Irish played them: Michigan, Michigan State, Stanford and Oklahoma. Notre Dame's senior linebacker Manti Te'o won the FWAA's Bronko Nagurski Trophy (Best Defensive Player) and anchored one of college football's top front sevens on defense.

The FWAA has honored a major-college coach with its Coach of the Year Award since 1957, when Ohio State coach Woody Hayes claimed the honor. Robinson, a coaching legend at Grambling State University, has been the FWAA's coaching namesake since 1997.

Robinson, the winningest coach in Division I history (408 games), passed away on April 3, 2007. Robinson's teams won or tied for 17 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championships after joining the league in 1959. His Tigers claimed nine Black College Football

Championships during his career spent all at the same school.

Robinson, who was named by the FWAA in 1966 as "The Coach Who Made the Biggest Contribution to College Football in the Past 25 Years," often took his show on the road to places such as the Louisiana Superdome, the Cotton Bowl, the Astrodome, Tiger Stadium and Yankee Stadium. And with his star-studded array of players, Robinson helped integrate professional football.

In 1949, Grambling standout Tank Younger was the first player from a Historically Black College to sign with an NFL Team (Los Angeles Rams). By 1963, Buck Buchanan became the first player from a Historically Black College to be selected first overall in the professional draft (American Football League by the Kansas City Chiefs). Over the years, Robinson produced a Who's Who of professional football players, with more than 200 of his former players dotting professional rosters.

In 1975, with one of his greatest teams quarterbacked by eventual All-Pro Doug Williams, Robinson's Grambling team and Alcorn State became the first college teams to play a game in the Louisiana Superdome. The next season, Robinson's Tigers along with Morgan State became the first American college football teams to play in Japan.

A member of the College Football Hall of Fame, Robinson has the keys to cities all over the planet, has been awarded in every form and fashion and has honorary degrees from many schools. The Eddie Robinson Museum has opened in his honor in Grambling, La., where numerous articles of memorabilia now reside, including a bust of the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award.



Brian Kelly

2012 FWAA All-America Team

Offense

Pos.	Player, School	Ht., Wt.	Cl.
QB	Johnny Manziel	6-1, 200	Fr.
RB	Kenjon Barner, Oregon	5-11, 195	Sr.
RB	Jonathan Franklin, UCLA	5-10, 205	Sr.
WR	Marqise Lee, Southern California	6-0, 190	So.
WR	Terrance Williams, Baylor	6-3, 205	Sr.
WR	Stedman Bailey, West Virginia	5-10, 193	Jr.
C	Barrett Jones, Alabama	6-5, 302	Sr.
OL	Jonathan Cooper, No. Carolina	6-3, 305	Sr.
OL	Jake Matthews, Texas A&M	6-5, 305	Jr.
OL	Chance Warmack, Alabama	6-3, 320	Sr.
OL	Luke Joeckel, Texas A&M	6-6, 310	Jr.



Manziel



Barner



Franklin



Lee



Williams



Bailey



Jones



Cooper



Matthews



Warmack



Joeckel

Defense & Specialists

Pos.	Player, School	Ht., Wt.	Cl.
DL	Jadeveon Clowney, South Carolina	6-6, 256	So.
DL	Chris Jones, Bowling Green	6-1, 295	Sr.
DL	Bjoem Werner, Florida State	6-4, 255	Jr.
DL	Damontre Moore, Texas A&M	6-4, 245	Jr.
LB	Jarvis Jones, Georgia	6-3, 241	Jr.
LB	Manti Te'o, Notre Dame	6-2, 255	Sr.
LB	Arthur Brown, Kansas State	6-1, 223	Sr.
DB	Dee Milliner, Alabama	6-1, 196	Jr.
DB	Eric Reid, LSU	6-2, 208	Jr.
DB	Phillip Thomas, Fresno State	6-1, 205	Sr.
DB	Johnthan Banks, Mississippi State	6-2, 185	Sr.
K	Cairo Santos, Tulane	5-9, 160	Jr.
P	Ryan Allen, Louisiana Tech	6-2, 215	Sr.
KR	Dri Archer, Kent State	5-8, 164	Jr.
PR	Venric Mark, Northwestern	5-8, 175	Jr.



