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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Contact: Steve Richardson  
tiger@fwaa.com  
214-870-6516

## 2017 BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY WATCH LIST UNVEILED

**DALLAS (FWAA)** — The **2017 Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List** boasts 103 defensive standouts from all 10 Division I FBS conferences, including four returning players from last season's **Football Writers Association of America** All-America team.

Christian Wilkins, a defensive tackle for defending national champion Clemson, and Florida State defensive back Tarvarus McFadden are the only 2016 FWAA first-teamers on the list. Two other 2016 second-teamers – Houston defensive tackle Ed Oliver and Virginia linebacker Micah Kiser – are included along with NIU defensive back Shawun Lurry, a 2015 First-Team FWAA All-America player.

The Atlantic Coast Conference led all conferences with 20 players on the watch list, followed by the Big Ten (16), SEC (14), Pac-12 (13), Big 12 (11), American Athletic (10), Sun Belt (6), Mountain West (5), Independents (3), Mid-American (3) and Conference USA (2). The list includes 30 defensive backs, 29 linebackers, 25 defensive ends and 19 defensive tackles, all vying for the award representing college football's best defensive player.

Players may be added or removed from the watch list during the course of the season. As in previous seasons, the FWAA will announce a National Defensive Player of the Week each Tuesday throughout the season. If not already on the watch list, each week's honored player will be added at that time. The FWAA and the Charlotte Touchdown Club will announce five finalists for the 2017 Bronko Nagurski Trophy on Thurs., Nov. 16.

The Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner will be chosen from those five finalists. The FWAA All-America Committee, after voting input from the association's full membership, selects a 26-man All-America Team and eventually the Nagurski Trophy finalists. Committee members, by individual ballot, select the winner they regard as the best defensive player in college football.

The annual Bronko Nagurski Trophy Banquet, presented by ACN, will be held on Mon., Dec. 4 at the Charlotte Convention Center. In addition to the 2017 Bronko Nagurski Trophy winner's announcement, the banquet will also celebrate the recipient of the Bronko Nagurski Legends Award, sponsored by the CTC and Florida East Coast Railway. Notre Dame's Ross Browner, a member of the FWAA's 1976 and 1977 All-America Teams, the 1976 Outland Trophy winner and a College Football Hall of Famer, will be honored. Georgia head coach Kirby Smart will be the keynote speaker at the banquet.

The FWAA has chosen a National Defensive Player of the Year since 1993. In 1995, the FWAA named the award in honor of the legendary two-way player from the University of Minnesota. Nagurski dominated college football, then became a star for professional football's Chicago Bears in the 1930s. Bronislaw "Bronko" Nagurski is a charter member of both the College Football and Pro Football Halls of Fame.

The Bronko Nagurski Trophy is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association** (NCFAA), which encompasses college football's most prestigious awards. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 23 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit [ncfaa.org](http://ncfaa.org) to learn more about our story.



The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a two-week period this month. Sixteen of the association's 23 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the complete 2017 preseason watch list calendar:

Mon., July 10: Bednarik Award/Maxwell Award

Tues., July 11: Mackey Award/Rimington Trophy

Wed., July 12: Lou Groza Award/Ray Guy Award

Thurs., July 13: Bronko Nagurski Trophy/Outland Trophy

Fri., July 14: Jim Thorpe Award

Mon., July 17: Butkus Award/Paul Hornung Award

Tues., July 18: Biletnikoff Award/Wuerffel Trophy

Wed., July 19: Davey O'Brien Award

Thurs., July 20: Doak Walker Award

Fri., July 21: Walter Camp Award

The **Football Writers Association of America**, founded in 1941, consists of 1,400 men and women who cover college football. The membership includes journalists, broadcasters and publicists, as well as key executives in all the areas that involve the game. The FWAA works to govern areas that include game-day operations, major awards and its annual All-America team. For more information about the FWAA and its award programs, contact Steve Richardson at [tiger@fwaa.com](mailto:tiger@fwaa.com).

## **ABOUT THE CHARLOTTE TOUCHDOWN CLUB AND ITS SPONSORS**

The **Charlotte Touchdown Club** is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 for the purpose of promoting high school, collegiate, and professional football in the Charlotte, N.C., region. The club's activities and services focus community attention on the outstanding citizenship, scholarship, sportsmanship, and leadership of area athletes and coaches. Since 1991, the club has raised more than \$2,000,000 to benefit area high school and collegiate athletics. For more information, contact John Rocco (704-347-2918 or [jrocco@touchdownclub.com](mailto:jrocco@touchdownclub.com)). The official website of the Charlotte Touchdown Club is [touchdownclub.com](http://touchdownclub.com).

### **ACN, Inc.**

Founded in 1993, ACN is the world's largest direct seller of telecommunications, energy and essential services for residential and business customers. ACN provides the services people need and use every day including phone service, high-speed internet, wireless, television, security and automation, computer support, payment processing and natural gas and electricity. ACN operates in 25 countries with offices located throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. For more information, visit [myacn.com](http://myacn.com). For information on ACN's home-based business opportunity, visit [acninc.com](http://acninc.com).