Clowney



C. Jones



Werner



Moore



J. Jones



Te'o



Brown



Milliner



Reid



Thomas



Banks



Santos



Allen



Archer



Mark

A&M's Joeeckel wins Outland Trophy

Texas A&M offensive tackle Luke Joeeckel, who has served as a protector and blocker for Heisman Trophy finalist Johnny Manziel, has been named the 67th winner of the Outland Trophy.

The 6-6, 310-pound junior from Arlington, Texas, was revealed as the 2012 Outland winner on ESPN during "The Home Depot College Football Awards" from the Atlantic Dance Hall at the Walt Disney World Resort.

The FWAA selects the Outland Trophy winner from interior linemen on its All-America team. Joeeckel beat out Alabama center Barrett Jones, who won the 2011 Outland Trophy winner as an offensive tackle, and North Carolina guard Jonathan Cooper, for the third-oldest award in major college football.

Despite its rich football history, Texas A&M has never had an Outland Trophy winner — or even a finalist — until Joeeckel. Jones was seeking to become only the second player in the award's history to win it twice after Nebraska center Dave Rimington won the award in both 1981 and '82.

"It's crazy to think about it," Joeeckel said of being named the top interior lineman in college football. "It is a dream come true. I am honored by it. I don't think I am one of the best players I see on film. I am one of my harshest critics, I guess."

Joeeckel was a mainstay of a powerful Texas A&M offensive line that made quite an impact in the school's first season in the Southeastern Conference, including the Aggies' upset of then top-ranked and unbeaten Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Nationally, the 10-2 and AT&T Cotton Bowl-bound Aggies are third in total offense and scoring offense, 13th in rushing and 14th in passing.

Joeeckel had a ringside seat watching and playing in front of Manziel, the freshman quarterback sensation who he said "had two years of Heisman highlight films in one season." Already, Manziel has been selected to sev-



Texas A&M offensive tackle Luke Joeeckel.
(Photo courtesy of ESPN)

eral All-America teams as he led the SEC in rushing yards per game (98.4) and shattered the conference's single-season total offense record (4,600).

"Yes, it's a huge compliment to us," Joeeckel added of Manziel's instant fame as a freshman, including winning the 2012 Heisman Trophy.

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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	2011 Barrett Jones, Alabama
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 Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o

Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o, who has helped put the Fighting Irish on the cusp of their first national title in nearly 25 years, has claimed the 2012 Bronko Nagurski Trophy.

The 6-2, 255-pound senior from Laie, Hawaii, became the 20th winner of the trophy, which annually is awarded to the best defensive player in college football as voted upon by the Football Writers Association of America. Te'o received the award at a banquet sponsored by the Charlotte Touchdown Club at Charlotte's Westin Hotel.

"It's definitely a great accomplishment for me." Te'o said after receiving the trophy. "I've always wanted to be the best. For this to happen helps me to know I'm heading in the right direction. The formula is the same: Hard work leads to success as long as I keep doing it."

Coincidentally, his head coach, Brian Kelly, was the keynote speaker at the banquet. Te'o is the first Notre Dame player to win the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and only the second finalist from the school.

"He's unique," Kelly said. "I would say that the one thing that stands out to me is with all the things that have gone on off the field and all of the hype and all of the All-American and Heisman talk, he gets better each week. It's amazing to me. ... He just goes to class, handles all this (interviews), and then plays really well on Saturdays."

Te'o is only the second player in Notre Dame history to record 100 tackles in three straight seasons. He also has set a Notre Dame record for interceptions this season for a linebacker with seven. That ties for the second best interception total in the country. Furthermore, he

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
2011	Luke Kuechly	Boston College



Notre Dame's Manti Te'o.
(Photo Courtesy of Ron J.Deshaies)

has made 46 straight starts at linebacker, which is the longest at the position in major-college football.

"I think after his first year here it was, 'Hey we need more from you. You're such a great leader. You're respected.'" Kelly said. "He didn't really feel it was his place to tell others how to do things. ... He needed to hold other players to the higher level that he has for himself. ... Once he started to take to that kind of philosophy, you could see everyone else around him raise their level of play."

Behind Te'o, Notre Dame leads the country in fewest points allowed per game (10.33 per game). Te'o has played some of his best games in Notre Dame's biggest games this season:

- He had a season-high 12 tackles and one fumble recovery in Notre Dame's 20-3 victory over Michigan State, ranked 10th at the time.

- In a 13-6 victory at then-No. 18 Michigan, Te'o had eight tackles and two interceptions and was named the Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week.

- In another Notre Dame victory, 30-13, at then-No. 8 Oklahoma, Te'o registered 11 tackles, one sack for minus-nine yards and made an interception. The 13 points the Irish allowed equaled the second-lowest total the

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All-America team (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

ners. Barrett Jones was the 2011 Outland winner as a junior.

The FWAA All-America Team was 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.

Over the years, the FWAA Team has highlighted all the game's great players in several media forums.

From 1946 to 1970, LOOK Magazine published the FWAA team and brought players and selected writers to New York City for a celebration. During those 25 years the FWAA team was introduced on national television 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 Produc-

tions), which produced a 30-minute television show and sold it to sponsors. The team was part of ABC Television's 1981 College Football Series. From 1983 to 1990, the team was either on ABC or ESPN. In 2002 and 2003, the All-America team was honored with a banquet at the Citrus Bowl.

The same bowl, now the Capital One, also was a sponsor when the team was featured on ABC and ESPN from different locations on Disney properties from 2004 to 2007. From 2008 to 2010, the team was the subject of a one-hour special on ESPN from Bristol, Conn.

For nearly seven decades the FWAA has selected an All-America team with the help of its members and an All-America Committee that represents all the regions in the country. From that All-America team, the FWAA also selects the Outland Trophy winner (best interior lineman) and also the Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner (best defensive player).

Outland Trophy (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

Although Texas A&M lost its SEC opener against Florida, Joeckel said the offensive line adjusted to the speed and talent it encountered. "The guys in the SEC are bigger, faster, stronger, but the biggest thing is depth," Joeckel said. "In the Big 12 you might play just against one guy the whole game (instead of several)."

Joeckel is the fourth SEC player to win the Outland Trophy in the last six years, starting with LSU's Glenn Dorsey in 2007, Alabama's Andre Smith in 2008 and then Jones a year ago. While Joeckel is just a junior, he may have to consider what his NFL Draft status will be come next April.

"I am just taking it all in," said Joeckel, who is on

schedule to get his degree in business marketing next December. "I am talking to my family and my coaches. My dream is to play in the NFL. There are a ton of things to think about. I believe I'm at the best school in the entire country. It would be hard to leave such a great school."

The Outland Trophy, named after the late John Outland, an All-America lineman at Penn in the late 1800s, will be officially presented on Jan. 10, 2013, in Omaha, Neb., at a banquet sponsored by the Greater Omaha Sports Committee. At the same banquet, former Arkansas defensive tackle Loyd Phillips will receive an Outland Trophy. He was the 1966 winner of the award before trophies were handed out by the FWAA.

Nagurski Award (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

Sooners had scored at Owen Field during the Bob Stoops era.

- Against then-No. 17 Stanford, Te'o addressed his defensive teammates in overtime just before the Cardinal lined up for a potential game-tying touchdown on fourth and goal from the one-yard line. "I love you guys, no matter what happens," Te'o told his teammates. The Irish stopped the Cardinal on fourth down and preserved their undefeated season with a 20-13 victory.

Te'o's efforts certainly mirror the person for whom the trophy is named. The Bronko Nagurski Trophy is given

in memory of the legendary Nagurski, a former All-American lineman at Minnesota (1927-29).

Nebraska defensive tackle Larry Jacobson received the Bronko Nagurski Legends Award, presented by Florida East Coast Railway. Jacobson was a member of the 1971 FWAA's All-America Team and the Outland Trophy winner that season. 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 and works its way forward each year.