### **Florida East Coast Railway**

FECR is a regional freight railroad that extends along a 351-mile corridor between Jacksonville, Fla., and Miami, Fla., with exclusive rail access to the Port of Palm Beach, Port Everglades (Ft. Lauderdale) and the Port of Miami. For more information, visit [fecrwy.com](http://fecrwy.com).

### **Electrolux**

Electrolux is a global leader in appliances for household and professional use, selling more than 50 million products to customers in more than 150 countries every year. The company focuses on innovations that are thoughtfully designed, based on extensive consumer insight, to meet the real needs of consumers and professionals. Electrolux products include refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, cookers and air-conditioners sold under esteemed brands such as Electrolux, Frigidaire, Kelvinator, AEG, and Eureka. In 2012, Electrolux had sales of \$17 billion (\$5.1 billion in North America) and 58,000 employees. The Electrolux North American headquarters is located at 10200 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262 in the University Research Park. For more information visit <http://newsroom.electrolux.com/us/>.



# 2017 BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY PRESEASON WATCH LIST

The **Bronko Nagurski Trophy** is presented to the National Defensive Player of the Year by the **Charlotte Touchdown Club** and the **Football Writers Association of America**.

## **Tackles (19)**

Drew Bailey, Louisville  
Folorunso Fatukasi, UConn  
Greg Gaines, Washington  
Will Geary, Kansas State  
Rasheem Green, USC  
B.J. Hill, N.C. State  
Maurice Hurst, Michigan  
Dexter Lawrence, Clemson  
Lowell Lotulelei, Utah  
David Moady, Boise State  
Derrick Nnadi, Florida State  
Kendrick Norton, Miami  
Ed Oliver, Houston  
Da'Ron Payne, Alabama  
Steven Richardson, Minnesota  
Deadrin Senat, USF  
Trent Thompson, Georgia  
Vita Vea, Washington  
Christian Wilkins, Clemson

## **Ends (25)**

Dorance Armstrong Jr., Kansas  
Nick Bosa, Ohio State  
Bradley Chubb, N.C. State  
Aikeem Coleman, Idaho  
Duke Ejirofor, Wake Forest  
Jaylon Ferguson, Louisiana Tech  
Marcell Frazier, Missouri  
Rashan Gary, Michigan  
Marquis Haynes, Ole Miss  
Sam Hubbard, Ohio State  
Harold Landry, Boston College  
Justin Lawler, SMU  
Tyquan Lewis, Ohio State  
James Looney, California  
Hercules Mata'afa, Washington State

Malik Reed, Nevada  
Malcolm Roach, Texas  
Ja'Von Rolland-Jones, Arkansas State  
Conor Sheehy, Wisconsin  
K.J. Smith, Baylor  
Josh Sweat, Florida State  
Chad Thomas, Miami  
Reggie Walker, Kansas State  
JoJo Wicker, Arizona State  
Jabari Zuniga, Florida

## **Linebackers (29)**

Alex Aukerman, Army West Point  
Genard Avery, Memphis  
Jerome Baker, Ohio State  
Eric Boggs, Appalachian State  
Jason Cabinda, Penn State  
Steve Casali, Massachusetts  
Jack Cichy, Wisconsin  
Tremaine Edmunds, Virginia Tech  
Emmanuel Ellerbee, Rice  
Rashaan Evans, Alabama  
Ulysees Gilbert III, Akron  
Shaquem Griffin, UCF  
James Hearn, Louisville  
Travin Howard, TCU  
Malik Jefferson, Texas  
Josey Jewell, Iowa  
Jordan Jones, Kentucky  
Arden Key, LSU  
Micah Kiser, Virginia  
Skai Moore, South Carolina  
Nyles Morgan, Notre Dame  
Ogbonnia Okoronkwo, Oklahoma  
Shaquille Quarterman, Miami  
Auggie Sanchez, USF  
Tegray Scales, Indiana

Jahlani Tavai, Hawaii  
Micah Thomas, Navy  
Cameron Smith, USC  
Azeem Victor, Washington

## **Backs (30)**

Jaire Alexander, Louisville  
Dravon Askew-Henry, West Virginia  
Marcus Allen, Penn State  
Quin Blanding, Virginia  
Blaise Brown, Troy  
Andre Chachere, San Jose State  
Sean Chandler, Temple  
Duke Dawson, Florida  
D'Cota Dixon, Wisconsin  
Rashard Fant, Indiana  
Minkah Fitzpatrick, Alabama  
Chase Hansen, Utah  
Heath Harding, Miami (Ohio)  
Ronnie Harrison, Alabama  
Godwin Igwebiuke, Northwestern  
Derwin James, Florida State  
Shawun Lurry, NIU  
Iman Marshall, USC  
Tarvarus McFadden, Florida State  
Quenton Meeks, Stanford  
Deatrick Nichols, USF  
Taylor Rapp, Washington  
Jeremy Reaves, South Alabama  
D.J. Reed, Kansas State  
Jordan Thomas, Oklahoma  
Kevin Toliver, LSU  
Armani Watts, Texas A&M  
Jordan Whitehead, Pitt  
Andrew Wingard, Wyoming  
Jaden Wright, New Mexico State

**By conference (103):** ACC (20), Big Ten (16), SEC (14), Pac-12 (13), Big 12 (11), American Athletic (10), Sun Belt (6), Mountain West (5), Independents (3), Mid-American (3), Conference USA (2).